

Siloam United Church Council

Minutes of the Meeting

October 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel

Present: Rev. Ann Corbet, Mary Dillon (VAM, Regional Representative), Wendy Barbour (Acting Chair, Outreach and Social Justice), John Davidson (Acting Chair, Outreach and Social Justice), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), Tracey Brown (Communications), Dave Dunham (Property), Lynn McClary (Treasurer, HEAT), Pauline Newton (M & P), Peggy Rivard (Secretary, Cong. Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell)

Absent: Jim Anderson (Cong. Resources), John Little (Cong. Resources)

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

John Davidson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mary Dillon opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Barbara Walters that the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting be approved as printed. CARRIED

Continuing Business:

- a) The new phone system has been installed. Mike Ashton is working on a small technical issue which will hopefully be resolved soon.
- b) Dave Dunham reported a cost of over \$36 000 (plus an additional consulting engineer's report cost) to fill in the skylights and cover with roofing materials. Because the seals in the skylights have broken, attention to replacing them or covering them over is necessary. Dave is hoping that we are able to get through the winter with the current situation.
- c) Discussion about the payment to M & S was deferred to the November meeting.
- d) Tracey Brown reported that details pertaining to our revised job description for our search for a new minister have been completed and posted on Church Hub. The Search Committee is meeting again and plan to look into details from some interested candidates.
- e) Pauline Newton and Lynn McClary will set up a discussion meeting with members of Rowntree United Church to look at areas where the two churches might be able to share resources. They will aim to have a report ready for November's meeting.

- f) John Davidson reported that there was absolutely no response from the congregation when an ask was posted to recruit organizers for the Sizzler Group.
- g) There will be no cantata at Siloam this year. The choir will, however, be focusing on making the Christmas Eve service extra special.
- h) Mary Dillon reported that the transfer of files/furniture/supplies from the current location of the Christian Resource Centre will hopefully be completed by the last week of November. The Centre will now operate out of the Nursery at Siloam. Mary plans to host an Open House on Saturday, November 2.
- i) All plans are finalized for the appreciation gift for Claire and Dave Graham. Jeff Capone is the new custodian.

New Business:

- a) Lynn McClary reviewed the previously circulated financial reports. **MOTION:** Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Pauline Newton that the financial reports be accepted as printed. **CARRIED** Lynn did mention that we are very much behind in our fundraising goal. John Davidson is hoping to offer a Ham & Turkey campaign again this year which would run during the month of November.
- b) **MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that Mary Dillon be appointed to serve as our Interim Minister for 20 hours per week effective April 1, 2025 providing a minimum of two sermons per month until such time as a new minister is called. **CARRIED** Pauline noted that Mary has agreed to cover all four Sundays in April to keep continuity within the Lent/Easter season. She will be responsible for emergency pastoral care only. Pauline will check with ARWRC to see if it is necessary to create a formal job description for this position and also inquire about Mary's status on Church Hub. Because of Mary's limited paid hours per week, we will have to (i) make it clear to the congregation what she can and can't do in 20 hours/week and (ii) try to create a Pastoral Care Team made up of Siloam congregants.
- c) Rev. Ann mentioned that other United Churches in the city have forwarded a letter written by Rev. Michael Blair to Prime Minister Trudeau (see attached) asking Canada to suspend diplomatic relations with Israel given Israel's flagrant disregard to international law. With one abstention and others in favour, it was decided we will forward Rev. Blair's letter to the Prime Minister.
- d) Rev. Ann relayed plans that White Oaks United Church will be razed and a new structure will be built that will offer affordable housing units and a space within for a church meeting place/offices/etc. Until the new building is completed, White Oaks will rent space to worship.

She also mentioned that Riverside United Church will not have an employed minister after Easter and instead of hiring someone new will join with Wesley-Knox, Calvary and White Oaks in a plan to offer services at the four churches using three ministers. All details have not been totally worked out as yet.

We know that other churches are having concerts and dinners to raise awareness of the churches and also revenue. All churches are struggling financially.

e) Allyn Todd and the Trustees are looking at changing insurance providers. Allyn has looked at the United Church of Canada's broker - HUB - and applied for coverage. HUB does not require an inventory to be done but Allyn did take the 2009 inventory value, added 3%/year since then to 2023 and then added 10% for 2024. The final inventory value using this method gave a number that corresponds to the value that our current insurance policy covered.

Allyn reported that unfortunately there was some damage done in the sanctuary after a recent rental. The renter has paid for damage costs and has been instructed to be more diligent if the same group wishes to rent again.

It was made clear that if renters wish to provide alcohol at a function that the renters must have liability insurance of their own. ACTION>Dave Dunham will peruse an insurance form from a neighbouring institution to get ideas of wording for our insurance forms.

f) The phone updates have been completed although there are a few "glitches" to be worked out. Mike Ashton is working with Rogers on this issue. Allyn Todd reported that Siloam's first bill with the changes was incorrect and has been rectified--payment will be made when the second bill showing the correct amount is sent to us.

Computata, a London group that looks after technical support for Siloam, is moving to a different model. Their co-managed plan offers the same service that we have now but a service call will be charged at the rate of \$100/hour/machine worked on. Right now we are paying \$348.72/month. Their proactive plan offers the same service but unlimited service calls are all covered for a cost of \$582.00/month. It was felt that we will subscribe to the co-managed plan since we don't have too many service calls; we can always upgrade to the proactive plan if we need to. Christine Taleski has suggested that we advertise our AV tech services to other United Churches for a charge. Naturally, arrangements would need to fit the time that Siloam's tech people are available. If hired, an overhead charge would be added which would generate some money for Siloam's Communication budget. It was suggested that an email could be sent to other churches to let them know about this idea.

Staff/Committee Reports:

- a) Dave Dunham mentioned that the new custodian, Jeff Capone, will be on contract earning \$27/hour. His earnings should not impact our current custodial budget line.
- b) Concern was raised about the amount of talking amongst the congregants during the serving of communion and the playing of the postlude.
- c) Margaret Smith reminded everyone that Jen Prince will be the speaker at our Anniversary Service on Oct. 20. There will be a luncheon provided by the Rose Birrell Unit and Congregational Life following the service.
- d) Please mark November 2 on your calendar as it is the Christmas Bazaar. If you are able to help that day, please let Margaret Smith know.
- e) HEAT is sponsoring a presentation on MAID--Saturday, November 9, 9-12. There will also be a discussion presentation concerning Trans issues at the church on Tuesday, November 19.

Closing Prayer:

Mary Dillon closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

John Davidson
(Acting Chair)

Wendy Barbour
(Acting Chair)

Peggy Rivard
(Secretary)