

Little Home Church Council Meeting  
December 13, 2016

**In Attendance:** Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Barb Braulick, Karen Kaluzsa, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Larry Dieffenbach

**Absent:** Chip Braulick, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:50 pm at Corky's (Dunham Woods Riding Club) after a light meal which was provided by the Kaska's. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

**Approval of Minutes:** No corrections were made to the November minutes. Anne B. moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ann M.. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

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

Sisters & Brothers,

As we start setting about the 2017 budget process, I have just witness my first Christmas Pageant at Little Home Church. We are three Sundays into Advent and the Cantata is coming up this Sunday. I am 5 ½ months into my pastorate here at Little Home Church. While I still feel like I have a lot to learn, I have come to feel very much at home. Wayne is a unique and beautiful town, the historic Little Home Church sanctuary is a wonderfully intimate worship space.

Over the past weekend I have experienced joy and sorrow in sanctuary. On December 10 we hosted the memorial service for a young woman who grew up within a block of the church and whose untimely death at 31 rocked her family and friends. Members from our church welcomed the family and made a spirit-filled memorial service and reception possible. Sunday, the Christmas pageant was a joyous recreation of the earthshaking joy of Christ's birth twenty centuries ago and yet again. The lasagna dinner was well attended and volunteers staffed the event and cleaned up after. The next morning you would have never known the parish hall and sanctuary was the scene of a hay-strewn spectacle and feast.

Next Wednesday we will hold our first Blue Christmas Service. Larry and I have it pretty much planned, and everything seems set for Christmas.

As you all know, Odie Perry has retired from 10 years of devoted service to Little Home Church. While various people have stepped up to help with cleaning up the church, we do need to find a permanent solution. We also need find a time to recognize her service and present her with the donations many of you have contributed.

Larry, Lori and I have been discussing the possibility of making Wednesday evenings an anchor for programming youth and young adult groups, adult classes centered by a weekly meal together at church. It is something Larry has experience with at Baker Church, and

we may be able to seek some guidance from them based on their experience. I hope it is something we could get rolling in early 2017.

At council, Richard commented again on his first six months and how he has enjoyed being at this small church. He also mentioned how he felt the important the church was within the community. Because of this importance, he suggested, that there may be the development of a 'hospitality' committee that could handle events, such as memorial services and weddings.

**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.

Treasurer's Report  
November 30, 2016

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$219,866 is 88.66% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 85.65%, 3-year average. Total Pledges received of \$164,959 are 86.82% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016 compared to 89.94%, 3-year average. Wayne Walk expenses of about \$6,000 hit the books in November and netted against the revenue in the Challenge Match account 401.1370. Pledges are slightly lagging 3 year average..

**B – 1 - B - 6** Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$14,752) in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$30,806) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$7,063). Note that Investment Income for 2016 is \$19,268 compared to a loss of (\$6,783) in 2015. This is almost a \$26,000 favorable swing from 2015 to 2016.

**C – 1 - C – 2** Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$223,197 at 11/30/2016 compared to \$227,507 at 11/30/2015 and \$242,707 at 10/31/2016.

**D - 1** Consolidated Fund Activity – Note Historic Preservation Fund is in the red by (\$4,290).

At council, Bob reviewed the report in Art's absence. Bob expressed that we be cautious when preparing budgets because of the negative cash flow. The \$2600 gain in investment income helped the church's financial situation but that gain should not always be anticipated. Bob reminded all that we had set a 2016 goal of \$30,000 in fundraising income but we only raised approximately \$20,000.

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

Discussion followed regarding if the council should present a **budget** with a deficit or if we should strive for a balanced budget. In three years, what do we project would happen if we don't balance the budget? Concerns and suggestions were:

- Bob reminded council that \$190,000 is the current year budget. Bob suggested that we write the budget to meet the \$190,000 range but we should not try to grow the budget. Our revenue has decreased.
- The funds received from identified contributors have gone down. Therefore, that part of the budget needs to be reduced to a realistic number.
- Reducing but not eliminating the deficit was discussed. Kathleen had suggested that the deficit could be reduced by half or so each year.
- It was suggested that an annual community appeal letter be sent out around Easter time to support our outreach ministries.
- Art's retirement is a concern. The search for his replacement continues.
- Ann suggested establishing a Birthday Fund. Those having birthdays can ask their friends to contribute to the church in their honor instead of a buying a gift.

**Moderator's Report:** Kathleen along with hosting tonight's Council light supper, gave an update on **2016 fundraising**. This year the church raised \$19,542.20 to give to its outreach ministries charities. The goal was \$30,000. Last year, the church raised \$7181.25 for Outreach Ministries. Therefore, the increase in funds this year far surpasses the previous year.

Kathleen also met with the **personnel committee** recently. Eighty percent of the budget is staff salaries. Last year, there was no increase in salaries. This year, the committee is recommending a 3 % increase for the Music Director and Office Manager. The medical and dental insurance will be going up by about 9% therefore, the plan will be reviewed. The committee hopes to be able to keep the pastor's employment 'package' the same for 2017 as 2016. The Search and Call committee had suggested that a sabbatical be budgeted at \$5000 per year.

**Moderator Elect:** Anne Bouchard's comments and reports are listed under Facilities .

## MINISTRY REPORTS

**Christian Education:** Karen Kaluzsa submitted the following report.

Our next Christian Education field trip will be on Saturday, January 14th from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at Fermilab in Batavia, where Lori Haseltine will lead us on a guided tour. Our tour will begin in Wilson Hall where we will view the Laboratory from the 15th floor windows and visit various displays located there. The tour then moves to the Linear Accelerator building where we will see the components in pre-accelerators gallery and the

Main Control Room. After the tour we will have time to buy souvenirs in the gift shop, and then we will adjourn for lunch at a nearby restaurant.

A sign-up sheet for the field trip is in Fellowship Hall, and closer to the date of the trip I'll make sure everyone who needs transportation can carpool.

Richard and I met to discuss Christian Education plans for 2017, which we will share during the budget portion of our meeting. As part of 2017 planning, Lori Haseltine decided she would like to step down as Sunday School teacher next year and give somebody else an opportunity to serve.

**Congregational Life:** Barb Braulick provided the following report.

Glad Tidings and MERRY ADVENT from Congregational Life!

Wonderful Women's Advent Tea was held Sat. Dec 3. Well attended by 55 women. We ran out of programs! Woot Woot! Thank you to all who not only attended but set up, tore down, and everything in between. A team effort!

Christmas Pageant Dec 12: My first at LHC and again the ball was hit out of the park with volunteers and participants! We had approximately 120 guests...lasagna and salad by Riganto in Geneva. More attendees than last year, rumor has it!

Coming soon!!!! The 2017 Great Chili Cook off!!

**Evangelism:** Nothing new to report.

**Facilities:** Anne Bouchard submitted the following report for the past month.

**Working on:**

- PH/GH Roofs: FTC Oury was selected as contractor and contract completed. Work to begin Monday, December 19. The parking lot will be UNAVAILABLE for the duration of the work. I am also working on the contract with Schramm Construction Company which will act as construction manager for this project.
- A new cleaning service since Odie has retired. We plan to send out a letter to take up a special collection (in case someone was not aware of the in church collection envelopes). We will invite Odie back for a special recognition during a service in the New Year.
- Follow up with repair person regarding generators.

**Completed:**

- Dimmer switch replaced in narthex.
- Snow plowing company contacted and discussed issue with gravel in flower beds off of the parking lot. Stakes installed to help identify boundaries.
- Final report to the Retirement Research Foundation for the power-assist door. We came in under budget by about \$5600.

**Outreach:** Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report on the charities that we sponsor. She was not able to be at council.

**Bridge Communities/Transitional Housing Ministry ([www.bridgecommunities.org](http://www.bridgecommunities.org))**– I reported last month that LHC was not sending a quarterly check to Bridge like we do with the other Outreach Ministries. When I submitted my 2017 budget, I included them as a separate ministry from Transitional House, but have not received any notification that the issue has been rectified.

**Community Crisis Center News ([www.crisiscenter.org](http://www.crisiscenter.org))**

Volunteers Needed: CCC has a few critical volunteer needs. If you have a couple of hours to volunteer in any of these positions, please contact Melissa Owens, Volunteer Coordinator, 847-742-4088 x152, [mowens@crisiscenter.org](mailto:mowens@crisiscenter.org)

- **Food rescue** (picking up food donations at nearby restaurants/businesses)
- **Coat Giveaway Assistance:** Volunteers Needed! Contact Melissa at [mowens@crisiscenter.org](mailto:mowens@crisiscenter.org) if you are interested in volunteering to work in our Winter Wear Center. Volunteers are needed to sort, organize and distribute winter wear.
- **Dinner Preparation:** CCC is looking for a church or other organization that can provide a complete dinner (already prepared, catered, or can be cooked in their kitchen).

CCC Annual Gala & Auction fundraiser...Saturday, March 11, 2017

Through community's efforts, CCC raised over \$30,000 through cell phone recycling. If you know of a church, civic or business organization willing to collect cell phones for CCC, have them call Mary (at CCC) at ext. 120 for details.

CCC needs diapers for babies. Without diapers babies are ineligible for childcare; without childcare, parents cannot work.

**·Porcha:**

Through LHC Outreach ministries, Santa delivered an early Christmas present, a children's size table and chairs so that Darnell (4) and Dayveon (3) no longer have to sit on the floor to eat. The twins are still sitting on Porcha's blow up bed to eat. A high chair is still needed.

· I helped her grocery shopping last week (despite being a gimp with my sprained ankle). It was quite a unique experience for me. Three carts...two carts for the four kids and one cart for groceries. Dayveon (3 yr old) was so smart and cute. The grocery cart was in front of him that Porcha was pulling down aisles and then I was behind him with the other cart with the kids. Porcha pulled at the cart with him in it and he just grabbed onto the grocery cart so neither one of us had to pull/push it. Incredible little boy! He held onto it until it got too heavy. Ahhh...I sound like a bragging mom...never had that feeling before. ;-) Thanks to Butera Market in Elgin who gave her curbside assistance. If they'd only followed us to her house and carted the 11 bags up two flights of stairs that really would have been something. J

· Darnell (four year old boy with autism), started school today...Hallelujah! Mom went shopping yesterday and bought him a pair of boots so he didn't have to walk in the snow with sneakers. Next step is to get the other children in day care so she can work except they won't provide day care so she can look for work. Ugh...

**Fox Valley Hands of Hope** (formerly Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice) ([www.fvhh.net](http://www.fvhh.net)) – Nothing new to report.

**Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans** ([www.mshv.org](http://www.mshv.org))– The Women’s Advent Tea raised \$705 to benefit Tammy’s Trace! I’m delivering the check to Jane Tyschenko-Mysliwicz, Executive Director, on Wednesday.

**Neighborhood Food Pantry** (formerly Feeding Northwest DuPage)

The sign up for Christmas food baskets has concluded. All 45 food baskets have been spoken for. Thanks to everyone who participated. LHC’s Fellowship basket (collection basket on our Fellowship table every Sunday) has raised \$413! That qualifies NFP to buy 10,000 lbs. of food. I’m dropping that check off to Tom Norton, Executive Director, on Wednesday! All the dinners are spoken for except 1 and I hope to get that slot filled tonight.

### **Play Date**

The new date is Tuesdays. 10:00 - 11:30. Since Thanksgiving, the kids have enjoyed a painting activity, making corn music shakers out of empty water bottles or other small containers with corn in them. They also made corn art by using the tops of Legos, painting them and then stamping corn-shaped construction paper.

**Renz Addiction Counseling Center** ([www.renzcenter.org](http://www.renzcenter.org))

Renz Center Client Holiday Party - December 15<sup>th</sup>. Make someone's holiday a little brighter with a gift that shows you care . . . donate \$15 - \$30 and Renz Center will purchase an age appropriate item for a child whose mother is receiving treatment in our women's Passage Program. Renz Center provides a holiday meal for our clients and hopes to provide a gift for each child registering for the party. Your donation will make a difference.

You may mail a check (labelled client holiday party) to Renz Center at One American Way, Elgin, IL 60120 or make a donation online by [clicking here](#).

**Stewardship:** Bob Kaska spoke about the Budget during the treasurer’s report.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Jane Shelton submitted the following report for the past month.

The new form for signing up for Sunday service/fellowship has been a huge success. All the slots are filled through 2018. . . . If only. But people are signing up and I pledge to be better at following through on all that needs to be done in that regard. Thank you enormously to Lori Prang who helps me stay organized/focused. And, thank you to all who offer to make the sanctuary look great and feel welcoming to all who enter.

The Hanging of the Greens produced the hanging of the greens. The sanctuary looks beautiful as always.

The Women's Advent Tea was a lovely event. Jen Haseltine helped me with the service and we were blessed to have Paige Wolfhanger of Dundee Congregational in the pulpit and Nancy Sen of Bethlehem Lutheran in St Charles at the Bluthner (piano).

I did not participate in the Christmas Pageant for the 2nd time in 18 years, but I hear that it went very well and was extremely well attended. Here's hoping a family or two is moved to come back and be a part of this beautiful congregation.

WSG budget for 2017 has been submitted to Art.

**Members at Large:** Carol Berger – Nothing new to report.

**Re-Visioning:** Susi W. submitted the following report for the Re-Visioning committee.

December 4, 2016 meeting: All committee members and Pastor Richard present.

- \* The group reviewed notes from our previous meeting and got Richard up-to-date on our journey through the New Beginnings program and our work with Revisioning a mission for LHC.

- \* After much brainstorming the Vision and Mission statements were updated.

- \* Several outreach opportunities were identified referencing the data collected during our congregational sessions and community interviews. The group will work with our Outreach Ministry to develop more specific bite-size mission opportunities that are specific, achievable, and measurable. Each will be introduced on a quarterly basis.

- \* Our recommendation will be presented to Council at the January meeting.

- \* Current plan is to introduce the "Revisioning" at the January meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Restoration Update:** Anne reported the following.

Completed surveys were tallied and discussed with the architect and the church team. Facilities ministry members, pastor, moderator and music director toured the buildings with the architects. We are holding the final meeting for Phase 1 the week of December 19.

Roofers are coming next week. Contracts have been finalized and approved by council, electronically during the past week. To protect the new roof, insulation will be added to the inside of the church. Some gutters will be replaced as well.

Planning is underway between the architects, facilities committee, Construction Company and staff for the upcoming plans.

## **Interfaith Event:**

Anne B. reported that the event on November 20<sup>th</sup> had a great turn-out. Plans are being made to hold the next event on April 23.

**ONA Webanair:** The pastor explained that where ONA has been embraced, churches that have experienced growth, especially in attracting younger members who are looking for a more inclusive attitude.

**Christmas Pageant:** Larry commented on the pageant. There were 40 kids in the pageant. Approx. 120 people were in attendance.

**New Beginnings:** Bob reminded everyone that we are finishing our New Beginnings Process. We now have a new mission statement which includes greater community involvement, which needs to be 'rolled out' and embraced in the year ahead.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Friday Morning Office Staffing:** Anne reported that the church is looking for volunteers to work in the office from 9-12 on Friday. It was suggested that the office reception would be open on Friday morning. Currently, Lori does not work Friday mornings.

**Youth Group Plans:** Larry, Pastor and Lori reviewed our membership list to establish a middle school/high school monthly event.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m.

Concern were shared. Pastor led a prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Anne and seconded by Ann M. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk