

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
April 12, 2016

In Attendance: Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Alex Kentfield, Ann McLaughlin, Frank Muno, David Russell, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Absent: Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick

Moderator Alex Kentfield began the meeting at 7:07 pm. Pastor David led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the March minutes. Bob Kaska moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Valeri. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Frank Muno moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting which was held on March 22, 2016 in order to approve Rev. Malmberg as a candidate for Pastor. Jane seconded the motion. Spelling mistakes will be corrected on names and a note regarding the shared vote between the Facilities chairmen will be added. With those corrections, all were in favor. Minutes were approved. These minutes were only distributed to members of council.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David submitted the following report for the past month.

PASTOR'S REPORT

April '16

- I want to begin this report by repeating the "challenge" I am giving to LHC (shared in yesterday's sermon) that "Little Home Church identify and begin implementation of one major improvement to its operation to be a '**greener church**'". I won't be here, but I hope you will accept and execute this challenge! ☺
- Looking back since our March Council meeting, I believe the Lenten suppers and all three Holy week services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter) went very well, numerically, spiritually and creatively.
- Follow up on Boy Scouts God and Church award: Alex Karwowski is going for this along with other boys in his St. Charles troop. They have been meeting here at LHC and I will be joining them at their last class on 4/21. (Look for a Sunday when Alex receives his award!)
- I want to repeat an announcement from our bulleting that Jonathan Knight, former Fox Valley Association Minister has retired and there will be a farewell reception for him on Thursday 4/28 at the Illinois Conference Westchester, IL office.
- *Theology on Tap* continues to go well with excellent fellowship and discussion and ranging in attendance from 9 to 17. The club has been very gracious and supportive

- We are hoping to have several new members join LHC on Sunday May 1. So far we have 2 commitments, but I anticipate that number will grow.
- On Saturday 4/23 our three new “delegates” (Judy Hopkins, Karen Kaluzsa, and Maureen McDowell) will be attending, with me, the Fox Valley Spring meeting in Algonquin.

At council, David distributed information about the; “FACTS on Growing Congregations,” misconceptions about Islam, and suggestions for living sustainably.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Art Zwemke submitted the treasurer’s report for the past month. The cover of that report is as follows. A complete copy of the report is available from the office.

Treasurer’s Report
March 31, 2016

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$68,610 is 27.67% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 29.13%, 3 year average. Total Pledges received of \$62,827 are 33.07% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016 compared to 32.16%, 3 year average. Received \$21,100 in prepaid pledges in 2015 toward 2016, recorded in January 2016. Solid month for pledges in March, slightly ahead of plan, overall receipts a tad behind.

B – 1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$5,977 in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$1,876) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of \$672. First quarter Outreach payments made.

C – 1 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$248,780 at 03/31/2016 compared to \$242,707 at 12/31/2015 and \$263,608 at 03/31/2015.

D - 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

E – 1 Outreach Tracking

Valeri moved to approve the treasurer’s report which was seconded by Kathleen. All were in favor. Report approved.

Moderator’s Report:

Alex submitted the following report for the past month.

On April 04, Pastor David and I had a belated March meeting. We discussed the success of our Holy Week events, the Men of LHC / Men of the Mosque breakfast, and the several upcoming activities such as the LHC Saturday Work Day, Blessing of the Bikes, etc. Many good things continue to happen at Little Home Church!

The major topic of discussion was of course our council's affirmed pastor candidate, Rev. Richard E. Malmberg: his background, when he may start, how can David help with the transition, how the April 24th services and candidating sermon will be conducted, next steps, David's exit process, etc., etc. Per UCC policy, Rev. Malmberg will conduct the service from beginning to end, and David will not be present. Richard and Larry will work on the music, and David may give Richard insights to our worship style at LHC. Others have stepped up to help with transportation and house hunting. This will be a busy time from now until about July 1st when we expect the Malmberg family to take up residence among us. Everyone will be kept up to date on all pertinent dates and events as we go forward.

Bear in mind that the Search and Call Committee's job is not actually done until our new pastor is on site. The Search and Call Committee, the personnel committee, and helpful members of the congregation are all still doing a lot behind the scenes to "make it happen"!

On a closing note, Pastor David will be on vacation on Mother's Day, May 8th, and will arrange a service to be conducted by Lay Leaders. Unfortunately I will not be able to participate as my wife and I also will be on vacation, in Florida from May 6th through the 13th. I also will not be able to lead the council meeting on May 10th.

At council, Alex reviewed his report.

Moderator Elect: Kathleen Sullivan Kaska submitted the following report for the past month.

- **Re-Visioning Interviews:** Met with representatives from the following service agencies/providers for interviews about the needs of our community: Renz Addiction Counseling Center; Christ Community Church; and TriCity Family Services.
- **New Pastor Announcement:** Produced email blast communication announcing the selection of Rev. Richard Malmberg and his April 24 'Candidating Sermon.' Also worked with Anne B. and Lori P. to create and send out a mailed letter of announcement to LHC membership. LHC website homepage posting of New Pastor Candidating Sermon date, but with no name mentioned as advised by the UCC document of guidelines linked to the Search & Call page.
- **LHC Office:** Met with Lori Prang to help her develop a current Office Manager Job description.
- **2016/17 Council:** Met with Susi W., Nominating Committee Chair, to review positions for upcoming council change.

Communications

- **Flyers and banners created for the following:** Blood Drive, May 2; Bicycle Blessing & Breakfast, May 14; Plant Sale, May 20 & 21
- **Email blasts:** April BTW; 'Breakfast with Jesus,' April 3; All-Church Work Day, April 9
- **Social Media:** Multiple Facebook postings; 155 'Likes' to date

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Frank Muno had nothing new to report.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick had nothing new to report

Evangelism: Ann McLaughlin thanked Carol for hosting a dinner at her home for the prospective new members earlier this month. Chuck McDonough and Alex Parks have expressed their intentions in joining the church. However, the planned date for members to join is currently May 1 and Alex Parks will be out of town that weekend. If no other families decide to join at this time, the date may be postponed to May 15th so that Alex Parks can attend.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard thanked everyone who helped with the Work Day last weekend along with Bob Kaska. Anne also noted that a new roof on top of the fellowship hall and the guild house is needed.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report.

Easter Holiday Dinners - LHC met the demand once again by providing 45 dinners to the Neighborhood Food Pantry for Easter. We are one of their smaller churches, but we donate nearly as much as the larger churches.

Missions Moments (MM) The upcoming April Calendar includes.

- **April 3** - Fox Valley Hands of Hope (formerly Fox Valley Hospice) [website](#)
- **April 17** – Renz Addiction Counseling Center [website](#)
- **April 24** – Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV) [website](#)
- **June 26th** – Elgin Community Crisis Center (mentioned at council)

Heartland Blood Drive - Our Spring Blood Drive is Monday, May 2nd from 3:00-7:00 PM. Register now by calling or emailing Lori in the church office. Blood donations are needed every day of the year to have enough blood to supply to those in need of transfusions. More than 500 blood donations are needed daily to save patient lives. Being a blood donor helps to sustain lives all around the world. Heartland Blood Centers provides blood to hospitals not only within the greater Chicago land area but across the nation. The average adult body stores a little more than a pint of blood to every 25 pounds. The entire process for donating 1 pint of whole blood only takes about an hour.

Play Date

- Wednesday before Easter an Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by all. Haley Fuertges brought a live rabbit for everyone to pet and observe their pet.
- St. Paddy's Day was celebrated with John Phillip Sousa's fantastic energizing music and marching around the room.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska had no activity to report in Stewardship. However, an update on the fund raising efforts was asked. Unfortunately, the efforts have not raised the fund as projected. For instance, the Chili Cook-off was predicted to make \$1750 and made \$650. However, on a more positive note, the Easter flower sale was predicted to make \$300 and made \$350.

Carol brought up the “French Market” as a possible future fund raiser.

Kathleen briefly reminded council of all of the upcoming events; Bicycle Blessing, plant sale, and as well as other events including the October Wayne Walk on Oct. 8th.

Anne B. wanted to remind the council that the money that is raised at the Shrimp Boil in August should be forwarded to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi Mississippi. However, council decided that the money needs to be given first to the missions that are included in our budget. Nonetheless, the church will forward some of the proceeds to the Back Bay because the Shrimp Boils, like ours, are the way that the mission is funded throughout the country. The Back Bay Mission was not included in the budgeted missions for 2016.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Susi Winqvist submitted the following report.

Worship & Spiritual Growth

The work continues to solicit volunteers for the various Sunday duties and responsibilities; Ushers, PA's, Flowers, and Coffee Hour. So many folks have been very gracious filling in at the last minute and making themselves available for the next several weeks. There are still openings thru June.

Members of the Search and Call Committee have graciously agreed to assist with the responsibilities for Rev. Malmberg's candidating service on April 24th; PA, Ushers, Flowers, and refreshments for Coffee Hour.

Pastor David will be gone on vacation on Mother's Day, May 8th. Plans are underway for a lay-led service.

Members at Large: none

Communications: already mentioned in the Moderator Elect's report.

Search & Call:

The S & C committee will be helping the service and doing fellowship on April 24th. There will be a dinner on Sunday night at Carol Berger's home for the Malmbergs to meet the council and staff. Discussion followed regarding how much opportunity the congregation would have to meet the Malmbergs prior to the vote. It was suggested that there be a 45 minute "meet and greet" prior to the service on Sunday. Alex will contact Richard and asked him if he is willing.

Alex also explained Richard Malmberg's employment package to the council and his goals regarding employment. There was a discussion regarding the sabbatical portion of his 'package.' Richard plans to be 'on site' by July 1st. Arrangements regarding the overlap of the two contracts will be postponed until the May meeting.

Re-Visioning: Susi Winqvist submitted the following report to council. Kathleen mentioned the interviewing agencies in her Moderator Elect's report.

The Re-Visioning Team continues to conduct community interviews seeking opinions/information on the needs of the various communities these agencies serve. Our goal is to complete the interviews the end of April/first of May then begin analyzing the information.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council moved to close the meeting to discuss employee compensation and salaries. Notes from the session will be kept with the church clerk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Anne shared a couple of interfaith events. One is Eboo Patel, a speaker on Sat. April 30 at 7:30 pm. The other event is being planned for November for women, Faith, Friendship and Sisterhood, at St. Matthew UCC.

Next council meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane and seconded by Anne B. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 8:57 p.m.:

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk