

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
February 21, 2012

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Nancy Doerr, Kathy Haben, Bob Kaska, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Suzanne Setlock, Art Zwemke, Jane Shelton, Gary Estes

Absent: Gianna Marchese, Jan Marchese, Marilyn Poole, Wally Setlock, Peter Gatsch,

Ann began the meeting at 7:18 after council members had completed writing notes to church members listed in the church directory. Ron opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of minutes: January minutes were reviewed. Suzanne moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Jane Shelton They were approved with one change; adding her last initial "S" to Nancy's name in approval of the minutes section to identify which Nancy seconded the motion.

Church Action/Focus Items:

Peterson House:

The cleaning bid from Service Master was discussed. Service Master quoted \$1036 to clean the house. The bid includes \$261 for cleaning the carpet, \$175 for cleaning the bathroom and the balance goes toward general cleaning of walls and home to prepare it for painting. After the bid was made, Jennifer Gatsch and volunteers had cleaned much of the bathrooms. Therefore, Gary Estes was asked to contact Service Master for a revised quote to reflect the cleaning that had already been done. Suzanne Setlock moved that we approve Service Master for the cleaning of the house after an adjustment is made regarding the cleaning that was already done. Nancy S. seconded the motion. Motion passed. Art Zwemke reminded the council that \$2000 had been set aside in the budget to prepare the house for sale.

The change of plat survey was discussed to decrease the size of the Peterson property by 20 feet to the West side and 10 feet to the South. Gary knows of a surveyor who will prepare a legal description to change the deed for \$150. He will also prepare a new plot map for \$450, which will need to be done at the time of the sale. Carol Berger moved that the change be made to the property and have it deeded to the church. Motion was seconded by Nancy D. and passed. Gary Estes will follow up with the surveyor and the realtor, Karen Ashe.

In addition to the cleaning and changing the deed, Ron reminded the council that a written agreement will need to be made between the property, directly north of the Peterson home and the Peterson property regarding the use to the well that the two share. There will also need to be a disclosure made regarding water in the basement.

Planned Giving:

Art Zwemke spoke about the activation of the Perpetual Fund, better known as an endowment fund. A plan to ask the congregation to keep the church in mind when preparing their wills will begin later this month. He suggested that people consider a percentage of their estate instead of an actual monetary amount since most do not know how much money that will have.

Open and Affirming:

Anne Bourchard suggested that our church becomes an “open and affirming” church in order to attract more visitors and members. After much discussion, it was decided that more information needs to be provided to the council regarding what “open and affirming” would require of the congregation. Ann M. suggest that the council be educated in order to embrace the concept prior to asking the congregation to be a part of the proclamation. The next congregational meeting is June 10th, when the council would present the idea if it felt it was appropriate. Anne B. will bring more information to the next council meeting.

Lenten Season:

Lenten season starts tomorrow. He will be on vacation during the Sundays of March 18, 26 and April 1. Nancy Schatzeder will be substituting at the pulpit those Sundays. April 1 will be Palm Sunday and the Choir Cantata. The Moderator will be responsible for opening and closing the church during his absence on those weekends. It was asked if Lori would send out a reminder of the Ash Wednesday Potluck in the morning. However, Lori is out of the office this week and won't be able.

Council Bench Strength:

Ann M. asked the council to be thinking of council position replacements. It was suggested that we need to groom a replacement for each council position by having an assistant or chairmen-elect for a year before that person takes on the responsibility of running the committee and being on council. It was decided to have a Ministry Fair on May 6th to educate and encourage members to become more involved with the ministries. Suzanne volunteered to host the coffee hour that day.

Long Range Planning:

Bob spoke about setting two new goals to replace the “Activating the Endowment fund” and “Best Use of Properties” goals for the next two years. He asked the council to be thinking of what we NEED to do and not necessarily what we would want to do regarding the goals so that this church continues to strive.

Pastor's Report: Already discussed. (see Lenten Season)

Treasurer's Report: The total operating receipts, year to date, are a little behind where they usually are. The receipts of \$26,746 is 12.02% of the total receipts budget for 2012 of \$222,500 versus 14.68% three (3) year average. Further information can be obtained in the treasurer's report. Jane Shelton moved to approved, seconded by Suzanne S. Motion passed.

Moderator's Report: No report

Moderator Elect's Report: absent

Ministries Reports:

Christian Education: Nancy D. reported that Ron's Series of Comparative Religions will conclude on March 11th. At this time, there are no plans to continue the series. She also encouraged everyone to attend the evening bible study on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the month with Nancy S. Presently, the numbers have been small but Nancy S. is fine with the small numbers. Book bags for children attending church have been cleaned and refurbished with new supplies and activity books. Worksheets will be available in the Narthex for the older children.

The Spring Youth Retreat will be April 13-15 weekend.

May 6th will be Education Sunday which will incorporate giving bibles to the elementary students, usually third graders. It is also the day in which students play a more active role in leading the service. Combining this Sunday with Ministry Sunday will hopefully encourage more attendance and participation in ministries.

Congregational Life: The talent show will be April 21. The chili Cook-off made approximately \$1200 for Outreach Ministries.

There is an Adult retreat on July 10-14 at Purdue University which Ann B. will be getting more information about for members of our congregation to attend.

Evangelism: The first Constant Contact Newsletter went out this past month. There was a lot of positive feedback regarding its good layout and design. Separate contact groups can be set up in the program so not everyone needs to receive every notice. As of date, only one person has asked to be taken off the list.

For almost a year, there have been no new members but Bob is hopeful of putting together a class for the Spring. By having a membership class, the new members will have a better understanding of what UCC is about, will get to know others sooner in the church, and learn what is expected of joining.

Stewardship: For 2012, there are currently 71 pledging units, totaling \$165,005. We are approximately \$1000 more in pledges from where we were one year ago.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Ash Wednesday Service and Potluck are tomorrow night. The council discussed the plans for the 5th Sunday in April. (April 29). Another session of cottage meetings was tentatively scheduled for that date. However, it was decided to hold the late service and potluck and postpone the cottage meetings to another time.

Members at large: Kathy Haben reported that success of the first Book Club on January 30th with 17 attending with good non-member interest. Eight people clicked on her announcement on the web. Of those eight, three attended from as far away as DeKalb. The next meeting is February 27.

Carol Berger reported that there will be no more musical concerts like those planned in the past but she asked whether it would be all right if LHC hosts an afternoon performance of the Spring Cantata to allow non-members to attend. A free will offering would be taken. The council approved that idea as long as Larry is ok with the idea.

Kathy Haben brought up the concern that the congregation was not notified of Marie Giesecke's death through the phone tree. It was noted that the congregation should be notified of all deaths of members regardless of the circumstances.

Kristen Thornton reported that the church directories are in the process of being printed and should arrive in early March. She was disappointed in the amount of production time that

Lifetouch took with their books. It is taking over 12 weeks to print a small directory after the book had been proofed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nancy S. seconded by Suzanne S. Ron closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Substituting for Church Clerk