

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
August 11, 2015

In Attendance: Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Alex Kentfield, Ann McLaughlin, Frank Muno, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Nancy Alex (guest), Anne Bouchard, Carol Berger

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Art Zwemke, David Russell, Jane Shelton, Debra Galloway

Moderator Alex Kentfield began the meeting at 7:14 pm. Susi gave the welcome prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the July minutes. Frank moved to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Susi. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Alex asked for a motion to start the meeting with New Business. Susi so moved. Bob seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Young families “Play Date”

Nancy Alex introduced the concept of our church hosting a “play date” for area families as part of our Outreach ministry. Our church would offer our facilities to young families in the area. The group would be responsible for their own activities, supplies, refreshments, and hiring a babysitter if they decide to do so. The idea was discussed by council. One of the main concerns was the liability of the church. Another concern was who would spearhead the group and take charge. After much discussion, the council felt it was a good idea and that Nancy and Valeri would need to do further research to see if there is any interest in the community. If there is interest, they should just proceed forward. In the meantime, Alex will ask Lori to check with our insurance company and find out if there is a ‘hold harmless’ clause in the policy. A document or form in which we could have the participating families sign to release the church from liability would also need to be prepared.

New Beginnings Report

Kathleen, Susi, and Bob reported on the results of the meetings that were held this past spring. Of the congregation, 35% of the congregation participated in the in the meetings which was enough to supply good results and give direction. In summary, all three groups of the membership of the church that attended the New Beginnings meetings decided to redefine our vision rather than do anything else. The congregation would like to see that we revise our community mission. Three items of action were stated: (1) indentifying the needs in our community, (2) implementing those needs and (3) handling the fiscal responsibility that goes on with running the church and implementing the needs.

Anne moved that the long range plan steering committee, as defined in our bylaws, be charged with taking on the leadership of the New Beginnings program. Bob seconded the motion. Discussion followed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Pastor Ron’s Return to the Church

At the last council meeting, there was some confusion as to when Ron and Maggie Purser can return to our church as members. Jane Shelton had forwarded documents, provided by UCC, to the council that reviews what happens when a pastor retires, which recommend that the retiring pastor moves on to another church home. The Interim Pastoral Care Committee (IPCC), which met recently, recommends following the UCC recommendation that Ron stays away from the church until the new pastor has established their place. Council recommends that the IPCC follow up with Ron and that he should be given a copy of the UCC recommendations. Susi will follow up with Kathy Haben and Jonathan Knight (UCC) regarding the expectations that were given to Ron prior to his departure.

Objection to the Muslim Dialogue and literature

There was an objection to the Muslim literature and dialogue that is currently going on in our church. The objecting church member asked the church to stop the “interfaith dialogue.” Council discussed the problem and has decided that the church should continue the interfaith dialogue as planned. The council felt that David should be asked to explain the purpose of the dialogue to the complaining members as well as the entire congregation to avoid additional confusion and rumors.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor David submitted the following reports.

Pastor’s Report

August 2015

- I had a wonderful time at Elmhurst College with Larry at the **UCC Musicians Association** where he and I were on a panel about the relationship between the pastor and the music director. I was glad to support Larry in this effort and the folks there appreciated our comments.
- I started working with the **Endowment Committee** so that we can develop a plan for educating our members about their possible involvement in giving to our Endowment Fund. We are going to develop materials, reach out to members and look at a plan for regular endowment education opportunities. We hope to have our first workshop on planned giving in January or February of 2016.
- The worship service with **Arun Gandhi** on July 26 was an amazing experience for, I believe, all of us. His message and answers at the question time were special highlights. The 130 attendees, the wonderful refreshments and the over \$1100 raised for the Gandhi foundation are testaments to the work of the Spirit that day. Thank you all for your help with this marvelous Sunday for Little Home Church.
- I have been working with the men's group and reaching out to the Biloxi mission group to plan the **shrimp boil for August 29**. We will need some help from Congregational Life and Evangelism committees as we put this all together. Saturday, August 8 our men will be discussing some of the details and tasks and responsibilities. I hope we can and will reach out to the community and let them know we’re open for business at the shrimp boil. Don't forget to get your tickets!
- I'm also working with the men's group and the Worship and Spiritual Life Committee to plan for the **outdoor service on September 13** with the blessing of the motorcycles and the picnic. The latest wisdom is to do the service at 9:30, the blessing of the motorcycles at 10:45 including inviting the motorcyclists to join us at the picnic. The motorcyclists will leave on a ride that will take them to the Midwest Homeless Veterans organization including an opportunity to visit with some veterans. It will be a benefit ride with the

proceeds going to the Midwest Homeless Veterans. The worship service will be led by Rev. Brian Sirchio a UCC Minister from Madison, Wisconsin who has a music ministry with numerous CDs and a great reputation for touching our hearts. You can see his information at his website, www.crosswindsmusic.com

- Sorry to not be with you Tuesday night as I am on vacation and look forward to returning to the office August 17. Nancy Schatzeder has agreed to provide pastoral care coverage while I'm gone.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke submitted a complete treasurer's report. This is the cover page of the report. The full report is available at the office.

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2015

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$114,530 is 46.75% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000 versus 57.78% three (3) year average. Total pledges received of \$98,738 are 58.08% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000 versus 63.35% of three (3) year average. YTD our pledges are at the highest level in 4 years, but starting to lag compared to the 3 year average. Overall Receipts are well behind historical trend, mostly due to lagging Identified Contributors. Time for some aggressive fundraising!

B – 1 - B - 6 YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$29,219) in 2015 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of (\$34,090) in 2014 and Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$7,320). The issue is Identified Contributors that totals only \$4,945 YTD received compared to \$33,250 budgeted through 07/31/2015. The budget for the year is \$57,000 meaning that another \$24,000 would need to be collected to be no further behind, i.e. a \$50,000 deficit.

C – 1 – C - 2 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$232,128 at 07/31/2015 compared to \$263,666 at 12/31/2014 and \$195,104 at 07/31/2014 that did not reflect the closing of the Dixon property.

D- 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

Susi moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Ann M. All were in favor. Report approved.

Moderator's Report: Alex submitted the following report to council.

In late July, I had my second monthly meeting with Pastor David. We further discussed the state of our church and congregation in general terms, and specifically the work of the Search and Call Committee of which I am a member. One committee member, Anne Haben, has relocated to NYC where she anticipates better career opportunities, we wish her well, but are now one short on the committee. Susi Winquist, who is an ex-officio member of the team, may provide additional input.

Pastor David and I also discussed the recent Gandhi “speaking event”, and the upcoming Shrimp Boil, “Blessing of the Hounds” and outdoor service. We discussed also discussed the New Beginnings process, and the progress of the “small groups” program.

Hopefully, those who are new in their council roles (new to the council or in a different role) are now “slipping into their stride”. Remember that if you have questions about procedures or activities in your particular ministry, seek out someone who has held that spot before. On the one hand, we don’t need to “re-invent the wheel”, and on the other hand we don’t have to do anything just because that’s the way it was done in the past. Variety adds spice to life and makes old things seem new again. Remember too, to seek out those who have offered to help, and don’t be bashful about asking someone to help!

Moderator Elect: Kathleen continues to help Lori with the newsletter, website, Facebook, and other printed flyers and materials.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: No report.

Congregational Life: Barb submitted the following report.

Many thanks go to Jane Shelton for her work and Pastor David's connection to allow us to have such a special and insightful visit from Arun Gandhi. The entire event was well thought out and executed well.

Pastor David is to advise what our committee can do to help with the shrimp boil. To date we do not have that information as Pastor David was away on vacation.

Evangelism: Nothing new to report.

Facilities: Anne submitted a written report. Items on her report include the following.

Working on:

- Quotes for the power-assist door.
- Found two more possible contractors.
- Bids for concrete repair to plaza in front of sanctuary, and several spots on the sidewalks
- Bids to repair railing on front porch and stairs of GH
- Building contents inventory for insurance
- Cost assessment for all repairs needed on all buildings

To Do:

- Take down tree in front of GH
- Install air conditioner in Bride’s Room in Guild House
- Repair downspout on east wall of GH
- Repair locking mechanism on north door in Parish Hall
- Replace glass circle on one chandelier in PH
- Repair exterior faucet handle on east wall near kitchen door
- Repair/replace vent for stove-top in kitchen

- Repair roof on the box bay on the southeast corner of the Guild House
- Create specs for repair/replacement of east window in Nursery
- Create specs for repair/replacement of fire escape door on second floor of Guild House

Outreach: Valeri submitted the following report on the Outreach activities.

Community Crisis Center - No new activity to report.

Feeding Northwest DuPage – FND has been rebranded “Neighborhood Food Panties”. I left a voicemail for Tom Horton regarding providing a Mission Moment on either 8/16 or 8/23.

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice - No new activity to report.

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans:

Anne walked through the Tammy’s Trace property and took pictures outside. MSHV are seeking volunteers to help with yard work. One task is to remove a big pile of debris from the backyard. Anne agreed to discuss this task with the men’s group to see if any of the guys with pickup trucks would be willing to help out.

Judy Hopkins has a beautiful dining room table that she would like to donate. I emailed John Dixon the pictures Judy sent and he will email me when they determine whether or not they can utilize the table. If he says yes, then we will need a volunteer to go to Judy’s house, pick up the table, and transport to its new home. I will keep Council posted

Renz Addiction Counseling Center - No new activity to report.

Transitional Housing – I reached out to Mark Milligan and he has agreed to provide a Mission Moment on 9/20

Bible & Hymnal Bookmark – Thanks to Kathleen Kaska back in 2011, we have a beautiful bookmark in the pew bibles and hymnals. I have been thinking about updating the bookmark to include MSHV, our newest ministry, but decided to put this on hold until on our new pastor is on board.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska submitted the following report which he reviewed at the council meeting.

Stewardship Ministry – Report to Council

August 2015

Since our last Council meeting, I met with Pastor David to review several topics; the action items are as follows:

Budget Shortfall re Identified Contributors

The primary issue in our YTD budget is the significant reduction of contributions from Identified Contributors. This group has become a small number with many now pledging or no longer involved in the Church community. To address this income need, a letter will be sent to all Members who have not pledged asking for their support of Little Home Church. The letters will be individually addressed with a review of those who should receive it by the Stewardship Committee. It is our goal to raise \$10,000 from this group of 20 Members.

Challenge Pledge Drive

An additional initiative to close our budget deficit will be a Challenge Pledge Drive to take place in September. It is our goal to obtain commitments from ten members for a \$15,000 challenge pledge to the membership to match; raising a total of \$30,000. We had very positive experience with a similar Challenge a few years ago and are optimistic that this initiative can be successful again.

2015 Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship Sunday is November 15th. The theme this year will be “New Beginnings” to reflect and support the re-visioning process currently underway. Again, pledges will be presented that day, not “mailed in”, to create a more ceremonial event for the offering of our support to Little Home Church. More details to follow but brunch from Buona Beef have been promised by the Stewardship Committee.

Annual Revenue Event – Wayne Walk

We need to “own” an annual fund raising event with repeating revenue in excess of \$10,000. This event must be well planned and executed...it will be a 2016 goal.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton submitted the following report.

Ushers and PA’s scheduled through September 6 or so.

Arun Gandhi event on July 26 was very well attended and attended to by joint effort. Thank you again to all who participated and made LHC a welcoming and beautiful place.

Re: Maggie and Ron’s relationship to LHC. Please read the attached information provided by Pastor David. The Interim Pastor Committee met on August 9 and discussed the issue of when or whether to invite the Pursers back to LHC.

Members at Large/ Communications:

Carol Berger will be putting up a table to promote LHC during **Wayne Days** on Sunday, September 13. Any council member is welcome to join her. Carol will be working with Kathleen to prepare any materials for the event. It would also be an opportunity to promote the ‘play date’ activity.

(Communications) Kathleen reported that she will be working on materials for the endowment program and for Wayne Days.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn by Bob and seconded by Frank.

Susi gave the closing prayer at 9:27 p.m.:

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk