

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
August 14, 2012

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Kathy Haben, Karen Hansen, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Wally Setlock

Absent: Carol Berger, Peter Gatsch, Lori Haseltine, Gianna Marchese, Marilyn Poole, Jane Shelton, Art Zwemke

Wally Setlock began the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and asked for prayer requests. Pastor Ron gave the opening prayer.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron explained he has been busy with weddings, a memorial service, getting ready for the Sunday School start-up and the fall music program with Larry. He has also been working on getting a mason for the repair of the chimney and hopefully getting the tree removed on the rental property at a low or no fee. The gentleman who plays the bagpipes on September 11th every year has again requested to play at the church and ring the bells. Karen said she would post the information in the Wayne Post Office to inform the village residents that the bells will be ringing three times on that morning and the church sanctuary will be open.

Treasurer's Report: In Art's absence, Wally discussed the Treasurer's Report. The July receipts were good at 57.57% versus our 3 three average of 55.60%, but our pledges were still low. Our deficit is at (\$19,317), but our projected deficit for 2012 at this time is (\$15,230). Ron said our rental receipts were down, but that is now up to date. Wally discussed the budget reports that will be coming up soon for the ministries. Move to approve the Treasurer's Report by Anne B. and seconded by Ann M. It was approved unanimously.

Perpetual Fund Report and Q & A: A draft letter included in the Treasurer's Report will be sent before Labor Day to prospective trustees for the Perpetual Fund, as we are yet in need of two Trustees. A list of names was compiled by Pastor Ron and the Church Council.

Petersen House Update:

Wally said there has been a showing about once a week at the Petersen house and Karen Ashe, our realtor, suggested that we lower the price \$10,000 as the house has been on the market more than 60 days. Bob moved we have our realtor adjust the price as she feels appropriate, but not below \$220,000. Ann M. seconded the motion. A discussion occurred regarding the listing price of the home. Bob revised the motion to reduce the price on the Petersen to \$222,000. The motion was approved unanimously.

Open and Affirming (ONA) Update: Anne informed the group that the ONA Exploratory Committee had a meeting with the pastor of the Bloomingdale UCC Church which had decided not to vote on ONA. There will be another ONA meeting on August 20 and the first meeting planned with our congregation is September 9, after church service. Anne will set up a special e-mail blast with Lori and a "save the date postcard" to be mailed as soon as possible.

Moderator's Report: Already Discussed Above

Moderator Elect's Report: Kathy Haben updated the calendar with some important dates: Sunday School starts on September 9, and the Blessing of the Hounds this year is September 30. The Rummage Sale is possibly October 5th and 6th. The Crop Walk will be October 21 and our Thanksgiving Eve Service will be November 21st. The Blood Drive is November 19th. Advent begins December 2, so the Hanging of the Greens with Pot Luck Dinner will be December 2 and the Pageant will probably be December 9th with practice starting on November 25th. The Cantata will be on the 16th or 23rd, although the 23rd is probably too late as people may already be out of town. The Advent Tea will probably be Tuesday, December 4th or maybe Saturday, December 8, with a preference toward the Saturday for women who work.

We need a date for the Talent Show, Anne will talk with Larry for an appropriate date. The Chili Cook-Off could be January 12th. The Janual meeting is scheduled for the 27th. We are looking at May 10th and 11th possibly for the Plant Sale. The Junual meeting would be the 9th which is also Flag Day. Wally mentioned the December Council Meeting will be on Friday, December 7 instead of December 11 and it will be held at the Setlock's home with a short meeting before dinner. Kathy said the church budget schedule is handed out in October. Art answers any questions from the Ministry Chairs at the November meeting and the budgets are due in December. Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 11. Kathy also mentioned she had visited Ty Wilson-Muno who is doing well after his surgery and looking forward to school. Dianna Griffin is in Sri Lanka and also doing well.

Kathy reported that The Fox Valley Association of UCC has three meetings a year and churches are usually represented by the Moderator or Moderator-Elect. More than one person can attend the meetings. We have one delegate, and others can attend as visitors. Wally said he would like to send one person from Council and one person from our congregation. We could possibly make it a function of the Moderator-Elect position. Kathy will attend and recruit a member from the congregation. She also informed the group there is another UCC women's group retreat on October 12-13 in Princeton at Pilgrim Park with the focus being prayer.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Pastor Ron they are getting ready for the fall start of Sunday School. He will be meeting with Lori Haseltine regarding the Church School curriculum.

Congregational Life: Anne reported the next college packages are going out in October as everyone goes back to school. We want to include our military in that group also. She will put a notice in the By-The-Way. She has looked at two different meal software programs and we will find the one that is appropriate for us to coordinate meals when someone in the congregation needs our assistance. They are also working on a Transportation Board to coordinate lists of available drivers for anyone needing transportation assistance.

Evangelism: Bob has updated the list of prospective new members with the information from the visitor cards. Emma has met with Lori and they have put the names into the new Church Windows software data base. Anne has emailed Susan Sherwood about relocating the 'Historic District' sign out in front. So far there have been no negative comments regarding our new banner hanging from it. Bob distributed a photo of the proposed changes to our old church sign in front. It will be an insert for the glass area that has the same wording that we now have but adds our website. This insert should be installed before our next council meeting. We need additional signs for Church School which starts September 9th. Bob suggested we choose a few events and push them, such as our Blessing of the Hounds & the Blood Drive, and send out cards with a list of events and dates. Karen said she can do some press releases and publicity for the upcoming events.

Facilities: Wally led the facilities discussion in Peter's absence. He said there is \$7,666 available in our Painting Fund and \$19,000 in the Renovation Fund. Wally suggested that we may want to look into residing the church instead of dealing with the lead paint removal and the areas that need the wood replaced. It may be less expensive and he will work with Gary on obtaining bids. Karen said there may be the possibility of getting a grant or a donation for this project. Ron has someone that may look at the chimney, and Wally and Karen also have information on masons that they will get to Ron. Abbott will get back to Ron on the oak tree removal. Ron also said the audio has been improved by the addition of new microphones. We may put in 2 additional speakers in the back, but it looks like we won't need the audio-loop. The pulpit microphone probably needs to be replaced yet. The HVAC unit in the office will need to be replaced; hopefully, they will make it though the rest of the summer. Wally is following up with Gary on the plans of survey changes.

Outreach: No Report

Stewardship: No Report

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Nancy reported the 5th Sunday worship in July was a success: Outdoor worship with a Pot Luck and the weather was great!

Members-at-Large: No Report

Old Business: Karen and Jane submitted the 'We Noticed' for our By-the-Way Newsletter.

New Business: This Sunday after service we will have a special celebration for Don Heinrich's 90th birthday. His family is attending and there are plans for special music.

Move to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne B. and seconded by Nancy. All ayes. Meeting adjourned. Pastor Ron led the closing prayer at 8:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk