

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
August 12, 2014

In Attendance: Sandy Antonelli, Anne Bouchard, Jan Marchese, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Susi Winqvist, Maureen O'Donnell, David Russell, Susannah Lesswing, Jane Shelton, Carol Berger, Art Zemke, Alex Kentfield, Kristen Thornton No guests.

Absent: Valeri Baldwin

Moderator Susi Winqvist began the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor David Russell then gave the opening prayer

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the June 8, 2014 minutes. Anne Bouchard moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Susannah. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Art reported that the total YTD operating receipts of \$132,248 was 56.28% of the Total Receipts Budgeted for 2014, which is less than the three year average of 58.56%. The total pledges received of \$97,923 are 59.35% of Total Pledges Budget of \$165,000 versus 63.54% of the three year average. However, the net YTD income (loss) of (\$33,965) is behind last year's loss of (\$9,357). This shortfall is being offset by under spending of budgeted expenses. Art asked Council to not hold back on important spending in their budgets because of the shortfall. However, conservative spending should continue. Overall financial position of \$195,229 at 07/31/014 is substantially higher than a year ago due to the Peterson property closing.

The Dixon House has a pending offer of \$90,500. The new tentative owners agreed to waive inspections, hoping to waive the survey. Art with Gail Zwemke's help is facilitating the closing by providing a copy of the past survey. Gail Zwemke had convinced the new owners that the 2004 boundary survey would suffice as a legal survey as there were no changes since then. The new owners have no involvement with a bank. However, the church has needed to obtain a release of the mortgage from the State Bank of Geneva as the property was collateral for our line of credit. Anne Bouchard moved, seconded by Jan Marchese, that Susi Winqvist, as moderator, or Alex Kentfield, as Moderator-Elect or Arthur Zwemke, as treasurer, be designated to sign on behalf of Little Home Church all documents relative to the sale and closing of the property at 32W138 Army Trail Road, Wayne, IL 60184. Motion passed unanimously. Leslie Ebersole, Baird & Warner, was the Realtor.

Alex Kentfield moved to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Bob Kaska, Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David provided the council with a written report stating his actions for the past five weeks. Highlights of the report include six worship services, six bible studies, two home visits, one jail visit, one hospital visit, and one pastoral counseling session. David officiated two weddings which included three pre wedding meetings, two rehearsals, and preparation. David attended two UCC meetings where he serves on the Fox Valley Assn. Committee on Church. In addition to all of the services he provided, he spent time becoming acquainted with staff, church

programs, and the congregation and local officials. He complimented Kathleen Kaska, Lori Prang and Larry by stating they were fantastic to work with.

Pastor David also passed around a signup sheet to confirm who was planning on attending the August 16th UCC meeting on the “New Beginnings” program. The meeting will be held at the Ill. Conference offices at 1840 Westchester, Suite 200, Westchester, Illinois at 10:00 am.

David also requested a geographical map of the church membership. Carol Berger suggested that it be displayed in the fellowship hall for all members to see and use.

Moderator’s Report: Susi Winquist submitted a written report to council. Highlights of her report include the following and discussion.

The rent on the Dixon property is currently in arrears of \$1285 (out of over \$4000 debt). The council decided to continue to collect the monies. The items, that the previous owners wanted, have been removed. Anne B. will take care of any remaining items.

Susi reported that Marilyn Poole has been gathering feedback from her UCC church in Michigan and other churches in the area that have used “New Beginnings.”

Updated Usher and Pulpit Associate responsibilities have been distributed. There is a need for the volunteers to review responsibilities prior to their scheduled time.

The Open/Close schedule has been sent out. The church open/close schedule is complete through November. Volunteer Council members are needed for the months of December, January last two weeks of March, April, and the last two weeks of June.

The Flowers/Fellowship schedule has many opportunities open. Susi suggested that council offers to host a Sunday. The council agreed to bring refreshments on September 14th for fellowship.

Sherry Rogers will be returning September 1st as the Sunday morning child care provider. She will be paid by the Church. Pastor Ron had paid her and the summer substitutes in the past.

Colleen Odegard agreed to be on the Personnel Relation Committee.

Susi met with Maureen and the kickoff for the Sunday School will be September 7th with an outdoor service. It was recommended that a microphone be used.

Susi met with Valeri Baldwin and they are considering the “Feed My Starving Children” program as a possible outreach activity. Other suggestions for outreach programs and services need to be forwarded to her.

The use of the video on the internet to share our services was discussed. Kathleen and Emma Kaska are currently working on an appropriate clip that can be linked to our website using the YouTube channel. A video will be posted tomorrow.

David Poole has requested to be taken off of the Endowment Fund Committee by the end of January, before his term is up. Therefore, The Nominating Committee will be seeking input from the current EFC members to fill the vacancy. The replacement will require approval by the Congregation at the Janual meeting.

The next meeting of the Transition team will be August 28, 2014

The Search and Call committee is not yet formed. Art suggested that a specific date be established as a goal to complete the assembly of the committee. Discussion followed as to the congregation's response to the changes that occur during an interim period until a new pastor is called. Some people may decide to worship elsewhere. Therefore, having a committee in place is important to assure the congregation that progress is being made in finding a new pastor. It was suggested that the actions of the search committee be mentioned in the Sunday announcements section in the bulletin. Kathleen also discovered an old church application form that could be filled out by interested members would like to be on the committee. Hopefully, this would help the process of selecting the best members for the task. Members of the nominating committee are; Kathy Haben, Susi W. and a Member at Large from the congregation. Maureen moved that we have a Search and Call committee established by September 30, 2014. Motion was seconded by Bob K. Motion passed. The vote was 9 yes, 1 opposed, 1 abstained.

Moderator Elect Report: No Report.

WEBINAR PRESENTATION: A webinar power point presentation, "Out of Ashes," was shown to the council. It showed the steps that the St. Paul's UCC in Monee went through to recover from problems dealing with a poor pastor, lost membership, finding a new pastor, and rebuilding their membership and church. Discussion followed.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Maureen O'Donnell reported that the Guild House cannot be used as a Preschool due to community and state regulations regarding Preschool facilities. The building would not pass government inspection.

Maureen is working on a Christian Ed. Survey that will be sent to members asking what they would like regarding religious education, such as evening bible study. Kathleen suggested that the survey be emailed to members.

Sunday School will start with an outdoor service on Sept. 7th.

Maureen contacted many organizations regarding signage on Route 59 and Dunham Rd. She spoke with Kane County, IDOT (three times), the Village of Barlett, Wayne Police and was told that the signs were no longer their responsibility and that future signs would be illegal. However, a new sign for the BAPS Hindu Temple went up recently. Carol offered to help Maureen.

Carol Berger suggested having a comparative religions seminar after church because of the problems and fighting in the Middle East.

Congregational Life: Susannah reported that 22 people have responded to attend the fellowship party at her home on August 23rd. Carol is forwarding invitations to potential members. An email reminder will be sent out this week.

Evangelism: Carol Burger reported that she would be attending the New Beginnings Seminar next Saturday. She also met with David to review the list of visitors who have visited us in the past year. David had called all those who had provided the church with their phone numbers. Letters will go out to those that only provided an address. A new membership class is being planned for the fall.

Lots of visitors are expected for the Blessings of the Hounds on Sept. 28th. Kathleen is redesigning a visitor card to start using at the Blessings. Alex suggested that other Hunt groups be invited to the event. However, council members noted logistical problems with mixing the groups. It was also discussed whether we should ask for a donation from those attending and from the Hunt Club participating. Currently many of the Hunt participants are members of our church. Consideration will be given to putting a donations basket out.

Another dinner is being planned for November for potential members.

Facilities: Anne reported that there is a broken thermostat and fan switch in the sanctuary. Our grant application to replace the Parish hall doors with power assist ones has been amended and submitted to the Retirement Research Foundation. Jim Winqvist repaired the patio stones. Also, our emergency contact names were provided to local police and fire. Our local emergency contacts are Karwowski, Roach, and Hege.

Anne also collected information from other churches regarding their facilities' use agreements, wedding policies, and fees.

Consideration is being made to put a lock between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall for the times when outside groups use our fellowship hall.

Fall work day is planned for October 25th. The front of the Guild House needs repairs. Sandy suggested applying for a grant to cover this expense.

Exterior painting bids are being collected.

Outreach: Valeri is out of town. Susi mentioned Outreach Committee items in her report.

Stewardship: Bob shared the campaign poster that is prepared by UCC for the Fall stewardship campaign. He plans to add an "Expectation of Participation" campaign along with the financial pledges that people make to the church. People will be asked to select a ministry that they would pledge to be involved with along with their monetary contribution. Church Windows needs to be revised to accommodate this pledge in addition to the monetary one.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: The usher schedule and revised list of duties is in place. Grape juice is needed for communion.

Members at Large/ Communications: Kathleen reported that the facilities and wedding information is being updated on the website. The YouTube video was mentioned during the Moderator's report. Jan reiterated that an update of the Search process be included in the announcements in the bulletin.

OLD BUSINESS:

The following items were on the agenda but will be reviewed at a later date.

- New chairs in the parish hall
- Suggestion to create a Sexton position for sound system and onsite set up/troubleshooting during events
- After ONA
- Outreach in Living the Word

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMING EVENTS:

August 16, 2014	New Beginnings presentation in Westchester 10am
August 23, 2014	Fellowship at Lesswing's 6pm
September 19-20	Rummage Sale
September 28, 2014	Blessing of the Hounds
Sept. 29 thru Oct.3	Pastor David on Retreat
October 3-4, 2014	Women's retreat at Pilgrim Park
November 1, 2014	Women's retreat in Wilmette

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn by Jan and seconded by Susannah.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk

Minutes approved by Church Council, September 9, 2014