

Siloam United Church

Minutes of Church Council Meeting

November 19, 2025 7:00 p.m.

O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel

Present: Rev. Christina Crawford, Tracey Brown (Chair), Wendy Barbour (Outreach and Social Justice), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), Dave Dunham (Property), Lynn McClary (HEAT, Treasurer), Pauline Newton (Ministry & Personnel), Peggy Rivard (Congregational Life, Secretary), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell)

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

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Chair Brown welcomed all to the meeting and asked Rev. Christina to open our meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Steven Britton that the minutes of October 15, 2025 be approved as circulated. CARRIED

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Moved by Barbara Walters and seconded by Pauline Newton that the Agenda, with some added amendments, be approved. CARRIED

Continuing Business:

In Camera Session

MOTION: Moved by Tracey Brown and seconded by Margaret Smith that Council move in camera. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council move out of camera. CARRIED Discussion occurred about an ongoing financial issue.

Governance Review

Chair Brown encouraged those Chairs who have not revised and submitted their Committee's outline to do so and send it to Tracey asap.

Council made the decision that each committee can strike the statement from the 2002 Governance Model that says each committee must store a copy of all meeting minutes in the church office.

New Business:

Baptism Request

Mary Dillon will look after the upcoming baptism service. Rev. Christina sent a follow-up message to Council members after the meeting to outline the requirements of Council approval, if needed, for a young child/baby to be baptized. At this time, Rev. Christina also pointed out her plan to hold Messy-Church style baptism preparation events for families who are new, curious or exploring baptism at Siloam. These sessions will be open to all members. Projected dates for these events are March 21 and October 3 (10a.m. - 12 noon) at the church with baptism Sundays scheduled for April 12 and October 25.

London Group of Churches Request

Lynn McClary would like contact information from all Council members, the Treasurer, youth/Sunday School leaders and Chairs of Committees. This will be sent to the leaders of the London Group of Churches to facilitate communication.

Yoga Class Rent or Compensation

Lynn outlined some options that would cover the concerns of our current yoga instructors. Council discussed the issues and agreed that both instructors should be treated the same. We need to be careful to have the instructors sign contracts for, perhaps, a 4-week period with all conditions clearly spelled out.

Chicken BBQ Charitable Receipts

If people want to donate money to help with costs of fundraising events (e.g. Chicken BBQ), they will be told to direct their monetary donation to the General Funds of the church if they want a tax receipt.

Garden Grants Authorization

MOTION: Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Steven Britton that Randy Donkervoort be authorized to sign on behalf of Siloam United Church for issues related to Garden Project Grants. CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

Lynn reviewed the financial numbers as circulated prior to the meeting. It was discussed that we could, if we have a profit showing at year's end, increase our 2025 givings to M & S. It was pointed out that the Trustees have approved a Capital Requisition in the amount of \$2 100.00. Dave Dunham reported that the Property Committee is working on the issues that need to be addressed that are covered in this requisition. **MOTION:** Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Barbara Walters that Council approve the Trustee's recommendation that they will cover the cost of the submitted requisition. CARRIED

Annual Meeting Date

The date of Siloam's 2026 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 22.

Preparing for Year End

All committees should be starting to prepare their budgets for 2026. Also, **please submit your annual reports** as soon as you can. Mary Dillon will, we hope, be able to assume her position as Office Administrator in January but will be facing a big learning curve in duties.

A Budget Meeting (only item of business) for Council will be held on January 21, 2026. The regular January meeting of Council will be held on January 28.

Revision of Nursery Space

With the closing of the satellite office for the Christian Resource Centre at the end of November, Council was informed that all books/materials will be boxed up and ready to be picked up by the Mitchell staff during the first week of December. The room will then be set up to allow room for a small space for children and an area created to allow for small meetings.

Rentals/SetUp

It was noted that Siloam is not responsible for setting up for any organization or group that rents space in the church.

Newsletter Name Change

There has been a suggestion that Siloam's newsletter change its name to *Siloam Spirit*. Council will address this issue after the completion of this year's Advent FANFARE.

Staff/Committee Reports:

Council agreed to have the retreat planned by Rev. Christina on January 17, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Congregational Life Committee will provide a lunch.

An invitation was extended to all Council members to attend the Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Rose Birrell Women's Group on December 4. Please let Margaret Smith know if you plan to attend.

It was agreed by everyone that the bulletin boards in Tolpuddle Hall and in the back foyer desperately need to be updated. Each board has been assigned to an individual/group to be rejuvenated.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Christina closed the meeting with meaningful and thankful prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Tracey Brown, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary