

## **Siloam United Church Council**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**December 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

**O'Brien/Sroule Library Chapel**

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

**Absent:** Wendy Barbour (Outreach and Social Justice), John Little (Congregational Resources)

#### **Welcome and Opening Prayer:**

Chair McClary welcomed everyone to the meeting; Rev. Ann opened the meeting by reading a Christmas-related passage from the book of Luke followed by a prayer.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Steven Britton that the minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting be approved as circulated. CARRIED

#### **Continuing Business:**

a) Tracey Brown reported that members of the Search Committee interviewed two candidates for the position of full-time minister last week. Committee members have had a chance to view services from the churches of the two candidates and are very pleased with the videos and with the interview discussions. The Committee is meeting again this week to review their thoughts.

b) Allyn Todd reported that McFarland Rowlands will be the insurer again this next year for Siloam. It is expected that the rate will increase ~5% from last year.

**MOTION:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Tracey Brown that the Trustees pay half the cost of the insurance and the Siloam General Account pay the other half. CARRIED

c) The Property Committee has not yet had a chance to discuss any changes they might make to the church's rental agreement forms re: insurance coverage.

d) A hold has been put on pre-approved payments to All Stream, our former phone service provider. All Stream has agreed that they will reimburse Siloam for one payment that was cashed after we had discontinued service with them.

e) Council members reviewed the job description that Pauline Newton had prepared and circulated. **MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Steven Britton to approve Mary Dillon as our Interim Supply Minister for a period of 20 hours per week. CARRIED ACTION> Pauline will contact Micol Cottrell (ARWRC) and Kerry Stover for their approval in January.

**New Business:**

a) Treasurer's Report

Lynn McClary informed Council members that accounts re: Garden Project have all be reconciled.

Discussion ensued regarding ideas to encourage people to donate: a Christmas letter/Easter letter with special giving envelope handed out to those who attend services and also sent to those on our mailing list.

b) 2024 M & S Donation

After the Congregational Meeting held on December 8, Council now has permission to change our M & S Givings budget line to reflect a "goal" we would like to achieve. To date, Siloam has sent \$18 163.00 to M & S. Last year, Siloam sent \$3 000 above our budget line of \$25 000. **MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that we send \$20 000 to M & S this year. CARRIED It was also agreed that we might be able to give \$25 000 IF our December givings exceed our expectations.

c) Annual Meeting Date

**MOTION:** Moved by Steven Britton and seconded by Allyn Todd that the date of the Annual Meeting of Siloam be changed to Sunday, February 23 following the worship service. CARRIED

d) Centennial Legacy Campaign

Information concerning this campaign will be discussed at January's meeting.

e) Approval of M&P Proposed Salary Budget

Pauline Newton reviewed the information she prepared and circulated prior to the meeting with regard to the 2025 salary budget. Pauline noted that these figures represent the scenario that we would have if we employed a full-time minister as of January 1, 2025. Discussion followed. **MOTION:** Moved by John Davidson and seconded by Jim Anderson that the salary budget be approved. CARRIED It was felt that recognition be given to Erin Salter for the extra work she has done this year. **MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by John Davidson that the 2025 salary budget, as amended to include an appreciation bonus for Erin Salter, be approved. CARRIED

Pauline also noted that an advisory team will be set up to assist Blythe George with some organizational details.

f) Year End Reports, Budget Requirements, Nominating Committee

Committee chairs were asked to **please** submit year end committee reports to Erin as early as possible. Lynn has asked that budget requests from each committee be submitted to her before the next meeting. As requests come in, she will input the figures and hopefully Council can look at a complete first draft of the budget at the next meeting. It is with great thanks that we acknowledge the fact that Tracey Brown has stepped forward and volunteered her services to be Acting Chair of Council for January/February of 2025 and to be the Chair of Council for the rest of the 2025-26 church year.

**Staff/Committee Reports:**

a) Future Meetings

Council will meet on January 15 to discuss budget-related items only. The next regular Council meeting will be January 22. If Anne Wheatley is unable to have time to complete the year's records, we may switch the discussion topics now scheduled for the 15th and 22nd.

b) Event Calendar for 2025

If your committee is planning any sort of event for 2025, plan **now** for an actual date so that a calendar of church events can be set for the entire year. The Property Committee members, especially, have to know what events are going on in the church each day/night. ACTION>Pauline will speak with Erin to determine if a calendar--one that shows ALL events scheduled in the church--could be accessed by each Council member.

c) Grandfather Clock

The Rose Birrell Women's Group has volunteered to have the grandfather clock that was given to the church in celebration of Siloam's 150th anniversary repaired. After it is fixed, the clock will be placed in the southeast corner of the O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel.

d) Washrooms

Allyn Todd noted that all washrooms in the church building need signage to indicate the proper disposal of sanitary products and a proper waste container for such. ACTION>The Property Committee will see to this.

e) Benefit of ELUCO Video

Allyn Todd passed along a message that Christine Taleski received indicating that after viewing the video produced by Siloam's Tech Team outlining the work that ELUCO does, a member of Mission & Services made the decision to not cut some funds to ELUCO.

f) Pickleball Potluck

Allyn Todd asked if a proposed gathering of pickleball players to enjoy a potluck dinner on February 1 in Tolpuddle Hall could be held rent free. Council members felt this was a reasonable ask since pickleball players contribute a large amount of money to the church and so approved the request.

**Closing Prayer:**

Mary Dillon closed the meeting with meaningful prayer.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**Next Meetings:**

**Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 p.m. (Budget)**

**Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m. (Regular)**

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Lynn McClary, Acting Chair

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Peggy Rivard, Secretary