

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
August 9, 2016

In Attendance: Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke, Larry Dieffenbach

Absent: Anne Bouchard, Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Bob Kaska, Karen Kaluzsa

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:10 pm following refreshments provided by Kathleen. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion. Joys and concerns were shared followed by an opening prayer. Birthday wishes were given to Richard whose birthday was today.

Approval of Minutes: There was no quorum tonight so the July minutes will be approved next month.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Richard submitted the following report for the past month.

August 2016 Council Report

As I write this I am getting papers in order to transfer my ordained standing from The Metropolitan Association of the Massachusetts Conference to the Fox Valley Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. That has meant a lot of time on the phone, a lot of emailing and faxing. Part of the issue is that Conference offices are overworked and understaffed due to shrinking OCWM dollars. That said, I have an appointment to go before the Fox Valley Association Committee on Ministry on August 11. Just this afternoon I have learned the final document is in the hands of the FVA.

After nearly six weeks on the job, I am starting to feel at home here. Fletcher has become a regular fixture here in the office, and a lot folks seem to enjoy his presence as much as he enjoys seeing them. Sometimes Lori's daughter Sam brings their dog Mia in for visits, and they are turning into little church dog siblings.

I am getting my legs under me as far as worship and Bible study. We are working our way through Micah nicely with lively discussions and insightful questions, building relationships along the way. I have been fiddling around with the cordless microphone and trying to get a handle on the PA system in the sanctuary. Larry and I have been planning ahead for the outdoor service September 11. I have met folks from the hunt and am getting excited for the Blessing of the Hounds. I have made a pastoral call on the hounds in their new kennel.

It was glad that the Kane County Cougars outing sponsored by the Men's Group, coincided with Jane and Oscar's visit. As I understand it, all the tickets sold, and we had a great time at the ball park

Last week I met with Karen Kaluzsa about Adult Christian Education. We discussed a number of options from videos to watch and discuss to various outings of interest. We

hope to plan a meeting to make some definite plans with others who have expressed interest in helping out once Karen returns from her trip to Alaska.

At council, Richard mentioned the possibility of a retreat in October.

Richard's installation will be Sunday afternoon, October 16th.

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.

July 31, 2016

A - 1: Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$141,537 is 57.07% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 57.91%, 3 year average. Total Pledges received of \$111,696 are 58.79% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 compared to 61.113%, 3 year average.

B - 1 – B – 6: Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$1,345) in 2016 compared to Prior Year Net Income (Loss) of (\$29,219 in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$14,226).

C - 1 – C – 2: Comparative Balances Sheets show overall financial position at \$253,496 as of 07/31/2016 compared to \$235,772 as of 06/30/2016 and \$232,128 as of 07/31/2015.

D – 1: Consolidated Fund Activity - Added line for Historic Preservation Fund

The report will be approved next month. Art reported that the church is in a good financial position. He reminded council to question any line items that do not look correct or need clarification.

Kathleen added that Richard has selected a Mac laptop for his use and now the pastor's PC has been moved to Lori's desk. The cost of the laptop will be approximately \$1800. Further research will be done to determine Mac's compatibility with Church Windows.

Search and Call Committee: Carol had planned to make a motion to dissolve the 'Call and Search Committee.' The motion was postponed to next month. Carol also complimented Alex Kentfield on all of his hard work and dedication in spearheading the search process over many months. The council decided that he should be recognized at the installation ceremony on October 16 for his efforts.

Outreach Fundraising Update:

Kathleen distributed an update on the fundraising efforts to date.

Valeri suggested that homeless veterans or those staying at Tammy's Trace be given coupons to shop at our Rummage Sale. Also, coupons would be provided to the Women's Shelter as well.

Update on the Walk – The committee is still looking for additional homes for the tour. Currently on the tour will be the Dunham Castle, Schless home, the church, with a reception at the Hunt Club. Homes were suggested.

Moderator's Report:

Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month.

Meeting with Moderator Elect:

Met with Anne Bouchard on July 26 for a very pleasant and productive lunch in a Wheaton church turned restaurant. We discussed the planning and communication needs of the LHC Renovation Project. An 150 Years Anniversary logo would be developed and used in BTW and a letter to the congregation to roll-out the multi-year initiative. Anne will be providing monthly updates on the renovation project and fundraising initiative in BTW. Also, we discussed a plan to update LHC ByLaws this council session, and the Wayne Walk fundraising project.

Meeting at Dunham Castle

Met with property coordinator, Linda Gawel and property owner, Jeffery Bussean at the Dunham Castle to discuss the property as one of the stops on the Wayne Walk. The meeting included LHC project committee members, Carol Berger and Mary Roach. The castle is still under extensive interior renovation but we will be able to get a close-up look at the beautifully restored exterior, a peek inside from the front door, and a presentation of the historically accurate restoration and rebuilding process. We hope to add another home to the tour to complete the mix.

Personnel Committee

Working with committee chair, Susi Winquist to review final drafts of the new Human Resource Policy and Safe Church Policy.

REMINDER...

Office Manager -

Lori Prang is on vacation the rest of this week.

WHPS-Historic House Tour - NEED DOCENTS...

The Wayne Historic Preservation Society will be hosting a driving tour of historic houses in Wayne on **Saturday, August 20, 9 am to Noon**. The group will be using the Parish Hall for an Art League exhibit, and they would like to have the LHC Church and the Guild House open for viewing. It would be nice to have members of our congregation be 'docents' to share info about the history of these buildings. Possibly we could use this event as an opportunity to pull together LHC historical details into a self-published brochure we can use in general. **We will send out an email blast requesting help for this.**

Moderator Elect: Anne Bouchard submitted a report under Facilities.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Karen Kaluzsa met with Pastor Richard to discuss ideas for education.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick – nothing new to report.

Evangelism: Ann McLaughlin reported that July saw a few new visitors to LHC. She and the church office sent follow up cards. One of the visitors was a family with two children. The other visitor has become a frequent attendee who also recently hosted fellowship.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard submitted the following report.

150th Anniversary renovations:

Rik submitted CD of our structural and landscape drawings to Sharp Architects (Lisa Sharp really liked our landscape plan!). Rik Alex, Dan Roach and I met and as a result submitted several questions/suggestions to the architects and they are revising the contract as a result. We have scheduled a site visit on August 18 to review three of the firm's previous restoration projects.

Accessible Door:

Very nearly ready for installation. Requested and received an extension of the deadline for our final report to the Retirement Research Foundation. Report due on September 1. We expect to come in under budget. I have reached out to Steve MacCarthy for a written directive regarding use of memorial funds in his mother's name.

Parish Hall roof:

Once the contract is finalized with the architect, we will proceed with estimates for the roof.

Generator repair: Lori re-contracted our repair man for this. He is expected soon.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report.

Bridge Communities/Transitional Housing Ministry – no news to report.

Community Crisis Center

- CCC is happily accepting our toiletries and other personal care products that people may want to donate.
- We're also now collecting large bottle of shampoo, conditioner, etc., as they are also welcomed.
- They also asked for plastic grocery shopping bags to use for distribution. A round, black pop-up was added to our collection area to collect these bags.

Fox Valley Hands of Hope (formerly Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice) - no news to report.

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

- At the end of 2015 Rummage Sale, we discussed offering veterans a bag of rummage for free (or minimal fee).
- Need to discuss and decide what we're doing for 2016 Rummage Sale.
- We also need to discuss providing a similar offer to our other Outreach Ministries.

Neighborhood Food Pantry (formerly Feeding Northwest DuPage)

- In July, Pastor Richard suggested we collect non-perishable food items every Sunday. When I heard about it, I called the Food Pantry to let them know about our food drive and to find out if they had a high demand for anything specific. The

food pantry provides us with a list of items to buy at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and it made sense to ask what they might need. Following is the list that was printed and put in the bulletin.

- Personal care items - tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, toilet paper, paper towel
- Non-perishable food items – oatmeal, tuna , whole wheat pasta, mac & cheese, canned vegetables (green beans) & baby food
- NOT NEEDED...have skids already of peanut butter and cranberry sauce
- A collection area was set up in the hallway between Fellowship Hall and Lori's office. There's big box for the food donations.
- Lori delivered four bags of food on August 8th. She is truly wonder woman because those bags had to weigh >60 lbs.
- I would like to propose we modify the program slightly to get the biggest possible bang out of our food drive buck. The food bank buys items for their pantry shelves from the Illinois Food Bank. For \$650 they get 4,000 lbs. of food. That said, what if we collected spare change/dollar bills instead? Once we've collected \$650, then Art would cut a check, and we would deliver that to the Food Pantry.

Playdate

- On summer break.
- Will resume in the fall with Fox Valley Fire Department and Wayne Police visiting again. Also "building a clown" event to help take the "scary" out of a costumes, have a musician come and let us hear and feel the instrument, a tea party complete with hats for the ladies where we can practice our best manners, face painting day and so much more.

Renz Addiction Counseling Center – No news to report.

Miscellaneous

- Bookmark for pew Bibles & Hymnals. Thanks to Kathy Kaska in 2011, a beautiful bookmark with the new Outreach logo was created. Kathy updated the bookmark to include Pastor Richard, ministry names changed, and we're supporting more ministries now. The bookmark is complete and ready for printing and laminating.
- Lazarus House – On August 7th, Ellison Smith & her friend announced that there will be a fund raiser Saturday, 8/13, 10:00-2:00 at 628 S 6th Street, St. Charles. Lemonade & cookies will be on sale and 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Lazarus House. Lazarus serves homeless or at risk of homelessness and connected to school districts in St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia and western rural Kane County.

Pastor Richard reminded council that Allison Smith's lemonade stand will be on this Saturday at her home on 6th street in efforts to raise funds for Lazarus House.

Valeri suggested that we collect money instead of the food for the food pantry because the money would buy more food. However, after discussion council decided that both the collection of food as well as the collection of money during 'coffee hour' could be done.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska- no report.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton – no report.

Members at Large: Carol Berger brought up the idea the 'member at large' job could focus on keeping new members involved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Farmer's Market on Flag Day. Pastor Richard shared an idea from member Kate O'Rourke to have a vegetable stand on Flag Day. Discussion followed regarding food stands and the possibility of having something like it at our church. Council like the idea but felt Flag Day (June) was too early in the growing season to host a Farmer's Market. Art suggested that a 'farm to table' event could be set up on the street near the church later in the summer. Discussion followed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer at 8:28 p.m.:

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk