

**Siloam United Church**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**March 25, 2026                      7:00 p.m.**  
**O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel**

**Present:** Pastor Christina Crawford, Tracey Brown (Chair), Wendy Barbour (Outreach and Social Justice), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), Dave Dunham (Property), Lynn McClary (Treasurer, HEAT), Peggy Rivard (Secretary), Congregational Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees)

**Absent:** Mary Dillon (VAM), John Little (Congregational Resources), Jim Anderson (Congregational Resources)

**GATHERED IN WORSHIP**

Prior to the business part of the meeting, Micol Cottrell, Pastoral Relations Minister with the ARWRC, joined the meeting by ZOOM to be part of a conversation about a recent situation at Siloam that has caused unrest. He began our time together with meaningful prayer.

After much discussion, Council has asked Micol to find a Conflict Resolution Facilitator to meet with us. We will also make available to us resources that are available from the United Church of Canada within a program called *United Fresh Start*. Micol will forward the 30 modules of this program to Council and it was strongly felt we need to especially focus on three of the modules: Decision Making, Style and Clarity; Habits, Norms and Expectations; Role Clarity.

We are all working to try and find a path forward. We will be indicating to congregants that any personal concerns they have about Siloam need to be submitted to Jane Ridley, a member of M & P, in a written and signed format. Micol also agreed to work with Siloam's M & P committee members to guide them in their role.

Council will prepare a statement addressing this issue and send out to those who receive information through Constant Contact.

## **UNITED IN SERVICE: SETTING THE MEETING**

Peggy Rivard read a note from Christine Taleski expressing her thanks for the recent gift extended to her from Council as we acknowledged her role as temporary Office Administrator from September until January.

**Motion:** Moved by Peggy Rivard and seconded by Lynn McClary that the minutes of the February 18 Council meeting be accepted as circulated.  
CARRIED

## **UNITED IN SERVICE: STEWARDSHIP & ONGOING WORK**

### **Continuing Business:**

#### Sale of Property – Update

There have been no new developments reported at this time.

#### Church Liability for Off-Site Events

Allyn Todd reported that our insurance company has asked to see our *Policy of Abuse* before they report about any further costs that may be added if we host off-site events regarding the Young At Heart program. Allyn will submit to the insurance company our Duty of Care policy.

#### New Member Directory

Peggy Rivard reported that some estimates have been received regarding printing costs and that a group is looking further into other issues regarding the compilation of a directory.

### **New Business:**

#### Welcoming Mary Dillon back to VAM position

During the church service on April 12, Mary will receive a blessing as she has been approved by ARWRC to resume her duties as Siloam's Voluntary Associate Minister.

At our next Council meeting, Mary will be voted in as a representative for our HEAT committee.

Increasing hours of Office Administrator Position

M & P have approved Marnie Solomon's request to work some extra hours on Thursday afternoons (1 – 4) to organize the office and start to archive many of the boxes of documents that are out of date. Pastor Crawford will give Marnie a statement from the UCC about what documents need to be saved, archived or discarded.

Bulletin Boards in Tolpuddle Hall

Marnie Solomon has agreed to put up posters of upcoming events on one of the bulletin boards in Tolpuddle Hall.

Website Update

Chair Brown has agreed to update information on our website about current representatives on Council and other committees.

Trifold Pamphlet

Pastor Crawford and Christine Taleski will continue to work on this pamphlet to hopefully have them ready soon.

**UNITED IN SERVICE: FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

Treasurer's Report

Lynn McClary distributed further financial information indicating the drastic drop in PAR givings from January to the end of March.

**Motion:**

Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Dave Dunham that the financial reports be accepted as circulated. CARRIED

**UNITED IN WORSHIP AND SERVICE: MINISTRY REPORTS**

We are very pleased to learn that Pastor Crawford's grant application for her program Cultivating Worshipful Work, Spiritual Companionship and Continuous Learning for Future Ministry has been successful in the amount of \$5 000.00.

Allyn Todd indicated that a pickleball player has asked for permission to take a picture of the Siloam sanctuary for a collage he is working on. Council agreed it would be acceptable for him to do so.

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## **UNITED FOR THE WORK AHEAD**

### Next Meeting

Council will meet on Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

## **UNITED IN PRAYER**

Pastor Christina closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

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Tracey Brown, Chair

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Peggy Rivard, Secretary

Addendum: The prepared statement sent to those receiving messages through Constant Contact read as follows:

*Your Council acknowledges that our community of faith is in a challenging time with people experiencing hurt and pain. We are committed to working to discern the best steps forward, with care and concern, and in consultation with the Regional Council. We request your patience, understanding, and support as we follow proper protocol, processes, and best practices. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we seek to do what is best for the community of faith at Siloam United Church.*

