

Siloam United Church Council

Minutes of the Meeting

November 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel

Present: Rev. Ann Corbet, Mary Dillon (VAM, Regional Representative), Lynn McClary (Acting Chair, Treasurer, HEAT), Wendy Barbour (Outreach and Social Justice), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), Tracey Brown (Communications), Dave Dunham (Property), Catherine Glover, 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:

Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Rev. Ann to open with prayer.

Presentation re: Centennial Legacy Campaign:

Catherine Glover delivered an invitation to Siloam on behalf of the United Church of Canada to take part in their Legacy Campaign as part of the 100th Anniversary in 2025 of the UCC (see attached letter). The target is to raise \$25 M from across Canada; Siloam has been chosen as one of the four churches in London to launch the campaign. Catherine explained that communication packages are already available as well as lots of other resource material. As she pointed out, this could be part of our Spring Stewardship Campaign. Wesley-Knox, another of the four London churches chosen, has already arranged for a lawyer to speak at a presentation next March. Catherine will ask Wesley-Knox if other members of the three other chosen churches can attend this discussion. **MOTION:** Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Dave Dunham that Siloam commit to accept the invitation to participate in the legacy campaign. CARRIED ACTION> Wendy Barbour will speak to John Little and Jim Anderson about this endeavour.

Canada Summer Jobs 2025 Grant Application:

Catherine spoke of applying for another Canada Summer Jobs grant. **MOTION:** Moved by Tracey Brown and seconded by Pauline Newton that Siloam approve a 2025 application to the Canada Summer Jobs Program to supply funds for labour for the Siloam/Urban Roots Garden. CARRIED Catherine Glover left the meeting at this point.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Steven Britton that the minutes of the October 16, 2024 meeting be approved. CARRIED

Continuing Business:

- a) Roofers have done some work on our roof to mitigate problems.
- b) Tracey Brown reported that the Search Committee has received numerous applications for the position of full-time minister at Siloam. Tracey indicated that the committee is planning to interview one or possibly two applicants in December.
- c) Pauline Newton reported that the meeting she and Lynn McClary had with members of Rowntree United was strictly a general discussion about issues both churches were facing (see attached report). Another meeting will be held in the new year; members of Dundas Street United have been invited to attend as well.
- d) Mary Dillon reported that the Resource Centre is up and running. There are a few minor issues that Mary will work out but she is extremely pleased with the space provided.
- e) Allyn Todd reported that an application was sent in to UCC Protect United, a nationally sponsored program by the United Church of Canada to help congregations control insurance costs. With the application, Allyn included a copy of our current insurance policy with McFarland Rowlands. A quote was received by Allyn at a cost just over twice what Siloam is now paying for the same basic coverage. Allyn has expressed his concern to the United Church about this cost and acknowledged that Siloam will be dealing, again, with McFarland Rowlands who have indicated there will probably be a 3% - 5% increase in our insurance costs for 2025. The Board of Trustees has already voted to accept a new quote from McFarland Rowlands provided the quote is not over 10% from last year's cost.
- f) Dave Dunham reported that the Property Committee is examining an insurance form for rentals that is used by the Eastern Star Temple to compare with the wording of Siloam's rental/need for insurance agreement.
- g) Lynn McClary will look into the issue of an incorrect bill from Bell regarding the phone system. Mike Ashton is still dealing with the company to try and rectify a problem with the phone as it still "cuts out" for a 3-5 second period of time.

New Business:

- a) Lynn McClary expressed concerns about tracking the costs of the garden. She and Anne Wheatley will sit down and organize a better system of accounting for all

monies associated with the garden project. Lynn will also speak with Randy Donkervoort and will ask him to be available to address garden monetary issues with Anne.

Margaret Smith and Pauline Newton will be receiving money from the Trustees to cover the expenses of our choir student.

Lynn said that the \$10 200 raised through our Reduce our Carbon Footprint campaign held last year will be transferred to the Trustees as a holding account by the end of this year. Lynn has asked that any funds left for the Garden Project each year be moved to a holding account as well.

b) John Davidson noted that Siloam has, to date, submitted \$14 831.00 to Mission and Services. With the special Thanksgiving campaign, \$3 580 was raised for M & S. We do need to have a congregational meeting to address the issue if Siloam wishes to cap our givings this year to the total of the two amounts mentioned above or to provide the full budgeted amount. **MOTION:** Moved by John Davidson and seconded by Peggy Rivard that the money collected through the M & S Thanksgiving Campaign be directed to Mission and Services Fund. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Tracey Brown that a congregational meeting be held to determine if Siloam wishes to submit the budgeted amount to M & S this year or change the amount set out in our yearly budget to be registered as a "goal" and not a "set amount". CARRIED The congregation will be notified, through e-blasts and spoken/written announcements of an upcoming meeting to be held following the service on December 8.

c) Donations to the Young At Heart need to be tracked in order for Allison O'Connor to know exactly how much money she has in the account. Tracking for specific donations to the M & S fund needs to be done as well.

d) Council members were asked to prepare year-end reports, proposed 2025 budget requirements and suggestions for individuals to serve on a Nominating Committee now. Please have a draft budget for your committee ready for presentation at the next Council meeting on December 10.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025.

A brief discussion was held concerning the possibility of having 2-3 co-chairs for Council next year as opposed to having rotating chairs.

Staff/Committee Reports:

Ministry and Personnel

Pauline indicated that she will prepare a Job Description for Mary Dillon and will present it to Council at the December 10 meeting.

Spiritual Life and Worship

Margaret announced that the church will be decorated for Christmas for the first Sunday of Advent. The main banners at the front of the sanctuary will stay up until the end of Advent.

Trustees

Allyn reported that the Trustees have contributed \$5 000 as a matching contribution to the congregation's amount of \$5 200 in the Carbon Reduction campaign. The \$3 500.50 in a Trustees Holding Account could be moved to the General Account. Allyn will continue to use the 2024 template he has developed--Budgeted Contribution to Operating Account from Trustee Managed Funds.

Rose Birrell

The bazaar sponsored by the Rose Birrell group collected ~\$8 500.00 Margaret thanked all who helped make this such a wonderful success.

Communications

Allyn and Christine Taleski have indicated that the Sunday Christmas service of 2023, which featured the cantata, be shown on Rogers on December 24 this year.

HEAT

The program sponsored by HEAT addressing the issue of Medical Assistance in Dying was very, very well received by a large crowd. The evening session outlining Transgender issues was an excellent presentation, but with fewer attendees unfortunately.

Closing Prayer:

Mary Dillon closed the meeting with meaningful prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Lynn McClary, Acting Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary