

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
August 13, 2013

In Attendance: Sandy Antonelli, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Kathy Haben, Lori Haseltine, Kathleen Kaska, Louise Keen, Susannah Lesswing, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton, Susi Winqvist, Art Zwemke. Guest: Judy Hopkins

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Ron Purser

Moderator Kathy Haben began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and introduced our guest Judy Hopkins and the new Council members: Sandy Antonelli, Kathleen Kaska, Louise Keen, Susannah Lesswing, and Susi Winqvist. To begin each meeting, Kathy will be asking Council members to read their favorite Bible passages. Susi Winqvist began with hers, Genesis 1:1-5. Kathy then asked for prayer requests and gave the opening prayer in Pastor Ron's absence (due to illness).

Approval of Minutes: Kathy asked if there were any changes or corrections to the June minutes. No changes or corrections were noted and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Ann M. and was seconded by Anne B. The June minutes were approved unanimously. A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Sandy and seconded by Louise. The July minutes were then also approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Kathy stated that Pastor Ron was not in attendance tonight due to illness and reported in his absence. Pastor Ron will be working with Larry on the fall worship services and he is planning to start up the youth group again in the fall. The memorial service for Corwith Hamill went well on August 5 and was well attended. The family provided sound, video and the chairs for the Parish Hall.

Treasurer's Report: Art informed the group that we have collected \$156,206 which is 68% of total receipts and the usual average is 59%. This is due to the Castle Fundraiser which netted over \$17,000. Pledges are at \$96,896 which is 60% of our total pledges budget of \$162,500. Usually we are at 64%. This is a concern, as our membership pledges have been impacted by the ONA matter. Our YTD deficit is (\$9,358) compared to a prior year deficit of (\$19,318) and our planned deficit (\$10,540). Art reviewed the financial statements and the expenses in some detail.

He explained that the Peterson home had a contract at \$160,000 and we had considered the idea of carrying the mortgage. Based on the financial reports, it was decided that we do not want to have the loan. We now have another contract giving the prospective buyers 30 days to get a mortgage with the understanding that we can still market the house. It is currently listed on MLS at \$185,000. Karen Ashe did a comparative market analysis on the Dixon house and it is at about \$82,000. Art did an estimate of expenses and revenue on the two homes and discussed 'unallocated revenue' after the sale of both homes and the past and future deficits are covered. He explained, in detail, that if \$210,000 is the net result of the sale of both homes, \$130,000 will be set aside for operating expenses and \$80,000 would be 'unallocated revenue'. The Council

needs to think about how it would like to allocate these funds. Ann M. moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Lori seconded the motion and the July report was approved with all Ayes.

Peterson House Update: Discussed above.

Dixon House Update: Discussed above. Art said that he would recommend listing the home at \$85,000. Anne asked who should discuss the listing of the Dixon home with the current renters who are interested in a possible purchase. Susi Winqvist moved to have our Moderator, Kathy Haben, inform the renters that we are going to give them the right of first refusal to purchase the home at \$85,000. We will then be listing the home in one week and the home will need to be vacated by September 30. The motion was seconded by Ann M. and then approved unanimously.

Open and Affirming Update: Kathy introduced Judy Hopkins who attended the council meeting specifically for an ONA update. Anne said the committee met yesterday, August 12, and their recommendation to the Council is to call for a vote on the statement. Ann clarified that the Council would be endorsing the recommendation that the congregation take the vote in order to end the ONA process. The other option is not to vote and the ONA process will stop in an unfinished state. This conclusion to call for a vote was drawn by the Exploratory Committee as they felt that was what was expressed by the congregation at the Junual meeting: to move forward with the vote. If the congregation decides that they are ONA, the church reports that information to the UCC and it is up to the individual church to decide what to do after that as their next step. The statement is just approved and submitted. Anne said the information would just be published on our website: our statement and the fact that we are ONA. Louise said when an exploratory committee completes their objective, the committee is disbanded. A discussion regarding the statement and the process as well as the possible outcome took place. Kathy asked if there were any more exploratory committee meetings scheduled and Anne said no. It was then discussed that the Committee feels their work is done and the statement is written. It is presenting the recommendation to the council to call for the vote by the congregation to approve the statement. Proposed by committee is to have an article in the By the Way and mailed ballots to members with a date certain to be returned to the church. The votes would be counted at the October Council meeting. Anne moved that the Council endorse the recommendation of the Exploratory Committee: that the congregation will vote on the proposed ONA statement in September, the ballots to be counted at the October council meeting and the results announced at the following Sunday's worship service. The motion was seconded by Ann and was then passed with 9 Ayes and 1 Opposed.

Judy also attended the meeting to request that a handrail be installed on the wall at the step down from the choir room to the kitchen and offered to fund the expense. The Council thanked Judy for the idea and the funding.

Moderator's Report: Kathy said the thank you notes went out to the families that sponsored the choir participants of the Danish Ballerup Concert Band that had performed in the Parish Hall. She will continue to work on the PowerPoint process to eliminate the paper involved with our Council meetings. At the Junual meeting there was a question as to what the Council will do to heal the congregation due to the members that have left during the ONA process. Kathy has

called a speaker at the UCC meetings, a newly certified interim pastor, who has offered to waive her fees and Kathy asked whether we should bring her in. Anne said that it was discussed at the ONA meeting yesterday and felt that the healing process should be for the congregation and not related to ONA. Kathleen S. Kaska voiced significant concern about the negative consequences of the ONA process on our congregation and suggested consideration be made for repairing the damage. Susannah Lesswing expressed agreement and noted the importance of the Congregational concept in allowing Christians of differing points of view to feel welcome in our church. A question came up as to what would be done to keep the people who vote no in the process to not be disenfranchised after the process is completed if the ONA is passed. It was suggested that we do some sessions on 'a place for everyone, wherever they are on life's journey' and reach out to specific people. We are a small congregation and we all know each other and need to do something. Kathy will pursue this after the ONA vote.

Kathy concluded that the unallocated \$80,000 from the Treasurer's Report will be discussed at a later date. Jan (or Lori) will send Kathleen the minutes in order to complete the posting of the minutes on the website. Lori will catch up the listings on the web site. Kathy will send notices for the meetings in the future.

Moderator Elect Report: Susi has been reading the By-Laws and highlighted some interesting facts which she read. The By-Laws are on line and Kathy will email them to everyone.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Lori ordered the curriculum for Sunday School and the target start date is September 8. Sandy suggested we have a rally to have more children attending. Lori and Jane are the teachers. Kathleen will check her computer files to confirm that there is a Church School sign to put outside. Kathy asked about the pageant and it was suggested that it get mentioned in the BTW as it is never too early.

Congregational Life: Susannah Lesswing said she has discussed an idea with Jane of having a Congregational Life party at the Lesswing's home on a Saturday night some time before the rummage sale to kick off the fall. Anne said the lapsed member's letter has now been completed and the members have been identified. The goal is to have that letter go out this week. A postcard will be included with a response requested as to what status they regard themselves in relationship to the church. We need people to sign up for fellowship and flowers and Anne asked Kathleen if it is possible to do that on the website. Kathleen said we already ask for people to sign up in the BTW but she will look into it.

Evangelism: Carol asked for new ideas for Evangelism and said she will contact some UCC churches in the area and find out what they are doing that works well.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard said there is an extensive and growing list of things going wrong with our facilities. The cement has been repaired on the sidewalk in front of the church steps. The sound system in the Parish Hall has been fixed and also the lock system. Three people have looked at the gutters and the Guild house has problems which were discovered due to the window which has rotted. (The air conditioner also needs to be replaced.) Some rot is also

starting on the front of the Guild house and the house really needs to be repainted. Anne is getting painting quotes and also quotes for removal of the scrub between the Peterson house and the driveway. Two chairs were purchased at Costco as possible chairs for the Parish Hall and it has been suggested that we get commercial grade chairs. The electric piano needs to be repaired, as well as the motion sensor lights and the light in the office. The Guild House needs a new exit door upstairs and one outside door also needs repair. The Parish Hall carpet has been cleaned. The audio for hard of hearing in the sanctuary and the septic systems are also on Anne's list. The sound system in the church is fine but needs to be updated technologically.

Outreach: No report. At the July meeting, Art suggested that we give 15% (about \$2,500) of the proceeds from the Castle Fundraiser to the 5 outreach charities which we support. The Council was unable to vote in July due to lack of quorum. Anne moved approval and Louise seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Stewardship: Ann McLaughlin had nothing to report as it is a slow time for stewardship.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Sandy has no report.

Members at Large: Louise Keen and Kathleen Kaska will be the Council members-at-large. We need to inform the congregation. Louise said she has already handled two calls.

Old Business: Already discussed.

New Business: None

Ann made a motion to adjourn and Susi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Anne B. gave the closing prayer at 9:31.

The next meeting is September 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk