

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
February 10, 2015

In Attendance: Sandy Antonelli, Valeri Baldwin, Anne Bouchard, Carol Berger, Lori Haseltine, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Alex Kentfield, Susannah Lesswing, Jan Marchese, Maureen O'Donnell, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton

Visitor: Jim Winquist

Susi opened the meeting at 7:12 p.m. and asked for joys and concerns. Pastor David then opened the meeting with a mini Bible study, focusing on John 15: 1-8. David shared a Lenten devotional and offered one to each council member. He reminded us of the upcoming retreat on forgiveness, and also the special services during Lent. He encouraged us to continue working with Christ and the Holy Spirit as our guides.

Approval of Minutes: Susi asked if there were any changes or corrections to the January minutes. Jan moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Susannah. The minutes were approved with all ayes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David submitted his written report and it is attached. He added that he and Larry had a good meeting and they discussed future special evenings involving food, such as a potluck during Lent, possibly on one of the Wednesday nights. The thought is that the choir or council will bring the food. David has an idea of a local author who he would like to invite: Bobbie McKay, possibly on March 18 or 25.

David is working with Andrea Ferguson to find a date in May, which might work to bring Pastor Dickey up from Biloxi to preach on Sunday and host a shrimp boil on the Saturday night while he is here.

Treasurer's Report: Art presented copies of this month's report and a revised copy of the report presented at the Feburual meeting. Art reminded us that there was a motion to move \$15,000 into the Endowment Fund and that that money needs to be managed by the Endowment Committee. Carol reminded us that once the funds are deposited into the Endowment Fund, they cannot be removed, until a certain amount is reached. Alex expressed concern about a motion with multiple elements; a person would be approving or not approving the entire motion, and would not be able to vote on each element separately.

The January report showed a slow start for the year even though we have strong pledging. Art also noted that the Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed monthly activity by each fund. Carol asked about how Art works with all of the funds to cover expenses when the Operating Fund is not able to fully pay our bills. Art explained that we work out of one large account for all of these funds, which is why he sought approval at the Feburual meeting to use money from some of the funds if necessary to pay bills. Art also reminded the Council that he cannot yet act on the pay increases for staff due to the lack of a quorum at the Feburual meeting.

Motion to approve the January report was made by Sandy and seconded by Jan. Bob asked how many of the identified funds are restricted, with actual language. Art said that most of the funds do not have a document that lays out the restrictions or earmarks, and that much of what he knows about the purpose of the funds has been handed down by word of mouth. The Treasurer's Report was approved with all ayes.

Moderator's Report: Susi asked about the attendees for the New Beginnings leadership workshop on February 27 – 28. Susi said we need additional people to attend the workshop, hopefully 8-10 total. These leaders would then facilitate smaller meetings with congregation members. David asked that Council approve the funds to cover the cost of the meeting for those who attend.

Susi opened the discussion about the voting process for the Feburial meeting since a quorum was not in attendance on the 1st. Discussion about how to reach out to those members not in attendance in order to achieve a quorum for voting on the motion presented at the Feburial meeting. Bob recommended that perhaps the voting period could be held open for a few weeks after the meeting and Art suggested early voting as another option. Art suggested that Alex contact Roger Kotecki for his expertise regarding Robert's Rules of Order. Further discussion ensued about whether it would be offensive to those who did attend to ask them to vote again. Questions arose as to the actual membership numbers. Bob K moved that with the proxy votes and the additional votes present tonight that we have reached quorum and that Bob Schless' motion at the Feburial meeting has passed. Sandy seconded. Bob K's motion passed with 8 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention. (Amended list of voters will be attached to these minutes.) Alex added that the decision was about a noncontested issue and all was decided in good faith. David suggested that we need to clarify the membership list so that we have a better understanding of our actual number of members.

Susi reminded council members to start thinking about who might be ready to take over leadership for those members who will be coming off of the Council.

Moderator Elect: As emailed by Alex:

As we see more members attending more often, we cannot expect that all of them are part of the unofficial grapevine (or want to be) and are thus fully aware of what's happening on several fronts: most notably the S&C committee and New Beginnings. We need to get our various messages out via as many channels, formal and informal, as we can, and I think we are making significant headway in that direction. Thanks to all.

That said, we had, due *supposedly* to the cold and snow, a disappointing showing at the Feburial meeting.

We now have to once again go through a convoluted process to gather the required additional votes, within a short time, to reach a quorum to vote on the *proposed* motions. There will be several critical votes for the congregation to address as we go forward in selecting a sitting pastor, and as we possibly re-define our church in the larger sense via the New Beginnings process. Scrambling for a quorum at every critical junction is no way to run any operation ... not even a church, and it does not instill the confidence of the congregation in its leadership. This is unfortunate as the LHC has been truly blessed by exceptional, self-sacrificing, and forward-looking leadership, yet often plagued with just enough uninformed or uninvolved members to

unknowingly thwart inspired efforts (i.e. no quorum on Feb. 01). God, forgive me again for my unkind thought. Yet ... imagine the S&C committee finally presenting a selected candidate for our sitting pastor to the Church Council for their anticipated approval, and then not having a quorum of the congregation available to welcome him or her not an auspicious start! Wow! Third time Mea Culpa, Mea Maxima Culpa!

All my admonitions aside, it is *our* mission to find ways to reach the eyes, ears and hearts of the 240 some brothers and sisters in Christ who call LHC *their* church. Our challenge is to find ways to get them back to the flock so that we can be shepherds of God's will and share with them His design for LHC's future.

Therefore distributing the proposed budget and the minutes of the Junual meeting minutes for approval (or "nay") to those members **not** in attendance (physically or by proxy) needs to be an agenda item for the Council on Tuesday. We probably need to follow the same "vote gathering protocol" that we did back in June 2014, when we also had no quorum. All motions made on the floor, including the motion to put \$15K of the property sale proceeds into the endowment fund, need to also be presented to the balance of the congregation's membership for their approval (or "nay"). The overwhelming majority of those voting last Sunday, passed all these measures, but they are not yet in force. I mentioned in the "announcements" segment of our worship services today, that those members who did **not** vote at the Februal meeting would soon be getting a mailing to which their response is urgently required and expected so that the business of the church can proceed in an orderly fashion.

As an aside, I also mentioned that they would receive a separate mailing containing a survey to gauge their responses, and hopefully corroborate, the accuracy and validity of statements and positions of the Search and Call Committee regarding the first step of the S&C process: developing an accurate, complete and current church and congregational profile. A few folks approached me after the service in the parish hall, and were pleased top hear that they would in some way directly be involved even though the S&C committee is agreed to be representative of all stakeholder groups.

I promise not to say so much next month.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Maureen provided the report via email: We have had low attendance by children in service and Sunday School.. On February 8 we hosted the first Sunday Bible Study, which was a big hit: 13 people attended and David gave a fantastic presentation. On February 13th we will host the first family movie night, showing Heaven is for Real at 7 pm. On March 13th we offer the first adult educational forum: "An Evening of Gaelic and God," at 7 pm. On March 21 a Lenten Forgiveness Retreat will be presented starting at 9:30 am. Cost is \$40/pp and lunch is included. VBS will be the week of June 15th. We are joining forces with the Congregational Church in Bartlett. It will be held at their church. Start sharing this information now so we can have more than the 2 students that we had last year. An email was sent to the 3 people who identified Christian Education as the ministry for which they wanted to volunteer their services. Maureen has asked them to take the lead on the next forum. Maureen would like suggestions for more movie nights. She has 2 in mind and needs many more. Maureen also suggested the idea of a run or walk as a fundraiser, possibly in Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve.

Lori added that we are having VBS with Immanuel UCC in Bartlett this summer, the week of June 15, 9 – 11:30 at Immanuel. Susannah asked about teen help and Lori said they are looking for teen helpers and adult helpers, and also any kids who want to attend.

Congregational Life: Susannah provided the report via email (attached). Susannah added that there were about half as many attendees at the Chili Cook-Off as there were last year. As of tonight, we have received 15 pledges for additional chairs and Susannah will be ordering 90 chairs tomorrow. Delivery in 4-6 weeks. We will continue the “Buy a Chair” campaign and hope to raise enough money to cover the costs and not have to permanently take it out of other funds. Lori said the members of the Wayne Art League are also considering purchasing a chair. Carol thanked Susannah for spearheading this big project.

Susannah added that she and Jane will be helping with the Ash Wednesday potluck.

Evangelism: Carol provided her report via email (attached). Carol added that she spoke to the Wayne police and they have not been able to get the signs installed due to the weather and more pressing matters. Carol will be hosting a get together at her house for any prospective members on Sunday, March 8, 5 pm. Susannah added that she spoke to Mary Roach about reinstating the progressive dinner, possibly in the summer.

Facilities: Anne provided the report via email (attached.)

Outreach: Valeri provided the report via email (attached.) Susi added that Jane Shelton would like Council to consider the Fox Valley Literacy Annual Trivia Bee Fundraiser, on March 21. Other area churches participate. It costs \$400 to enter. Unfortunately, it is on March 21 which conflicts with our retreat this year, but it is something to think about for the future.

Stewardship: Bob reported that we are currently at \$167,000. He is hopeful that we will reach \$170,000 or better. David and Bob are following up on members for outstanding pledges. Bob also reminded the Council to connect with those who offered to serve on various ministries. David reiterated that reminder and urged Council leaders to reach out to those who have volunteered.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Sandy emailed her report as follows: We are having the usual potluck and Ash Wednesday Service. Nancy Alex will serve as pulpit associate. Pastor David inquired of Kathi Abell if we had a Paschal Candle for the Ash Wednesday service; we do not. Fellowship hour is signed up through February, but we need people to sign up for flowers throughout the month. Sandy will call the ushers and pulpit associates for the next few weeks.

Communications: Kathleen provided the report via email (attached). Recent flier created for Gaelic and God program to be presented in March. Maureen added that we need to have better, stronger advertising for the programs we present that might be of interest to the wider community. Maureen is hoping to have programs pay for themselves. Discussion about local advertising and social media for ongoing communications needs.

Members at Large: Kathleen asked that we have additional information from the Search and Call Committee for the By the Way. The due date is the 19th. Kathleen is looking for more details about what the committee is working on. Maureen asked about the restrictions on the

committee for releasing information and Alex said that most of the restrictions kick in once candidates have been identified. The committee is working on a letter to go out to the membership.

Jan added that she heard a lot of positive feedback about the recent Bible Study that Pastor David led after church on Sunday, February 8. Carol reminded the Members at Large to forward any Search and Call questions to any committee member. Alex added that he had several people tell him that they appreciated the efforts of the committee to keep everyone informed.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Bouchard, for Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk