

Siloam United Church

Minutes of Council Meeting

September 17, 7:00 p.m. O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel

Present: Rev. Christina Crawford, Tracey Brown (Chair), Jim Anderson (Congregational Resources), Wendy Barbour (Social Justice and Outreach), Steven Britton (Regional Rep), Lynn McClary (Treasurer, HEAT), Pauline Newton (M & P), Dave Peeling (Trustees), Peggy Rivard (Secretary, Congregational Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell)

Regrets: Dave Dunham (Property)

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Steven Britton gave everyone an update on Mary Dillon's health condition--she is still running the Resource Centre from her phone and doing well. Rev. Crawford led us in an opening prayer.

Correspondence:

Peggy read a thank-you note from the people at Wellspring. The Rose Birrell Group delivers many items to this caring facility and this was a note of appreciation specifically for them.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Lynn McClary that the Agenda be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Steven Britton that the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2025 be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Lynn McClary that the minutes of the meeting of August 19 be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

Continuing Business:

Covenanting Service Plans

Chair Brown confirmed that the service will be held on September 28 at 2:30 with Rev. Kerry Stover leading the service and Rev. Marilyn Townsend-Smith assisting as the guest speaker. Blythe will be in charge of the music; Young At Heart and Dreams Come True members will be guests and take part in the service. The Congregational Life Committee will host a small reception afterwards in Tolpuddle Hall.

London United Church Groups

Chair Brown reported that there had been no communication within the group over the summer. There will be a meeting on November 1.

Fall Yard Sale

Plans are all set for the "mini" yard sale to be held on September 27. We will be selling clothes, books, jewellery and baking.

In Camera Session

MOTION: Moved by Jim Anderson and seconded by Pauline Newton that Council move in camera. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Peeling that Council move out of camera. CARRIED Discussion was held concerning ongoing financial considerations.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report

Lynn McClary reviewed the previously circulated financial reports with Council members. **MOTION:** Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Barbara Walters that the financial reports be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

Worshipful Work Proposal

Rev. Christina discussed her proposal re: Cultivating Worshipful Work, Spiritual Companionship, and Continuous Learning for Future Ministry. Each of the three parts were clarified by Rev. Christina as well as the Shared Elements and Wider Impact. Rev. Christina will draw from resources, make detailed plans, incorporate initial feedback and define how various committees can support these concurrent projects thus ensuring a robust launch in January, 2026. **MOTION:** Moved by Steven Britton and seconded by Lynn McClary that we proceed with Rev. Christina's proposal. CARRIED Rev. Christina would like to consider applying for a United Church grant to help with expenses related to this proposal, e.g. communication costs. The deadline date for the application is October 12; Rev. Christina has volunteered to write it up. It is also possible that there may be some financial help from the United Church's Seeds of Hope program.

Governance Review

Chair Brown shared a copy of Siloam's Governance Manual, circa 2002. She has asked that each committee review the ideas and duties that were set forth for them and update the information as it applies to the committee in 2025. Obviously, material will have to be added, deleted, merged with other committees, etc. Hopefully we can have a new revised Governance Model by the Annual Meeting in 2026. Rev. Christina volunteered to reach out to other churches and ask if they would be willing to share their Governance Models.

Staff/Committee Reports:

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Jim Anderson that the funds in the Beckstead/Newton/Johnson/McCurdy Fund be added to the Choir Scholarship Fund--both funds being Designated Funds in the Memorial and Celebration of Life Account administered by Siloam Trustees. CARRIED Dave Peeling will be providing Trustee reports on a quarterly basis to Church Council.

Steven Britton indicated that he will be attending the Fall Regional Council Meeting on October 3/4 via ZOOM.

Margaret Smith outlined upcoming services: Communion Sunday--October 5; Thanksgiving Sunday--October 12; 168th Anniversary Sunday--October 19. Margaret indicated that copies of the new published UC hymn books have been ordered for the choir members only. She expressed many thanks to Heather Vosper who has been decorating the church so beautifully.

Closing Prayer:

Our meeting closed with prayer led by Rev. Christina.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.

Tracey Brown, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary