

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
April 10, 2012

**In Attendance:** Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Nancy Doerr, Peter Gatsch, Kathy Haben, Bob Kaska, Gianna Marchese, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Jane Shelton. Guests: Larry Dieffenbach, Gary Estes

**Absent:** Art Zwemke

Ann M. began the meeting at 7:23 p.m. after the Council wrote notes to LHC members. Pastor Ron then opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ann M. asked if there were any changes or corrections to the March minutes. Anne B. moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Suzanne. All ayes. The minutes were approved with one correction to Christian Education report.

**Christian Ed:** Gianna reported that she and Leigh Bechet have selected the VBS curriculum for this summer called 'Go Deep with God' which has a water theme. The materials have wonderful stories of people with hard times that still had faith in God. UCC has officially adopted Cokesbury's curriculum for Vacation Bible School. Crafts, storytelling, music, games and snacks will be scheduled. The plan is to go back to making activity books similar to those Leigh and Gianna had in their VBS experience. The dates this year are June 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. The following Sunday there will be a music presentation during the church service. There is an allocation for VBS in the Christian Education budget. Gianna inquired about the Youth Retreat that had been scheduled for April 14 – 16. Ron informed the group that the retreat has been cancelled and is now postponed until the fall due to lack of minimum participants. Too many scheduling conflicts occurred with our youth and the forecast is for storms all weekend.

**Church Action/Focus Items:**

**Peterson House:**

Gary handed out a list of repairs that need to be finished in the house such as painting the bedrooms, cleaning the basement, sealing one wall in the basement with waterproof material and cleaning the refrigerator. Gary has been working there painting and repairing and the Kaskas have worked at clearing the yard and cleaning up outside. Bob suggested that we hire someone to get the work done so the house can be listed. An email has gone out for working in the garden and the church this Saturday and we can probably get some workers at that time. Bob moved that we rally everyone this weekend to work and give Gary a budget not to exceed \$2,500 to hire appropriate workers to get the house ready to be listed by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Suzanne seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.

**Planned Giving Status:** Carol reported that the group will be meeting next Tuesday.

**Open and Affirming Update:** Anne B. reported the first meeting was attended by 8 people and they are moving forward with different ideas. A movie was selected by the group called 'For the Bible Tells Me So' which Anne has ordered. They are contacting the Naperville and St. Charles UCC churches regarding the process they went through. She has collected quite a lot of literature and pamphlets which she circulated which might be helpful as we start the process. The pastor at the UCC church in Glen Ellyn is also doing related classes. They started their process in fall of 2008 and voted in June of 2009. Nancy D. said the St. Charles church took 3 years. She has obtained recommendations for speakers from their church. Ron had a book that is the recommended reading for ONA called The Moral Teachings of Paul, Selected Issues by Victor Paul Furnish. Ron said we could have a class in addition to the other things that we are doing. Larry suggested contacting the New England Congregational in Aurora which is also a UCC Church. Anne's stated the next meetings are April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 and May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Nancy S. said this is a really important process and we should challenge the difficult issues. Larry suggested that Don Heinrich would be a great resource for the group. Larry and Anne suggested we step-up our UCC branding.

**Ministry Fair, May 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Ann M. informed that group that in the past, we had tables set up in the Parrish Hall with information on the different ministries to get the newer members involved. This will be a sign-up opportunity for members in each ministry. Nancy D. said Gianna and Leigh will be registering the children for VBS and will have the cookies and juice at their table. Ann said this will be the Time, Talent and Treasures participation for members. After participating in ministries, members would then serve on Council. Council members need to be here early that Sunday to set up their tables.

Senior Sunday will be June 3 where graduating high school seniors are acknowledged during the service. Jane Shelton will be contacting Kate Lesswing and Duke Ferguson. All graduates need to be acknowledged including our college students.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ron said he will be very involved in the ONA and the Planned Giving. This Sunday Ron will do the service as the Youth Retreat has been cancelled. Ron mentioned some old financial records need to be purged. He suggested hiring a professional shredding company to destroy these old records.

**Treasurer's Report:** Art was absent so Ann stated that the March report had been handed out the year to date receipts are lagging. We are at 25.7% and the average is 27.87% in receipts. The Pension Board issue has been resolved which is reflected in the report. Outreach agency checks have gone out for the first quarter. Wally moved to approve the March report and it was second by Nancy S. With all ayes, the motion was approved.

**Moderator Report:** Issues already discussed.

**Moderator Elect's Report:** Issues already discussed.

**Ministry Reports:**

**Christian Education (continued):** Nancy D. reported Thursday night is Bible study with Nancy S. We are reading the Gospel of Mark and studying Easter.

**Congregational Life:** Anne B. reminded everyone that the Talent Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, with a rehearsal that morning in the Parish Hall. The band has been rehearsing. College care packages need to go out for finals and we would also like to send them to our members in the service. Anne B. mentioned she has a painter that she will ask to bid on the Peterson house job.

**Evangelism:** Bob reported that we do not have the 12 people we were hoping for as new members. The talent show is another opportunity to invite our prospective candidates. Bob wants to have a new member class and would like to have at least 3 households in a 'new member group'. An email went out today to get volunteers to work in the garden and the church. Work days are evangelism events. Bob suggested that we get a little home church banner to put on the light poles and possibly on the Wayne Historic District sign. Peter suggested that we have a sign that says 'All Are Welcome' and possibly adding 'Please Join Us'.

**Facilities:** Peter's insurance person cannot match the rates we have so we will keep our current provider.

**Outreach:** Marilyn stated that our church contributed 45 dinners for the Easter food drive program.

**Stewardship:** None

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Nancy S. said we have a fifth Sunday Service on April 29th and will have a poetry reading and pot luck. Late start service feasibility will be discussed again at the May meeting.

**Members at Large:** Carol asked for a name for the planned giving committee. Anne said the by-laws already have named it the Perpetual Fund.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Ron offered the closing prayer. Wally moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Suzanne. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk