

Little Home Church by the Wayside

January 26, 2014 Congregational Meeting

Moderator Kathy Haben called the meeting to order at 10:48 am. Pastor Purser led the congregation in prayer.

Approval of the June 2013 congregational meeting with no changes was motioned by Art Zwemke and seconded by Jim Winquist.

Pastor Purser had shared he was retiring effective June 30, 2014, during the announcements in the service prior to the meeting and expanded his comments to thank the congregation for its patience and love during the last year with the various issues that challenged us. He thanked the ministries and Art Zwemke for all of his years of service with the small and large budget issues. He recognized that when a pastor moves on to another congregation that pastor isn't in a position to be of assistance during the transition to a new pastor; however, a retiring pastor has more opportunities to help smooth the change and he promised to do all that he could. He has enjoyed his 13+ years with LHC and has tried to minister to the community as well, as should the next pastor.

Art Zwemke presented the financial status of LHC as well as the ramifications of owning the two properties adjacent to LHC. He explained that Ann McLaughlin received the church revenue and he wrote the checks and did the budget. He led the congregation through the changes of deficits and anticipated deficit from 1012 through 2014. Bottom line is a projected deficit of \$52,545 for 2014. Each year he encourages all ministries to create a budget based on their needs. He acknowledged Mary Roach and her committee for the \$17,000+ proceeds from the Dunham Castle tour which would have put the financial picture in the positive had not the facilities budget been in excess of \$20,000 due to urgent repairs in 2013. The addition of new members was offset by the loss of some long-term members deaths and some who left as a result of the ONA being approved. We have 63 pledges totaling \$163,312 in hand for 2014 which is one less pledge from 2013 but is \$9,108 more than last year. The average pledge for 2014 was up to \$2,576 from 2013's \$2,357. The budget also reflected the anticipated cost of having our \$100,000 line of credit was much less than anticipated as there was no draw down, just the minimal cost for the line of credit. See attached treasurer's report for details.

As the staff had not received a salary increase for three years he recommended a 3% increase for 2014. Pastor Purser graciously declined his and it was noted he also has been paying about \$7,200 in insurance premiums.

Regarding the Dixon and Peterson houses, Art explained the sale offers and how LHC septic field may be located on the Peterson property, continued maintenance/repairs for both houses,

and continual rental income payment delays on Dixon house, taxes and insurance created a \$200,512 deficit from prior years through projected 2017. Marilyn Poole suggested a process they used to locate the Peterson septic field. The Petersen house was originally purchased for about \$216,000 and the Dixon house for \$185,200. It is anticipated that if they are sold now they will be reduced to net \$154,750 and \$68,500 after closing and other necessary costs. A small piece of the Dixon house may be sold with a net of perhaps \$3,500. Art later added that there would be real estate tax credits of \$11,000 if the houses sold in near future.

Old Business: Updates of the Peterson and Dixon houses were included in the budget report.

Other Old Business was an update by Nancy Alex on the LHC Endowment Fund. She explained that many institutions have endowment funds and while anyone is welcome to make a small or large contribution to the LHC Endowment Fund, normally such a fund received contributions in the way of bequeaths when a member dies. That your LHC pledge is primary and normally fulfilled with annual income. The purpose of the Endowment survey was to get a snapshot of where LHC is. She read the results of the survey including Question 3: In the future I intend to include LHC in my will/trust with 13 Yes, 6 No and 4 Not Sure and 5 Left Blank. Question 4: LHC is already included in my estate planning: 8 Yes, 19 No, 1 No but hope to. She said one of the trustees shared that LHC is included in their estate planning but not until both have passed. She explained the UCC Endowment manual says if a family's financial has been secured with estate planning, a normal part of that is for the attorney to ask which charitable organizations did they want to include. She thanked those who had already included LHC in their estate planning and asked for each of us to prayerfully think about adding LHC to their will in the future. Also, to complete a survey if you hadn't yet.

New Business: Kathy Haben discussed a UCC New Beginnings program which is an assessment of where LHC is and would cost \$2,700 to \$3,800. She thought it would be a good time to do this with while we search for a new pastor.

Ann Michlaughlin moved that we adjourn the meeting following pastor's closing prayer. It was seconded by Bob Schless.

Pastor led the congregation in prayer.

Meeting adjourned 12:15.

Submitted by Nancy Alex

January 28, 2014