

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
April 11, 2017

**In Attendance:**, Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Barb Braulick, Anne Bouchard, Karen Kaluzsa, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winqvist, Art Zwemke

**Absent:** Chip Braulick, Ann McLaughlin

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:11 pm. Susi Winqvist shared a history of Easter traditions. Pastor Richard followed with the sharing of joys and concerns and an opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** No corrections were made to the March minutes. Valeri moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Anne B. All were in favor. Minutes approved. Anne made a motion to approve the February minutes as amended from the last meeting. Jane seconded. Motion approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Richard submitted the following report which he reviewed with council.

Pastor's Report to Council - April

It has been a busy month. We wrapped up our Wednesday Dinners by the Wayside. I very much enjoyed teaching the Christian Basics class, and it made for some great discussions. Participants chose to continue through March, though attendance dwindled towards the end. April 5 was our last one. I am thinking it would be well worth doing on a monthly basis. I was thinking about trying to organize a spirituality group to meet either before or after a monthly dinner. Stay tuned.

The Men's Fellowship is planning another Blessing of the Bikes on May 6. At this stage publicity is ahead of logistics, though I trust those will be ironed out well before the date. There is an evening planning meeting between now and then. I am belatedly cashing in on an offer for the Men's Group to help me move. We will change venue for the monthly breakfast to the townhouse in St Charles we will be vacating. The Malmbergs will supply the bagels, coffee and truck, and we will start schlepping stuff to Geneva after breakfast.

Much of the past few weeks have been devoted to getting ready for Easter. I am looking forward to the Holy Week and Easter with you all. Following the Palm Sunday worship, we held a new member class over pizza in my office. On April 23, we expect to welcome 7 new members.

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since you all voted to call me to serve as your pastor. I have now been on the job for over nine months. The time has gone quickly. Jane and I are enjoying making a home here in Chicagoland, and already feel at home at Little Home Church. I have told friends around the country how much I enjoy being a country pastor in a world class metropolitan area.

At council, Richard informed council that he will be attending the Fox Valley Association (UCC) Spring Celebration, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the St. John UCC in Waukegan.

As for Easter service plans. Council will take care of the fellowship.

Blessing of the Bikes will be May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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, 2017

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD – Total Receipts of \$84,543 is 34.37% of \$246,000 goal, well ahead of the 3-year average of 29.80%. Total Pledges of \$64,692 is 35.94% of \$180,000 goal, a bit ahead the 3-year average of 35.33%.

**B – 1 - B - 6** Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$24,671 in 2017 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$6,654 in 2016 and budgeted Net Income (Loss) of \$7,596. So far so good!

**C – 1 - C – 3** Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$251,541 at 03/31/2017 compared to \$216,897 at 02/28/2017 and \$276,892 at 03/31/2016. Note comparison columns.

**D - 1** Consolidated Fund Activity – Higher than beginning of year!

**E – 1** Outreach – 1st quarter payments made.

**F – 1 – F -5** Church Windows Workbook – Using as a checklist for Susi.

At council, Art reviewed the report. He has been training Susi. Workbooks have been ordered for Susi and Lori to become more familiar with the church Windows software and accounting practices.

The bank accounts are being transferred from the State Bank of Geneva to the PNC Bank in St. Charles. A separate checking account will be set up for the Historic Renovation Fund.

Susi motioned to approve the March Treasurer's report for the March report. Valeri seconded the motion. Discussion followed. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Anne moved to approve the February Treasurer's report which was not approved last month because of a lack of a quorum. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motioned approved.

Anne moved to open two bank accounts at the PNC Bank in St. Charles. The four individuals that will have approval to write checks will be Susi Winqvist, Art Zwemke, Kathleen Kaska, and Anne Bouchard. Barb seconded the motion. All were in the favor. Motion passed.

### **Moderator's Report:**

Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month.

#### **April BTW; email marketing; web site; social media**

—Both the March and April BTW was followed with a 'What's Happening at LHC' email blast that outlines the full month's activities

—Email blasts: Wednesday Night Dinner Date'; Reminder-Restoration Update; DUE NOW-Easter Flower Sale; Holy Week at Little Home Church 2017

#### **Personnel Relations Committee**

—Committee met with Rev. Richard on March 28 to formalize goals for 2017

—Proposed 2017 Goals for Rev. Richard Malmberg document

—Organizational Chart created for the LHC HR Policy binder

—Committee will be scheduling annual reviews with Office Manager and Music Director in the coming month

#### **Promotional material for events/ministries**

—Designed 'Blessing of the Bikes' logo and flyer for the Men of LHC event; Will produce a banner for display in front of church and an email blast after Easter

—Developed graphics for the spring Stewardship campaign, 'The Joy of Giving Challenge Pledge'

#### **Nominating Committee**

—This committee (KS Kaska; Anne Bouchard; Alex Kentfield; and Susi Winqvist) will be convened soon to begin development of the next LHC Council, which will be installed at the Junual Meeting on June 25

—Nominating Committee will work with Anne Bouchard to create a **Ministry Fair**, scheduled for Sunday, May 7, to recruit additional members as a committee for each Ministry beyond the chairperson

#### **Plant Sale**

—Will help activate the 'Gardening Angels' to begin planning and promotion of this annual fundraising event scheduled for May 19 & 20

At council, Kathleen shared the information that will be included in the staff employment binders. She distributed and reviewed three items; the Annual Goal Review Process, the 2017 Goals for the Pastor, and an organizational chart for the church for the council's review

**Moderator Elect:** Anne Bouchard submitted a report for Facilities this month.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

**Christian Education:** Karen Kaluzsa had nothing new to report.

**Congregational Life:** Barb Braulick had nothing new to report.

**Evangelism:** Ann McLaughlin was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

**Facilities:** Anne Bouchard submitted and reviewed the following report.

After the second toilet problem in a month, Lori and I decided to pump out the septic system on a regular basis.

**150th Anniversary Renovation Report:** We have had two good discussions after church regarding the proposed renovation and remodeling projects and attendant budgets. The final discussion will be on Sunday, April 23, with Architect Lisa Sharp in attendance. The draft budget amount for all projects is \$2.3 M.

On another note, Jim Hickey, President of the PFLAG for Northern Illinois will attend our May meeting. He has a conflict for tomorrow.

**Outreach:** Valeri Baldwin asked council for their opinion regarding a request made by the food pantry. The food pantry would like to purchase gas cards instead of buying food with the money that we have given them. Council felt that the Sunday "can" collected money should continue to be used only for food purchases since that is what the congregation has been told.

**Stewardship:** Bob Kaska reported on the Spring fundraising Campaign for Outreach. Bob proposed that the Spring Campaign be a 'matching' fund (challenge match) campaign since we have been given a sizable donation. The stipulation of the donation is that it is a matching grant. Anne expressed concern regarding asking the congregation for money too often. There has been some concern with the food pantry donation cans that are collected by the little kids in church. Discussion followed regarding how the campaign would be done. A letter will be sent out in May explaining that this campaign income would be used for our Outreach missions and not for operations or renovations. Susi suggested that the Outreach charities be displayed during the Mission Fair in May to promote giving.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Jane Shelton suggested that our church could add some color in the Sanctuary. She suggested added a possible rainbow colors during June on the exterior of the church. The color could be added through banners, draped fabric, and some other method.

**Members at Large:** Susi Winquist submitted the following report.

**Member at Large Report:** Carol Berger submitted the following report.

I hope all of you saw on Sunday what I saw.... **kids** parading with palms in the sanctuary and then running around the courtyard!!! It was enough to give me goose bumps and sing praises! Needless to say, it was a happy to sight to see. As a council, let us continue to spread the Good News with more young families so we have tons of kids running around the court yard every week. A growing church has more voices to spread the good works of the Lord.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ministry Fair will be Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. : Anne reported that it will be a time when ministries will encourage the congregation to become involved in the ministry.

Jim Hickey will be coming next council meeting to talk about PFLAG

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susi, seconded by Jane. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk