

Siloam United Church Council

Minutes of Meeting

January 28, 2026 7:00 p.m.

O'Brien/Sroule Library Chapel

Present: Pastor Christina Crawford, Tracey Brown (Chair), Wendy Barbour (Outreach and Social Justice), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), Lynn McClary (Treasurer, HEAT), Pauline Newton (Ministry & Personnel), David Peeling (Trustees), Peggy Rivard (Secretary, Congregational Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship)

Absent: Jim Anderson (Congregational Resources), Dave Dunham (Property), John Little (Congregational Resources)

GATHERED IN WORSHIP

Chair Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting. Pastor Christina opened the meeting with prayer asking for all members to prayerfully discern the matters to be discussed and ask for guidance to make good decisions.

Correspondence was read from: Rev. Wib Dawson who submitted a letter of resignation from the Communications Team, effective immediately; Sharon Ashton on behalf of the Board of ELUCO and the members of the east London communities thanking Siloam for its generosity in 2025. Sharon noted in her letter that the total monetary support from Siloam and its members was \$23, 229.17.

UNITED IN SERVICE: SETTING THE MEETING

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Lynn McClary that the agenda, including the amendments offered, be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Pauline Newton that the minutes of the December 17 and January 21 Council minutes be approved as printed. CARRIED

UNITED IN SERVICE: STEWARDSHIP & ONGOING WORK

Continuing Business:

Sale of Property – Update

It was reported that Antler River Watershed Regional Council meets at the

beginning of February. At that meeting, members of that Council will discuss the proposed sale of the Siloam property.

It was also stated that the \$100 000 deposit fee paid by the developer will be kept in an account held by Siloam's lawyer.

Governance Review

With deep gratitude given to Pastor Christina for her work on aligning Siloam's revised Governance Policy to the United Church manual, members discussed many issues that were presented as we update Siloam's current Governance Model. It was decided that Siloam will state that a quorum for Congregational meetings will be set at 20 full members. A quorum for Church Council meetings will be one-third of voted in Council members.

A Regional Representative, a Trustee and a Rose Birrell representative will be included in the membership of Siloam's Church Council.

Although discussion at the meeting questioned the need for including a term of office for committee chairs, Pastor Christina reported after the meeting that terms for Council members and committee representatives should be set consistently. At present, most Siloam Council terms are 3 years, renewable, and that can hold true for committee representatives as well. It was also noted that one designated voting Council representative from each committee should be named. Other committee members may certainly attend Council when helpful but unless they are designated as the voting representative they would not be considered a voting Council member.

External rentals or non-church events are considered under the authority of the Board of Trustees.

Motion: Moved by Steven Britton and seconded by Lynn McClary that Council accept the revisions discussed to ensure that our 2026 Governance Model align with the United Church of Canada's manual. CARRIED

Review of Committees

A discussion was held concerning the transition process and timeline that will occur for the Ministry and Personnel Committee. Pastor Christina handed out a guideline for all to consider (see attached) which outlined the steps involved. This process was approved; Lynn McClary and Peggy Rivard will form the Council Discernment Group and follow the steps outlined in the handout in hopes of recruiting new members.

It was suggested that the Congregational Resources Committee be renamed "Financial Resources & Stewardship".

We do need additional members for the Communications Team as well.

New Business:

Church Liability for Off-Site Events

Pauline Newton outlined the need for a Release, Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk form that has been created for Siloam. This is written specifically for the Young at Heart Program to ensure that Siloam would not be held responsible for any major issues that might occur when the Young At Heart members are engaging in off-site activities. A copy of this form would be completed for each offsite activity that Young At Heart members would be attending.

This document will be shown to Allison O'Connor for her perusal and brought back for Council's consideration at our next meeting.

A discussion concerning a new member directory was deferred to February's Council meeting.

UNITED IN SERVICE: FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Treasurer's Report

Lynn McClary discussed the extra income received for 2025 which necessitated a re-distribution of her previous financial reports presented at the meeting of January 21, 2026.

UNITED IN WORSHIP AND SERVICE: MINISTRY REPORTS

The Property Committee will once again host a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17.

Margaret Smith invited everyone to the February Rose Birrell meeting on Thursday, February 5. Grace Tallman will be the guest speaker.

Margaret also indicated that the Rose Birrell Women's Group will be presenting a Ham and Scalloped Potato dinner on Saturday, April 25.

UNITED FOR THE WORK AHEAD

Next Meeting


Council will meet on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22 at 11:30 a.m. approximately.

UNITED IN PRAYER

Pastor Christina closed the meeting with thankful prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Tracey Brown, Chair



Peggy Rivard, Secretary