

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
February 12, 2013

**In Attendance:** Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Peter Gatsch, Kathy Haben, Karen Hansen, Lori Haseltine, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Wally Setlock, Art Zwemke

**Absent:** Bob Kaska, Gianna Marchese, Marilyn Poole, Jane Shelton

Wally Setlock began the meeting at 7:18 p.m. and asked for prayer requests. Pastor Ron then gave the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Wally asked if there were any changes or corrections to the January minutes. Ann M. moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Jane. The minutes were approved with all ayes.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ron informed the group that the furnace in the office has is no longer working and the air conditioning unit stopped working last year. Two estimates for a new furnace have been received and were reviewed. The lower bid of \$3,725 was by the same installer of other furnaces in our buildings. Anne B. moved to take the lower bid for the furnace and air conditioning unit and get it in process. Motion seconded by Ann M. The motion was unanimously approved.

Pastor Ron explained a request from Andrea Ferguson who is attempting to bring a student from Rwanda to the U.S., who is a missionary product of that country. The student will attend Wheaton College and there is a need for a church sponsor and also a need for someone to host him when breaks occur at school. This would be an agreement in the initial stages between Rwanda, US, Wheaton College and Little Home Church. The Council agreed to a conditional yes pending receipt of additional information such as a student bio, housing requirements and a list of other needs that would be provided by the church.

Diana Griffin has a request to have a Danish choir that is coming through the area possibly have a concert here at our Little Home Church. This would be a Blue Lake Fine Arts concert of Danish folk music this summer, probably July. (There is a member wedding here on July 6<sup>th</sup>.) Pastor Ron will discuss the idea with Larry. It may be a choir group project to sponsor the concert and arrange for housing for the students, a total of 36 from age 13 to 20. The Council agreed to look into it.

Pastor Ron stated our Parish Hall chairs are deteriorating quickly. He has been getting prices and distributed the information. There is a company that will sell us folding chairs at a considerable discount. He is concerned that there may be an injury with our current chairs. Nancy Fraley was ordained in a beautiful ceremony on Sunday, February 10 at St. Michael's United Church of Christ in West Chicago. Six people were in attendance representing our Little Home Church.

**Treasurer's Report:** Art reported we have a good financial start for 2013. Our Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$36,848 is 16.11% of our 2013 Total Receipts Budget of \$228,700 vs. our 3 year average of \$23,990 that is 14.76%. Prepaid pledges of \$8,400 are included in the January totals. We have a YTD surplus of \$12,056 vs. \$7,457 last year. Art reviewed some of the 2013 Operating Budget details and then explained the Comparative Balance Sheet that is now produced by the software and discussed the balances in various funds. The Income Statement for January was also reviewed in detail. Motion to approve the report was made by Ann M. and seconded by Lori. The Treasurer's Report was approved with all ayes.

**Peterson House Update:** Wally stated we should possibly have daily inspections at the Peterson House as the home flooded. With Gary Estes' help, the heat is now working again. The basement has been bailed out thanks to Gary and Wally. The hot water tank is not working and Wally will see if it is fixable. There have been some expenses related to the repairs that had to be done and a new sump pump was required. Art suggested that we purchase a back up pump and battery to prevent another flooding and that it would be a selling point.

**Moderator's Report:** Wally reported that the sump pump has been replaced by Dan Roach in the church basement and we will have the additional expense of the furnace replacement in the church office. The Dixon home is currently on a month to month lease, as when the rent was behind the management firm considered the lease broken. Wally suggested we get the appraisal work done and get the listing process started.

**Moderator Elect:** Kathy suggested that church member's requests or concerns brought to the Council should be published in the By-The-Way. Members-at-large get requests that need to be handled or followed-up. We need to get back to the member and say it was discussed and how we are proceeding. Kathy suggested that these issues should possibly have a section in the BTW. The members at large could put the information into the BTW and describe the request and the outcome. The council agreed that any requests or suggestions should be acknowledged in the BTW. The 'We Noticed' column is also included in the BTW. Kathy suggested we have a Congregation Suggestion and Concern column or 'Comments to Council' which would acknowledge, validate, and update member's issues. The first concern could be the third party survey as to why people leave our church that was discussed at the last council meeting.

### **Ministry Reports:**

**Worship & Spiritual Growth:** Nancy stated that the Ash Wednesday Pot Luck is tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. with worship at 7:00. There is a fifth Sunday in March which is Easter. Evening Bible Study is only being attended regularly by two people and a different time or format may need to be considered. Living the Questions is a Bible Study format that Nancy has looked into and might create interest. Kathy also suggested using a study book and Anne suggested a study time after worship. There will be no Cantata this year in the Easter season.

**Christian Education:** Lori discussed VBS plans that need to get underway. It is usually the second week of June, July may be too hot. We need to have the dates because people are already

inquiring and the dates need to be published. This year we will make sure not to conflict with Pony Club.

**Stewardship:** Sunday, March 10 is One Great Hour of Sharing. Envelopes and a letter will go out to everyone.

**Outreach:** Easter dinners will be here soon. If Marilyn is not here, Wally will organize recruiting the dinner contributions.

**Congregational Life:** Anne reported that the Chili Cook-Off raised over \$800 for Outreach.

The Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee has held 4 congregational meetings and Pastor Ron has led two Bible Study lessons. On Sunday, February 17, two pastors from churches that are not ONA will speak at 3:00 p.m. Wally has a video link to recommend. Art asked if there may be a vote in June, but Anne said there are some topics that still need to be covered. The meetings have been well attended so there is an interest, but there is generally a one to two year time-line for the process. Art said once we get past this ‘opportunity’ we can get on to something else, as there is always something else.

There is a Retirement Research Foundation grant application due June 1, with up to \$30,000 or 50% of the cost funded. We fit the eligibility issues and would have to demonstrate financial need and our ability to raise funds to cover 50% of the costs.

**Facilities:** Peter Gatsch presented a resignation letter to the Council giving a two week notice.

**Evangelism:** Kathy Haben reported that Kathleen Sullivan Kaska and Lori Prang met with Kristen Thornton for a ‘tutorial’ on the church website. Lori will update the church calendar with Kathleen updating the website. Kathleen and Lori are developing a new Sunday Bulletin format incorporating the LHC identity and the new publisher software and should be completed before the end of the month. There will be another postcard mailing promoting Easter services and Kathleen is working on a ‘By the Way, there’s more at LHC’ poster collage promoting activities and initiatives at our church. Also, Kathleen and Bob are revamping the early communication process for prospective and new members. Kathy suggested that Evangelism look at the UCC identity and who we are and have new members educated through sponsors or mentors. Anne suggested that Congregational Life and Christian Education could put something together for adult education. Council discussed the lack of the UCC logo on our published material and agreed to have this as an agenda item in March.

**ONA Update:** Discussed above in Congregational Life

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Wally brought up Nancy Alex’s suggestion that we have a special recognition and ‘free will offering’ for Larry’s birthday. As this is a surprise for Larry, it was suggested by Anne that we put a notice only in the bulletins at the front of the church. Also, council agreed to send Lori Prang our Office Manager flowers for her birthday as a special thank you.

Motion to adjourn by Kathy was seconded by Lori. All ayes. Nancy led a closing prayer at 9:40.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk