

LITTLE HOME CHURCH BY THE WAYSIDE (LHC)
FEBRUAL MEETING
February 1, 2015

Moderator Alex Kentfield called the Congregational Februal Meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor David Russell opened with a prayer.

Unfortunately, due to a snow blizzard today, only 28 members of the congregation were present for the meeting. An additional eight members elected to vote by proxy to make a total of 36 votes. However, with the combined total of both in-person and proxy votes, we did not have a quorum today. The current quorum requirement is 42, representing 20% of the church membership. Therefore, the votes will be recorded today and made official once we have votes from at least an additional six members which will make up the 20%.

The minutes of the June 22, 2014 Junual Meeting were distributed and reviewed. A couple of minor typos were noted. Nancy Alex moved to approve the minutes. Mark Lesswing seconded. All were in favor. Minutes will be approved after additional members vote.

Moderators Remarks: Susi Winquist was absent today because of medical reasons. Therefore, Moderator Elect, Alex Kentfield officiated today's meeting. He urged the congregation to refer to the LHC website for regular updates on the current activity of the Search and Call Committee and the New Beginnings. Both of those committees post regular updates to the website as well contacts that can be called if you have a question, comment, or concern.

In February, there will be an off-site training retreat for the leadership of our church with the staff of the **New Beginnings** (NB). Alex explained that NB is a strategic planning process which we employed to assist us to re-evaluate our mission and set an appropriate vision for our church to assist us as we search and employ a new minister and go forward. At the retreat, NB will be providing us with a report and training on how to use the new information. The leaders will be trained to follow up with 'cottage meetings' in March and April with a plan for our church next summer.

The **Search and Call** (SC) committee is in the process of putting together a church profile in order to engage the UCC office to search on our behalf for a minister. At present, there is no target date for hiring a new pastor. Alex explained that hiring a new pastor often takes one or two years. The committee is currently in the process of completing a questionnaire from UCC which includes 54 complicated questions to be completed. The committee which meets three Tuesdays a month has completed 36 of the 54 questions. Such questions include who we are and the attributes that we would like in a pastor. Several members from the congregation expressed concern on a target date in which our church could have the UCC offices post the job. The committee hopes to complete the questionnaire within 30-60 days which will start the search process from the UCC office.

There was discussion and clarification about the profile which the church did last fall. The profile that was done in the fall was for the New Beginnings program which focuses on making strategic plans for the future of the entire church, including hiring a new pastor. The profile that

the Search and Call committee is doing is for the UCC offices in order for them to post the Pastor position.

Treasurer's Report: Art thanked Ann McLaughlin for being financial secretary and handling all of the money deposits and receipts.

Art presented his year-end financial report for 2014 and the 2015 budget. His detailed report and budget will be made available from the church office.

Art reported that we have a consolidated Net Fund Balance of \$263,666 as of December 31, 2014 compared to \$72,768 for 2013. This favorable increase was due to the sale of the Petersen and Dixon properties in 2014 that netted \$232,332 of proceeds. Our operating income was \$228,912 which is \$6088 less than target. Our operating expense was \$279,411 which was slightly less than target by \$8,134 due to Ron Purser's retirement and David Russell's appointment mid-year and their respective compensation packages.

The proposed Operating Budget for 2015 includes a total of \$245,000 in total Operating Income and \$278,295 in Operating Expenses resulting in a projected deficit of (\$33,295). This projected operating deficit is less than prior years due to stronger pledge commitments and the cost of holding the Petersen and Dixon properties. The deficit in 2014 was (\$50,499).

The Operating Expense Budget for 2015 is \$278,275. It includes a Human Resource budget of \$149,850. We propose a 3.00% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the church staff, exclusive of the pastor who is under contract. We have budgeted \$4,000 for an anticipated new Pastor starting September 1, 2015, subject to the Search committee efforts.

The \$263,666 Net Fund Balance includes a cumulative Operating Fund Deficit of (\$118,466). Art proposed that a transfer of \$118,466 for the Petersen & Dixon fund to the Operating Fund. This transfer would cure the cumulative Operating Deficits through December 31, 2014.

Stewardship chair, Bob Kaska added to the treasurer's report that the church currently had 65 pledges for 2015 totaling \$165,000. However, he was confident that the church would reach pledged income of \$170,000 through a few additional pledges that are still to come in. This amount would support the Operating Income budget.

Also, in the Income budget, an additional \$75,000 is budgeted to be received from other operating receipts which include unidentified contributors, fund raisers, new members among other contributions. In 2014, this income was \$68,019 so the adjustment to \$75,000 is possible. Some of the sources mentioned in discussion in which the church may increase funds are the use of our facility for weddings and for special events, such as 'Blessing of the Hogs' (Harley Motorcycles) in May.

The \$170,000 income from pledges and the \$75,000 from other operating receipts would support the total Operating Income budget of \$245,000.

Kathy Haben inquired about the possibility of transferring \$20,000 from the Petersen & Dixon Funds being to the Endowment fund as seed money to get the fund started. Discussion followed regarding the transfer.

Bob Schless moved that \$15,000 be transferred from the Peterson & Dixon Fund to the Endowment Fund, \$118,466 be transferred from the Peterson & Dixon Fund to the Operating fund, and to accept the Treasurer's Report for 2014 and approve the proposed 2015 Operating Budget. Mark Lesswing seconded the motion. 35 Yeas and one opposed. Vote to pass the motion will conclude after further votes are taken.

New Business: none

Pastor David Russell gave a brief closing prayer.

Mark Lesswing moved to adjourn the meeting. Anne Bouchard seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk