

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
December 12, 2017

In Attendance: Louise Aughnay, Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Judy Hopkins, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist

Absent: Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Bob Kaska, Chuck Sbarbaro, Jane Shelton,

Moderator Anne Bouchard began the meeting at 7:10 pm with a description of Hanukkah and a Hanukkah blessing from Pastor Richard. Joys and concerns were shared.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the November minutes. Minutes were not approved because there was no quorum

Pastor's Report: Pastor Richard sent council the following activity which he did in November.

I was asked by the Church's next-door neighbor to lead a session and devotion for a group of Parish Nurses that she administers for Northwestern. Their gathering took place over lunch at Lesley Connor's home on Army Trail Rd. and then moved to the Little Home Church sanctuary. I prepared a special Bible Study that was integrated into a Communion service. It was a great opportunity to extend the ministry of Little Home Church to the wider community, and support the healing ministry of these parish nurses. Lesley is planning to have a guest speaker sometime in the next few months, and she would like to hold it in the Parish Hall, in which case it will be open to our members.

At council, Richard discussed a **new Epiphany service** that he plans to establish on the **twelfth night of Christmas**, Saturday, January 6, 2018. It would include activities and movies for the kids, burritos, and the removal of the greens in the church. The service will include *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and choreography. It should be a fun evening for families.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Susi Winquist submitted and reviewed 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. The letters and numbers refer to sections of the report. The report will be approved at the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: November 2017 Financials

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD: **\$238,298 is % of \$246,000 Budget** which is **ahead** of the 3-year average **96.87%**. November was a strong month for Identified Contributor giving \$11,070.

A – 1 Total Pledge Receipts YTD: **\$155,235 is 86.24% of \$180,000 Budget**. We had another good month for pledge receipts (\$13,225), which is somewhat better than the \$12,316 3-year average for November collections. But we continue to trend **behind** the YTD 3-year average **90.83%**. We will need very strong December pledge giving of approximately \$20,000 to meet the \$175,000 annual budget amount.

B - 1 – 6 Operating Report. Current 2017 YTD Net Income of **\$25,799**. Compare to budgeted Net Income (loss) of (\$13,631). In 2016 the Net Income (loss) thru November was (\$14,471).

C – 1– 4 Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$247,342 on 11/30/2017.
Compared to last month \$240,382 at 10/31/2017.
Compared to last year at this time \$251,309 at 11/30/2016.

D – 1 - 2 Consolidated Fund Activity. Higher than beginning 2017 balance: \$212,618 on 1/1/17 →\$247,342 on 11/30/17.

E – 1 – 2 Fundraising totals to date: \$33,536. The Women’s Advent Tea collection totaled \$584 for Tammy’s Trace. Christmas Poinsettia sales are underway for December. Food Pantry donations are a separate line item. Collections YTD \$2,024. \$1,950 has been disbursed which equates to 6 tons of food buying power. Current collections are at \$74 towards the next \$650 gift. Another \$1,000 was received and forwarded to the UCC for Disaster Relief in November. Toys for Tots and the Christmas Fund monetary donations have not been finalized.
Humbly offered,
Susan F. Winqvist
Treasurer

At council, Susi reviewed the budgeting information and forms that council is to use to prepare budget.

A summary of each ministry’s past year’s budget and what was spent was forwarded to each council member and reviewed briefly at council. The budgets for each ministry is due as soon as possible so that Susi can finalize the budget that she will present next month for council’s approval and then for congregational approval.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Judy Hopkins submitted the following report for the past month.

Presentation on Women in Islam

On November 19, Ms. Rabab Gomaa, MA, in Islamic Studies, presented a program entitled “Deep Purses: Understanding a Woman’s Financial Independence in Islam,” which lasted about 1 hour, plus questions from the audience. Approximately 20 men and women from LHC and elsewhere attended. Following the presentation, refreshments which were generously provided by various members of LHC (several of whom were not able to attend the presentation) were served.

Sometime next year, a colleague of Ms Gomaa, Huda Husseini, is expected to present a panel offering which will include two former students concerning their personal faith practice experiences in America, including their individual decision to wear the hijab. The scheduling of that presentation will be made with consultation of the LHC calendar for 2018.

Other (un-) Related Activities

- (1) I have received the offer of a local author/artist, Gene McCormick, to display paintings in our Parish Hall for some limited period. He will offer them for sale, with proceeds to be split 50:50 between LHC and his continuing no-kill animal (dog) shelter activities. He has given me sample copies of the paintings for the Council to inspect. He would be prepared to set this up fairly quickly, if we so desire.

[I suggested to Gene that perhaps other of his local artist friends, who may or may not be member of the Wayne Art League, might also wish to display their works rotationally in our parish hall, with some type of donation to LHC missions, in the event of sales.]

- (2) We want to start a Women’s Fellowship at LHC. An announcement was run in the December issue of By The Way, and an organization meeting has been scheduled on January 21. This should be followed by announcements during the Sunday services to remind women of the congregation that we will seek their opinions on the agenda and scheduling of meetings by a questionnaire which will be distributed in early January. I have offered to chair the Fellowship.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick was not able to attend council tonight but forwarded the following notes.

In December the annual Women's Advent Tea was held on Saturday, December 2 and was well attended. Approximately \$500 was raised for Tammy's Trace. Rev. Paige Wolfanger gave the message.

Calls were made to Kay Brynelson, who is keeping her chin up but not up to being visited at the time. We had a good conversation by phone. She will enjoy any cards and calls sent her way. A card was also sent to Jeff Schramuck.

The 2018 Chili Cook-Off is scheduled for February 10. Other plans are being made for the Passover Seder and a 21 Questions Study.

Evangelism: Carol Berger forwarded the following report to council.

November was busy for Evangelism. The dinner at my house was enjoyable, and our guests seemed very interested in the LHC. We are hopeful for some new members after the first of the year. I am starting to plan the next dinner in the new year since there were several couples who are interested but unable to attend.

I sent Christmas Cantata flyers to all LHC visitors for 2017.

I put together small bags of appreciation which included our LHC drink totes and gave them to all pageant participants who are not members of the church. The families seemed appreciative.

I continue to stay in touch with potential new members.

My committee met with Richard, Charles Sabraro, and Susannah Lesswing regarding future community service projects that Susannah would like to Chair and which will involve Evangelism also. We are hoping to attract outside our church membership for needed community services.

Sunday, February 6 will be Evangelism Sunday. However, I am not planning to have a Congregational meeting afterwards as discussed at the last Council meeting. I am mostly interested in collecting names from church members who might know someone who is church searching. I will set up a table after church with the hope that those who know of someone will stop by my table for discussion and treats.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted an update on the charities that we sponsor.

Community Crisis Center

As toiletries pile up in the donation bin, I take the collection to the CCC,

Giving Tree – Big thanks to Lori Prang for working with Jim Winqvist to provide Christmas gifts to the Marine's ToysForTots Foundation. She made tags and hung them in Fellowship Hall like she has in the past. She also made sure the tags included requests for girls and boys gifts for a variety of ages.

Neighborhood Food Pantry

- We provided 31 Thanksgiving dinners vs. 45 like last year. Turns out, we only received 31 numbers because they had leftover meals in the freezer already.
- We have 45 Christmas dinners being donated on 12/16.
- LHC has mailed two \$650.00 checks which would provide funding to buy ~4,000 pounds of food.

Open Door Health Center

- Jacob Harshbarger, coordinator, is confirmed to provide a Mission Moment on January 14th.

“Once and Done” volunteering opportunities –

Susannah Lesswing reached out looking for some “one and done” type volunteering suggestions. I forwarded here the items below and we have a meet up scheduled for January 7th to discuss.

Bridge Communities

Giving Party - to benefit the client families, be a part of the **GIVING PARTY** birthday. Party guests will participate in activities from What's It Like to Be Homeless, Educational Curriculum and receive Bridge Communities token gifts for a party 'goodie bag'. In lieu of (or in addition to) traditional birthday gifts, your guests will bring a gift for a family or child. Gift suggestions include:

Roll of quarters – the leased apartment building has laundry facilities and a roll of quarters is a way to help the family clean their clothes.

Gift cards - provide that extra bit of help with gift cards to food stores and retailers (Wal-Mart, Target, Kohl's).

Gasoline cards - every client family must work or attend school so extra help paying for gasoline is much appreciated.

New Books & Games - both of these make great **GIVING PARTY** gifts to share with Bridge kids for their own birthdays or other special occasions.

Family fun certificates - every family wants to create special memories spending time together, but many family-fun activities can be too expensive for Bridge families. A day at a local amusement park, zoo, movies or museum make great gifts the whole Bridge family can enjoy.

Community Crisis Center

- **Food rescue** - picking up food donations at nearby restaurants/businesses.
- **Group Activity** - Bingo, board game, movie, arts & crafts, or cookie baking night (see attached).
- **Shelter Dinner** – Bring in a meal, having it catered, prepare meal onsite (see attached).

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

- **Yard work** at Tammy’s Trace (mulch, annual flower planting in May).
- **Spring cleaning** for Veteran houses.

Neighborhood Food Pantry Monday and Thursday 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, Tuesday 1:00-4:00, Saturday 8:00-11:00

- **Volunteer hours** – stock shelves, organize donations, help guests collect their groceries

OLD BUSINESS:

Blue Christmas service: The service will be held Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm. An email blast explaining the service will go out next week. Anne will coordinate with Lori

Financial Responsibility Team Update: Anne reported for the Task Force on the following items that were discussed at their last meeting.

- Recent tax law changes and their effect on the church.
- Art plans to send out an informational letter regarding donating stocks to the church
- The committee is in the process of interviewing financial consultants
- Committee felt that the Evangelism Chair should be included at the meetings. Carol will be invited to future meetings.
- It was discussed that the financial appeals to the congregation should be limited during the annual stewardship campaign.

Evangelism Sunday will be Feb 4. Evangelism may be the Mission moment. However, Carol is still working on the plans. She suggested that several people sitting at an informational table may be better than a big ‘showy’ event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Women's Fellowship: An initial meeting for interested women will be Sunday, January 21 after church. It was suggested that a questionnaire be distributed in early January that would collect ideas and help establish some of the activities. Such questions on the survey may include; what would bring you to another meeting? What topics are you interested in? Where would you like to meet? And so on.

Sunday School: Starts January 14 – volunteers to teach are signed up through Feb.

Janual Meeting: January 28, 2018

Chili Cook-Off: February 10

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk