

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
April 9, 2013

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Kathy Haben, Karen Hansen, Lori Haseltine, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Dan Roach, Nancy Schatzeder, Wally Setlock, Art Zwemke Guest: Mary Roach

Absent: Gianna Marchese, Jane Shelton

Wally Setlock began the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and asked for prayer requests. Pastor Ron then gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Wally asked if there were any changes or corrections to the March minutes. Bob moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ann. The minutes were approved with all ayes.

Mary attended the meeting to report on the progress of the planned fund raiser for the Little Home Church and its outreach ministry. She explained that we will be able to use the Dunham Castle for the fund raiser on May 4th and 5th, all day Saturday and Sunday. We do need to obtain an umbrella policy for insurance coverage for \$1,000,000. Tickets will be \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and senior citizens. The Relay for Life fund raiser grossed \$17,000 in three days. We should identify the missions we support and hopefully will bring interest and publicity for the church. Various people have already volunteered to handle specific functions such as music, publicity, tickets sales, refreshments, etc. Once the policy is obtained, we need everyone to contact as many people as possible to inform them of this opportunity to tour the castle in Wayne. The planned hours will be 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on both days.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron inquired about the dates of the Vacation Bible School as it would be good to get them published in the next issue of Wayne Life. Lori will get those finalized. The Easter holiday was good for the church and the Sunday service was well attended. However, the Maundy Thursday evening service was beautiful but there was not a good crowd. Carol stated how the program was a lot of work for Larry and we needed to have an email blast to encourage attendance. The ministry associated with the event should be responsible for getting the information out to the congregation. Nancy suggested that at the end of each meeting we should review what promotions that are needed in the next month. Wally said we will look at the calendar at each council meeting and review the upcoming events. Ron stated we have an offer to take down the dead oak tree at cost, and the wood will be taken off the site. The emergency light in the Guild House needs to be replaced and Dan will purchase a new one. Ron has someone to install it. He is still looking at new chairs as we are losing a chair a week. Ann said we need to purchase them now. The septic systems need to be checked for the church properties. Art suggested we establish a checklist of what needs to be done each year.

Treasurer's Report: Art reported that on a net basis, we have a surplus of \$11,266 and we had budgeted \$12,462. Our total receipts YTD are \$81,124 which is 35.47% of the total receipts budget of \$228,700. Pledges are low, but identified contributors are up for 2013. Art reviewed the balance sheet. At the end of the first quarter we made the first installment on the outreach payments. Total budget is \$24,375 which is 15% of \$162,500, our budgeted pledge receipts. Ann moved to approve the March Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Anne B. The motion passed unanimously.

Moderator's Report:

Peterson House: Wally said the house is still showing and we have been approached to sell the house on a contract sale. Wally responded to Karen Ashe that it depends on the terms of the contract. The person has a home for sale and will be moving into the house and currently lives in the community. Bob moved we proceed with selling the house on a contract sale with Dan and Art as the committee to proceed with the contract. Wally seconded. Ann will participate with the task force also. Art said we should get a sizeable down payment and we would still own the house until the final payment is made. We wouldn't own a vacant property and the purchaser would have to insure the house with the church as the beneficiary. Wally will let Karen know that we will consider a contract sale. Bob revised his motion to proceed with Art and Dan on a task force to look at a contract sale. Wally seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dixon Home: No market survey has been done yet on the Dixon house. Karen said she could ask a realtor she knows to do a market analysis but usually you list with that realtor. Karen Ashe is also doing a market analysis for us. The renters have been informed they are in default of the original lease agreement and now are on a month to month basis. Ron asked if we have decided when we wanted the house vacated and it was recommended that we wait until after school is out in June. Art suggested we say June 30 we would like the house vacant and have the management send them a letter. Ann moved to have the Dixon tenants vacate the premises by June 30 and Ron ask Barkley to notify the renters. Nancy seconded the motion and it was approved with all ayes. Anne mentioned that a church in Michigan was exempt from the rules of the Historic Commission and maybe that possibility exists here. Anne will look into the legal research for Illinois.

Assistance Booklet/Guide: Wally suggested putting together a resource book for members of the congregation and community that are in need. Wally has some information and Marilyn mentioned that the food pantry has a binder with the same type of information. We would like to have something in the office to give out if we have inquiries for specific needs. Marilyn will get a copy for our office. Wally asked everyone to bring any resource information they have to the next meeting.

Moderator Elect's Report:

Kathy Haben contacted Diana regarding the Danish Choir concert to tentatively be held here on July 7. Ron said we need more information from Diana regarding the choir and at this time we do not have a coordinator for the project. Wally said the Council is in favor of doing this but no one on the council can coordinate the project and a coordinator would need to be found before we can agree to the project. Anne asked if Diana is going to be in town the day of the concert and Ron said he will find out when Diana plans to be back in town. Anne suggested we put something into the bulletin regarding Blue Lake and the coordination of the project and she will

do that. Kathy had information regarding the Fox Valley Association Spring Annual Meeting for UCC on April 27 in Downers Grove. The association is offering a series of classes on the history and theology of the UCC. Kathy will be attending the classes. Everyone's year end report needs to be turned in to Lori for the Junual Meeting. Kathy will ask Lori to email everyone their ministry report from last year.

Ministry Reports:

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Nancy stated that there is a 5th Sunday is in June, and we will probably have a potluck meal. June 2 will be a graduating senior Sunday and Lori will get the information into the By The Way. Our Music Sunday will be May 19th and Nancy will get that information into the BTW. We will also schedule email blasts for that event.

Christian Education: Lori is in the process of scheduling VBS which will probably by June 10 through June 14 and will check dates for conflict with Pony Club.

Evangelism: Bob said that the Web site homepage has been updated and Lori will continue to update it each month. There are new email addresses for the church @littlehomechurch.org. Facebook continues to have activity and everyone could post photos. Lori is working on the Church Windows database. The new bulletin format was used this past Sunday and was well received. The color copier is being used but we will have no printing costs anymore. Regarding new members, we currently have no prospects and we have had 2 resignations in the first quarter. Anne is working on a letter to members that are not currently attending. Carol asked how we get people on the email blasts that are not being contacted. Bob suggested that anyone who wants to get email blasts should give their email address to Lori in the office.

Facilities: Dan stated we have a new water heater in the church, but there has been nothing done with the water heater in the Peterson House. Wally will see if he can get that one going, and if not, we will need a new one. Dan will look at fixing the sump pump noise in the basement. Ron asked about the antique bricks that come out of the chimney and it was agreed these should be saved. Art said there is money in the paint fund and we need to have the Guild House and the outside office wall painted. Possibly, we could have a work day to paint. Wally said there is a beam to be replaced outside the kitchen door and it just needs to be installed. The locks need to be fixed in the kitchen. Ron said his office is going to be painted and we probably need to have Lori's office painted, too. The exit door in Ron's office needs to be replaced also.

Stewardship: Nothing to report

Congregational Life: Anne received a letter for a memorial gift that can be used for our donations. Nancy Alex suggested that we have a link for signing up for fellowship and flowers on the web site. Nancy Suggested to Ron that Lori do a pdf file of the bulletin to be emailed to the pulpit associate in advance.

Outreach: Marilyn informed the group that 45 baskets were donated for the Easter dinners.

Members at Large: Carol said the term Perpetual Fund is being changed to Endowment Fund. The committee has met and the final copy of the amendments to the by-laws is being drafted.

Karen said that there are problems with people being able to hear the service in the sanctuary again. This is when the microphone is not being used. There was a suggestion made that during the announcements before church service we could have an usher with a traveling microphone so speakers could be heard. Nancy will call Rich Doerr so the ushers can be informed.

Open and Affirming: Anne informed the group that there was a great discussion last Sunday at the wine & cheese meeting. Suggested was a synopsis for what has happened so far and where we are in the process. A Pastor from St. Johns is coming on Sunday, April 21 to discuss their church's process. Art asked what would be presented at the Junual meeting on June 23 and Anne said it would be an update.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Move to adjourn by Dan, and second by Ann. The motion was approved with all ayes. Ron closed with a prayer at 9:18.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk