

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
April 14, 2015

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Susi Winqvist, David Russell, Kristen Thornton, Jane Shelton, Art Zwemke, Alex Kentfield, Sandy Antonelli, Maureen O'Donnell, Valeri Baldwin Guests: Anne Haben and Judy Hopkins

Absent: Jan Marchese, Bob Kaska, Carol Berger, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Susannah Lesswing

Moderator Susi Winqvist began the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Prayer requests, joys, and concerns were shared. Pastor David Russell gave an opening prayer.

Following the prayer, David showed a video. The video was about how to increase membership in a church by making the church more appealing to men. It noted that if you can increase the membership of men, their families will follow. Some of the techniques that were mentioned were decorating the church in a less feminine way and selecting music and sermons which would appeal more to men. It was something to think about.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the March minutes. Alex moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Sandy. Minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David sent the following report to council by email. *Italics were comments added at the meeting.*

- What a glorious **Easter** we had here! One of my all-time Easter worship services. Music, scripture, liturgy and message all came together into one marvelous celebration of God's good news of new life! Many thanks to Larry, Kathi Abell, the fantastic choir and instrumentalists and a cast of thousands.
- **Holy week's services** were well done and filled with real spirituality. Each of the Good Friday services at Bartlett had a meaningful and well-crafted message. Our own Maundy Thursday service was a powerful testimony to the spiritual presence of Christ in the Upper Room and at Gethsemane. We've had many positive comments about all the Holy week services. Vitality in worship! Thank you Jesus.
- The **Forgiveness Retreat** during Lent was a spiritually challenging experience that touched the hearts of those attending. Our **Celtic evening** also received high marks from those attending.
- Since our last Council meeting, I have officiated at **two weddings and two funerals**. I also finally was able to make contact with and visit Mona Rose.

The two funerals were David Riley and a friend of the Schless family, Mabel Hethcoat.

- Anne Bouchard and I were asked by the Illinois Conference, to share information about becoming an **Open and Affirming** congregation with the church council of St. Paul's UCC in Crystal Lake. Their council was very appreciative.
- We just started another **new member's class**. These folks will join on May 3rd.
- The **Men's Ministry** continues to be a joy to me and of growing value to our LHC men. We had a great breakfast Sat. April 11 and then split into two groups to go to two homes of church members and help with needed projects. We look forward to our baseball outing June 7 at the Kane County Cougars game. And our Blessing of the 'Hogs' (Motorcycles) is now scheduled right after our Sept. 13 outdoor worship in Pratt Wayne Woods.
- **We are in for a treat on Sunday July 26 when Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, will be in our pulpit.**

David added that he would like to meet with Stewardship and Ann McLaughlin to review and define our membership list as to those members who are active and those who are inactive prior to the annual meeting in June. This is to avoid any problems regarding getting a quorum at the meeting.

David also announced that the Fox Valley Association Spring Annual Meeting will be Saturday, April 25, 2015 in West Dundee. He distributed information regarding the meeting and encouraged anyone to attend. The Illinois State Conference of the UCC will be June 5-6 in East Peoria.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke presented the following report.

<p>Treasurer's Report March 31, 2015</p> <p>A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$61,339 is 25.04% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000 versus 29.74% three (3) year average. Total pledges received of \$52,936 are 31.14% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000 versus 36.74% of three (3) year average. <u>Strong March, preceded by very weak numbers for January include \$4,775 in 2015 pledges, paid in 2014 Better in February, including a \$5,000 contribution to be used where needed.</u></p> <p>B – 1 - B - 6 YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$1,876) in 2015 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of (\$12,431) in 2014 and Net Income (Loss) Budget of \$9,897.</p> <p>C – 1 – C - 2 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$263,608 at 03/31/2015 compared to \$263,666 at 12/31/2014 and \$213,887 at 03/31/2015. <u>Net increase due to Petersen and Dixon closings.</u></p>

Art brought to the attention of the council that the contributions which have been provided by the identified contributors are substantially down this year and are behind our budgeted amount. .

Art asked that any adjustments to the outreach line item accounts should be given to him to correct.

Jane moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Alex. All were in favor. Report approved.

Moderator's Report and Business:

Susi sent her report to council.

April Moderator's Report

- Holy Week and Easter Sunday Choir preparations took up a great deal of my time this past month. I feel each Service presented was a rewarding experience. A big thank you goes out to David, Larry, Tim Shelton for organizing/preparing the Services; Joe Kranz for his solo offerings on Good Friday; and all those who participated with readings, choral work, instrumentalists and various tasks.
- I assisted Lori Prang to arrange childcare for the Sundays Sherry was away during spring break. Thank you Sam Shelton, Jane Price and Eleanor Karwowski.
- Thank you Council for making sure we had treats for our Easter Service. Though many folks do leave directly for Easter brunch with friends and family, many folks stay for fellowship (and an Easter Egg Hunt). I believe a nice cup of coffee and a sweet treat was appropriate.
- My other project has been preparations for the New Beginnings group meetings scheduled for later this month and into May. I encourage each Council Leader to show their support of the program and "lead" the way for other congregation members by signing up for one of the discussion series. I also ask that you invite others to make that commitment as well. LHC has a wonderful opportunity to shape the direction for our future but it cannot be accomplished without everyone's input.

Sunday Series: April 26, May 3 & 17. 11am - 1pm Thursday Series: May 7, 14 & 21. 7 - 9pm Saturday Retreat: May 2. 9am - 3pm

At the meeting, Susi again encouraged council to sign up for the New Beginnings group meetings which she mentioned in her above report. A new display table encouraging people to sign up is in the fellowship hall.

Susi asked who would help coordinate the Blood drive. Lori Prang has volunteered to coordinate the first blood drive on May 18th.

Junual Meeting: The date for the annual (Junual) meeting was set for June 7th. Art reminded council that the June meeting is necessary for the approval and election of council members and final reports. It was discussed that the reports should be due to Lori by Tuesday, May 12th so that the reports can be printed and forwarded to the church membership prior to the June annual meeting. According to the bylaws, the membership should have the opportunity to review reports prior to the meeting.

Search and Call: Alex reported that the church profile and the National Ministry Opportunities Listing are being finalized and will be sent, within a couple of weeks, to Jonathan Knight, UCC for his review. Once he approves the profile, it will then be sent to the LHC council for approval. Once the LHC council approves the listing, the job will be posted through the UCC offices.

Moderator Elect: No report for this month

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: This Friday night is our second family movie night at 7pm., *St. Vincent*. Suggested ideas for upcoming topics for Adult Ed were Mental Health, End of Life and Muslim religion Ed.

VBS will be June 15-19, 2015 at Immanuel UCC in Bartlett. Talk to Lori Haseltine if interested in helping.

Congregational Life: Chairs arrived. Alex inquired if there should be extra plastic connectors ordered to replace the connectors which are connected to the bottom of the new chairs.

Evangelism: Carol emailed the following report to council.

Membership classes started on Sunday, and we have three attending. Ann McLaughlin addressed the class in my absence along with David. Two more classes are scheduled, and membership Sunday will be May 3. I plan to reach out to visitors who attended on Easter Sunday.

I would be happy to work with Kathleen or Congregational Life and reach out to another group of people in the community and plan a special Fellowship hour for Music Sunday.

The church signs are up on Rt. 59.

Facilities: Anne mentioned that she was getting bids for a new power assisted fellowship hall door and for windows to be either replaced or repaired in the Guild House.

Anne is considering applying for grant to cement the driveway/parking lot, repair broken cement in front of the church, and to complete the sidewalk to the street among other things.

Anne volunteered to organize the **Plant Sale, May 9th**. It was also decided that the next **Work Day** would be May 9th, the same weekend as the plant sale. Anne also will be putting together a list of items that need to be done so that anyone who can't be at the work day can complete a task at another time when they are available.

Anne Haben suggested that LHC take advantage of the Kohl's Associates in Action program which donates \$500 to organizations who help better the lives of children and others through volunteer work. She will get more information on this program from her employer.

Outreach:

Valeri suggested that we give the funds that were budgeted to be given to the Community Crisis Center and Crop Walk to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. She provided a report on the background of the organization and their needs. Council was in support of the organization and its cause and approved the transfer. Art will process a check for \$500 to the Shelter to start our support. We will continue to support the Community Crisis Center with donations of toiletries and supplies that they need. Due to the lack of interest and support for the Crop Walk from the congregation during the past year, we will not be supporting that event.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska was absent. No report.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Nothing new to report. Sandy wanted council to know that Kathy Abell has been a great help with preparing for communion and other services.

Reaction to the recent Easter flyer that was sent to the Woodlands subdivision was discussed. It is possible that one family from Woodlands subdivision attended the Easter service. However, a couple of families which have recently visited our church are being hesitant to join because of the lack of children.

Members at Large/ Communications: Kathleen was absent but forwarded her report regarding church communications.

April BTW Newsletter was sent April 1

Web site—Monthly updates on homepage; Sunday schedule; Flowers & fellowship; Events; and Book club pages

Email messaging: There's still time (Forgiveness Retreat) —March 16
Holy Week at Little Home Church —Sent March 31

Facebook page—Up to 120 "Likes"

Wedding brochure—Tried to organize another meeting of the committee but schedules would not allow. Will attempt to convene a meeting in the week of April 20.

Easter Season Postcard—Designed and produced 6x9 full-color, 2-sided postcard sent to residents of Woodland Hills and LHC members. Alphagraphics, \$467.98 printing plus (.29 ea.) \$283.62 postage.

Arun Gandhi flyer—Produced 2-sided, color flyer promoting his preaching visit to LHC.

OLD BUSINESS:

Men's Ministry: Art reported for the men's group. He reminded council about the baseball game on June 7 at 1:00. We have approximately 32 tickets sold. The goal is to have 50 people attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Guest pastor next Sunday will be Rev. Bobbi McKay.

Refreshments will be provided by the Galloways who are considering membership at our church. Unfortunately, they cannot attend this Sunday but they will be putting the refreshments in the refrigerator. Susi asked that volunteers make sure that the refreshments be put out.

For the Search application, three references are still needed. Suggestions were given to the committee.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn by Anne B. and seconded by Alex. All were in favor.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:00 p.m.:

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk