

Siloam United Church Council

Minutes of Meeting

June 17, 2026 7:00 p.m.

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

Regrets/Absent: Chassidy Hall (Ministry & Personnel), Jim Anderson (Congregational Resources), John Little (Congregational Resources)

Welcome:

Chair Brown welcomed all to the meeting and explained that we will not be able to pass any motions as we do not have a clergy member present.

Agenda and Minutes:

Agenda items were added to be discussed under Staff/Committee reports. The minutes of the May 27, 2026 meeting will be passed, by a motion, at the next meeting when a clergy member is present.

Continuing Business:

Sale of Property

Dave Peeling reported that Skyline Home Builders has donated \$5 000 to Siloam. It is felt that this donation was made because we are not charging them a rental fee this year for use of the parking spaces they need for their construction crew.

Church Liability for Off-Site Events

Our insurer, McFarlan Rowlands, has asked for more of Siloam's documents to be sent to their office—our Duty of Care document has been submitted. Dave Peeling reported that Allyn Todd has been seeking answers but the company has been very slow in responding. Until we receive a written response from McFarlan Rowlands as to exactly what our insurance will cover with regard to activities that Allison O'Connor organizes with her Young at Heart group, Allison will be asked to have anyone in the group sign a waiver of responsibility for any activity she may plan that takes place off the grounds of Siloam.

New Member Directory

Peggy Rivard and Anita Elworthy will have more information to share with Council at the September meeting.

Purchase of New TLUS Hymn Books

Fifty-five copies (50 for use by the congregation; 5 additional for the choir) of the newest hymn book, *Then Let Us Sing*, have been purchased and delivered. The books were paid for by money available in the Choir Fund which is managed by the Trustees.

170th Anniversary Committee

Margaret Smith indicated that she would like to have two more people join the committee which now consists of Margaret, Linda Peeling and Harla O'Neill. It was suggested that an E-blast could be sent out asking for volunteers.

Margaret suggested that she ask Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor to be the guest speaker for the Anniversary Sunday (October 17, 2027) service. Council members felt this to be an excellent idea.

Margaret also hopes that a spring concert can be arranged next year to kick off the 170th anniversary year. Her suggestion was to have Shane Cook and his group perform.

Hope Council Grant

Although the actual cheque for this grant has never been received by Siloam, Steven Britton reported that we will receive a cheque for any expenses we had for the retreat that Pastor Crawford organized for our Council members. Lynn McClary has volunteered to create a statement of expenses incurred for that day (cost of meal, reimbursement to Christine Taleski for AV work) and submit this to Rob Hockin, Treasurer of Hope Council.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report

Previously circulated financial reports were discussed. It was felt that an E-blast could be sent showing a monthly financial statement with an indicator that our incoming funds are down.

Lynn was able to share some good news: an anonymous donor will gift Siloam an amount of \$20 000.00. The presentation of the cheque will be given at a ceremony at the Ilderton Community Centre on July 11, 2026. A representative from Siloam will be on hand to receive this generous gift.

Fees for Funerals, Weddings, etc.

To clarify to families using Siloam for funerals/weddings/celebrations of life, it is necessary to prepare a guide outlining costs that would be involved. Dave Dunham, Mary Dillon, Lynn McClary, Jane Ridley and Allyn Todd will work together to create a brochure that clearly shows what services Siloam is able to offer and what the exact costs would be for these services.

Planning A New Search

Council members feel that it is important for us to seek an Interim Minister in order to allow us time to prepare a job description, form a Search Committee, etc. Chair Brown has volunteered to reach out to Micol Cottrell and Karlene Kimber at the ARWRC and ask for assistance and guidance for what our next steps will be.

We will need to have a Congregational Support Minister assigned to us who will be able to attend Council Meetings and perhaps conduct some Sunday services. It is hoped that this person would be available for us until we obtain an Interim Minister.

Ministry/Staff/Committee Reports:

Margaret Smith reported that the necessary setup has been completed for the decommissioning service on June 28. Congregational Life will look after providing cold drinks and dessert pieces to be served in the Arva Atrium. Pastor Crawford will be presented with a gift card to her favourite book store and a keepsake item depicting a spiral—the symbol of Diaconal Ministry.

Mary Dillon and Steven Britton will be attending the ARWRC Meeting to represent Siloam. The event is held this year at the Lamplighter Inn here in London on the weekend of June 26-28. Siloam will cover the \$150 registration fee for both Mary and Steven. Since Siloam is allowed to have more representatives, we will ask Christine Taleski to post an “ask” for volunteers on our website.

Dave Peeling reported that Siloam continues to do well with investments that have been placed in the equity markets. Chair Brown’s husband, Bill, has offered to provide information/advice from his perspective as an Investment Advisor with Wood Gundy when money from the sale of part of our property starts coming in.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, July 15 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer:

Mary Dillon offered a prayer to close our meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Tracey Brown, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary