

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
February 9, 2016

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Alex Kentfield, Ann McLaughlin, Frank Muno, David Russell, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Anne Bouchard, Bob Kaska, Jane Shelton, Art Zwemke,

Moderator Alex Kentfield began the meeting at 7:15 pm. Pastor David Russell gave an opening prayer. David led the council in devotion. Following devotion, concerns were shared with an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the January minutes. Barb moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Susi. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David submitted the following report for February.

- All of us have known the pain, hope, tragedy and love of standing together with **Sam** and his family. This last month culminated in the final letting go and a glorious memorial celebrating his life. I was privileged to walk alongside as the family and you cried and laughed. We gained, as Sam's life and memories touched us, and we continue to remember his legacy among us as he dances with God.
- **Larry and I met to plan worship for February and March** with emphasis on Lent. We hope to have a Good Friday evening service here at LHC.
- I met some of our **visitors to LHC:**
 1. Amy Schillinger (daughters: Ellen,6, Jane,5, and Etta,2, with husband Peter)
 2. Kate O'Rourke and Trevor Darin with children (Madeleine 3 and Brook, 1)
 3. Michelle and Todd Blosser with four kids; Audrey 9; Olivia 8, Grant, Hudson
 4. Alex Park.

Ann McLaughlin and Carol Burger are planning a welcome/getting to know you supper for these folks plus others. **We will offer a two class membership orientation series Sundays 4/17 and 4/24 with folks joining LHC on Sunday 5/1.**
- **Alex Karwowski is working on his "God and Church" award** with some other boys in his troop and leader Drew Glassford with whom I met. I will be participating as well and looking forward to Alex receiving his award here at LHC.
- Been working with Frank Muno on some **Christian Ed. Lenten events, i.e. two Catered Supper, Mini-Worship, video-discussions on Feb. 24 and March 9**, Wednesdays at 6:30 to 8pm.
- I'm planning on monthly adult education events called "**Theology on Tap**", **Sundays, 2/28 and 3/13 at 11am to 1pm**. The plan is to discuss that day's sermon as a jumping off point for further religious, theological etc. discussion. I will facilitate. Folks will pay for

their own food and drink. Anyone who misses the Sunday sermon is still welcome to join. No childcare is planned at this point.

- Lastly, on this Ash Wednesday I will, with assistance, be offering *Ashes to Go* for all those driving by who wish to pull into our parking lot for an imposition of ashes blessing while in their car.

At the council meeting, a brief Power Point presentation of the Michael Piazza's presentation by Alex Kentfield was presented. The presentation focused on how to attract new members and was originally presented by Michael Piazza at a recent UCC conference meeting.

David plans to do the "Ashes to Go" from 4:00 – 6:00 tomorrow, Ash Wednesday. He asked for a volunteer to assist him to provide relieve from standing in the cold. Alex volunteered.

David has been reaching out to the young couples that have been visiting our church. These couples will be invited to attend a small group of young families on the first Sunday of the Month where lunch and childcare will be provided. Their names are in the above mentioned report.

There will be a Fox Valley Association Lenten Justice Retreat: *Engaging Our Faith: Jesus, Justice, Action* at Immanuel UCC Streamwood Church on March 6.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke was not able to attend the council meeting but he sent his treasurer's report to council along with an emailed message. The following is the cover page of the report with his comments. A full report is available in the office. Overall, Art wanted everyone to know that our church was in a good financial state due to the prepaid pledges. Also the operating deficit is currently zero as a result of transferring \$23,961 from the Petersen & Dixon fund to the operating fund as approved at the Janual meeting.

Treasurer's Report
January 31, 2016

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$36,102 is 14.56% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 12.05%, 3 year average. Total Pledges received of \$34,837 are 18.34% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016 compared to 13.79%, 3 year average. Received \$21,100 in prepaid pledges in 2015 toward 2016, reorded in January 2016.

B – 1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$16,772) in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$4,310) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$16,350). Excellent start to a New Year!

C – 1 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$259,390 at 01/31/2016 compared to \$242,707 at 12/31/2015 and \$258,106 at 01/31/15.

D- 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

Kathleen moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Susi. All were in favor. Report was approved.

Moderator's Report:

Alex sent his report to council. Highlights of that report are as follows:

Moderator's Report and Comments, January activity
Feb. 09, 2016

On Feb 03, Pastor David and I met to discuss our challenges and successes of the past month and plans for the upcoming Lenten Season and Holy Week. It was encouraging to hear that, although we may share a Good Friday afternoon service with another UCC church as we have in the past, we will also have one of our own in the evening. There will also be some sort of Maundy Thursday service. We discussed a range of other issues and topics as usual.

We both felt that the learning from the Michael Piazza presentation in Elgin was worthy of at least a brief synopsis and discussion at our next council meeting, and I volunteered to go through the 156 PowerPoint slides and reduce them to a manageable number and concentrate on only one or two topics. Piazza's presentation in many ways mirrored much of the "Real Good Church" book that was distributed to council recently.

We also discussed the upcoming visit of a missionary family from Guatemala, and it was great to hear that we may have a young adults group forming. Then, based on questions and comments from the Janual meeting, we discussed the congregation's eventual role in *affirming* the pastoral choice of their delegated Search and Call Committee after hearing the chosen candidate's sermon.

We also discussed a post-Sunday-Service activity, "Theology on Tap", which will soon get off the ground.

Moderator Elect: Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month with updated fundraising plan and an updated calendar.

'Janual' Mtg. - Fundraising

Prepared and presented a LHC Fundraising Plan at the meeting that listed events/projects, dates, \$\$goals, and contacts for raising the \$30,000 to fund our Outreach commitment for the 2016 Budget.(Updated List was attached)

2016 Church Calendar

Worked with Lori P. to modify and update church calendar for the entire 2016 year. A 'Year-at-a-Glance' calendar will be posted in the workroom off of Lori's office and will show major church events to help with planning and communication.(Updated Calendar was attached)

Wayne Walk

Met with General Manager of Dunham Woods Riding Club to discuss this fundraising concept and review possible dates available in October for the reception. The only two Saturdays available are October 8 and 22. Considering weather and other conflicts, the Oct. 8 date has been 'penciled in' pending Tuesday's February Council meeting review.

Communications

Designed and produced two large lawn signs for 'Ashes on the Go,' Pastor David's ministry for Ash Wednesday. All communications for Chili Cook-Off event including bulletin board displayed in the Parish Hall were updated. Designed and ordered two outdoor banners for the Chili Cook-Off that will be on display for the week before the event.

Email blasts: 2016 'Janual' Meeting; Sam Shelton Memorial Service; Agenda for Congregational Meeting; February BTW; and THIS Week at LHC

Social Media: Multiple Facebook postings; 150 'Likes' to date

The Wayne Walk is being planned for October 8, 2016, which is Columbus Day Weekend.

The calendar dates were reviewed. New calendars will be sent to Council.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Frank reported that the family Lenten suppers and programs have been scheduled for Wednesdays, February 24 and March 9 at 6:30 pm. There will be a catered meal and a video presentation with a discussion following.

Also, with the number of new families with young children attending worship recently, there has been some discussion with them to establish a new Sunday school program.

Congregational Life: Barb reported that plans for the Chili Cook-off are progressing and thanked Lori Prang and Kathleen Kaska for the great bulletin board notice and advertising. Also, a Seder / Passover dinner on Maundy Thursday is being considered.

Barb also mentioned the "farm to table" concept that was on Facebook showing a 'successful' fundraiser which incorporated an entire community eating together on one long table. It's an idea for our church to consider in the future.

Kathleen mentioned that a pancake breakfast "flip it forward" as a possible fundraiser idea that she had seen as well.

Evangelism: Two new membership classes are scheduled with a new member Sunday on May 1st.

Facilities: Anne submitted the following written report and was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Chip Braulick reported that the Men's club is planning a work day for May 9th. There may also be a Gardening Angles Spring Clean up on that day as well.

Facilities Report
February 2016

Grant: I submitted the Second Interim Report for the Retirement Research Foundation grant for the power assist door. We have a contract with the custom door manufacturer and the hardware company is reviewing the door plans to assess how their equipment will be integrated. This has been a complicated project and we are optimistic that this project will be underway in the spring.

PH Roof: I am aware of a leak or roof problem in the Parish Hall...just haven't had a chance to call anyone. It seems to become active with high wind and heavy rain. Please let Lori or me know about roofers you can recommend.

Fundraising: Regarding fundraising, I want to ask about the annual appeal that I presume did not go out. It was not mentioned in the minutes from December and we didn't discuss it at the council meeting in January. I have been so preoccupied with family issues that I forgot about it once I sent the draft letter back to you in November. One of the things we discussed last year was that these things take time to gain traction and produce results. I didn't see it on the fundraising plan so I wonder if the council decided to nix the concept?

Interior repair: The men's group suggested that they might be tackling some interior things this weekend. Someone asked about the stain on the wallpaper in the larger bathroom near the kitchen. I tried to clean it, but it seems to maybe be a water stain. If people feel strongly about the small, but unsightly stain, my suggestion is to remove the wallpaper and just paint the walls. White is fine. This might be an additional project the men's group could take on.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin was unable to attend tonight's meeting. However, she reported through an email, that the Food Pantry at Resurrection Church will be distributing Easter dinners on Saturday, March 19. Our church has committed to supplying 45 meals. The sign-up sheets will be dropped off at the church office the week of February 22.

Stewardship: Bob was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Kathleen reported that he has been busy with the plans for fundraising.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Susi reminded the council that Ash Wednesday potluck and service is tomorrow night and encouraged everyone to come. Susi asked for volunteers for ushers as well as for Fellowship.

The Men's Group: The Men's Breakfast on March 12th plans to have breakfast with men from the Mosque. Location for the breakfast is still to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS:

Search and Call Carol reported the committee is looking at five 'active' candidates. There will be two interviews next week of the five. Another 'second' interview will be the following week. Alex provided additional details.

Re-visioning: There was nothing new to report since the Annual Meeting.

Personnel Relations Committee: Due to the fact the staff had not yet been formally reviewed nor spoken to in the wake of an approved budget for the year (no raises), a concern was raised as to what the Personnel Relations Committee has been doing and if they have been meeting. Susi Winqvist responded that the committee has not met recently. David mentioned that Paul Figge had offered to assist the committee as a human resources consultant, his profession. David also reminded the council not to forget to discuss and review the employees' performance and wages each year at the annual council budget meeting. Also, the Personnel Relations Committee should finish their development of a job descriptions and review procedures in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn by Frank and seconded by Ann M.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:02 p.m.:

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk