

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
January 8, 2013

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Kathy Haben, Karen Hansen, Lori Haseltine, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Wally Setlock, Jane Shelton, Art Zwemke Guests: Karen Ashe, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska

Absent: Peter Gatsch, Bob Kaska, Gianna Marchese

Wally Setlock began the meeting at 7:09 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 December minutes. Marilyn Poole asked to have the minutes reflect she was not in attendance at the December meeting. Ann M. moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Jane. The minutes were approved with all ayes.

Petersen House Update: Karen Ashe explained she had a showing of the Petersen house on Sunday, the only showing for a month. The interested party has a contingency and has not been able to sell her house. Another home in Wayne started at \$199,900 and sold at \$125,000. A similar home on Will Way, which has a much bigger lot but also needs work, is selling for \$221,900. Karen suggested that we lower the price from \$222,500 as we will probably sell it for less. She said that the house looks good, but the general market conditions are slow. Art suggested that we list the house for \$199,000. He also suggested we put a 'House For Sale' sign on the corner for the traffic on Army Trail Road. Art said the expenses are \$750 each month to keep that house. Ann moved we lowered the price to \$199,900. Wally seconded and motion carried with all ayes. Wally will work out the details with Karen tomorrow.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron informed the council that the Dixon home rental payments are now up to date. We need to consider selling the Dixon house as the two year lease will end soon. Nancy Fraley is going to be ordained at St. Michael's UCC in West Chicago on February 10 at 3:00 p.m. and if anyone plans to attend, please RSVP. Ron is working on getting some revenue from members and friends of the church to cover costs this year.

Treasurer's Report: Art reported we exceeded our planned receipts for 2012! We had a total of \$236,592 which was \$14,092 more than total budgeted receipts of \$222,500. The current (not final) YTD deficit for 2012 is (\$16,337) vs. a projected deficit of (\$37,395). While we are better than plan for 2012, we look a bit worse than 2011 because 2011 had the Matching Gift Program that totaled \$45,000. Art had prepared the State Bank of Geneva line of credit renewal. The rental income for 2012 is lower due to the absence of rent on the Peterson house, but expenses were reduced on almost all ministries. Some additional checks have been received and are not reflected on these statements, so the deficit will be less. We can charge some capital expenses to the renovation fund and the lawn maintenance to the landscape fund. Art reviewed the final expenses in detail for 2012 and the expected deficit.

Art then reviewed the budget numbers for 2013. Our pledges for 2013 are lagging at \$130,624 and the budget is reflecting a total of \$160,000. Art stated there may be some calls that need to be made to increase pledges. Total budgeted revenue for 2013 is \$224,500. The budget reflects no staff increases (for the third year in a row). No money was borrowed against the line of credit last year and 2013 has a budgeted interest expense of \$3,500 for that purpose. Line items were discussed based on expectations for 2013. The facilities budget was increased by \$4,000 for landscaping expenses. Ann explained that the decision to sell the Dixon house was previously deferred and we need ask the congregation if we should hold the house or put it on the market. The budget reflects rent for 12 months and we need to decide if we want the lease to extend after June. After much discussion, Ann made a motion to reflect rental income in the budget for only 6 months and present the sale of the Dixon house to the congregation at the Janual meeting. Carol seconded. Motion approved with all ayes. This will be an agenda item for the Janual meeting on January 20. Art would like final budget changes by Monday, January 14 in order to get the information prepared for the Janual meeting. Art explained that our current outreach budget of \$24,000 is 15% of pledges which are \$160,000. He stated the good news is we closed the deficit for 2012 and we exceeded the revenue for 2012. However, we still are faced with a deficit for 2013. Motion to approve the December statements and the budget for 2013 as presented, subject to discussed amendments, was made by Ann and seconded by Lori. Motion approved with all ayes. Ann moved to approve the line of credit with State Bank of Geneva for \$100,000 for one year and was seconded by Nancy. Motion approved with all ayes.

Janual Meeting Ministry Reports and Agenda: Previously discussed above in Treasurer's Report

Dixon Home Renters: Previously discussed above in Pastor's Report and Treasurer's Report.

Open and Affirming (ONA) Update: Anne reported that there is no specific plan for Sunday's meeting and Wally suggested that we have an open committee meeting for an open forum. Ann said there are some speakers being scheduled for the future. Ron would like to do a Bible Study class on what the Bible says relative to ONA to help clarify the issue for everyone. Study sessions are scheduled for January 13 and January 27 after worship. Art asked if we will be ready to bring a vote to the congregation by June of 2013 and suggested we set a date and work backwards. Anne said that we would have a better idea of where we are by April and the usual process is two years. Nancy said we need to get people involved at meetings and Bible studies so everyone can make educated decisions.

December Deferred Discussion Re: Secession form UCC: Deferred to February meeting due to absence of Peter Gatsch and time constraints.

Moderator's Report: Discussed above

Moderator Elect's Report: Kathy Haben inquired as to the status of the 'Council To Do List' and Wally said everything has been completed except the doors for the Parrish Hall. Kathy asked about the possible 3rd party follow-up process as to why members are not attending church. Nancy suggested that someone from the church should call them sooner, before they are no longer involved. It was decided it should be handled by Congregational Life.

Ministry Reports: Already discussed or deferred to next meeting due to time constraints.

New Business: Kathleen discussed the 2013 Church Calendar draft that was distributed at the meeting and will be provided at each council meeting in the future. Any changes or additions should be given to Lori Prang in the office.

Old Business: Anne reminded everyone that the Chili Cook Off is Saturday night, January 12. Ann M. said the pledge update for 2013 is at 55 pledges for a total of \$132,624. This time last year we had 57 pledges at \$149,000. It was suggested by Anne that we have a letter go out with last year's pledge information and announcing the canvas pledge drive.

Move to adjourn by Lori seconded by Ann. Meeting adjourned at 9:50. The closing prayer was given by Pastor Ron.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk