

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
January 12, 2016

In Attendance: Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Ann McLaughlin, Frank Muno, David Russell, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Absent: Jane Shelton, Alex Kentfield

Moderator Elect Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:06 pm. Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor David Russell gave an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A couple corrections were made to the December minutes. Susi moved to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Ann M. Minutes approved.

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

- The weekend of the pageant I was in Pennsylvania at a **family wedding and get together**. It was so rewarding to reconnect with my brother's (deceased) four kids and their families.
- I delivered **poinsettias and visited** Ardis Redmond, Dulie ware and Donna Voightman. They enriched my spirit with their wonderful "gifts" of wisdom and faith. Also been collaborating with Valerie to help Richard Olson get the care he needs.
- The **Cantata** on Dec. 20 was an amazing spiritual; experience for me and many others. The music was more than excellent it was true worship! Hats off to Larry et al!! (it was also great to sit in the pew ☺)
- **Xmas Eve services went well**. It was a privilege to celebrate another Christmas Eve with you.
- During **my staycation** between Xmas and New Year's we hosted family, visited museums, saw "Potted Potter" and "Beautiful". Since then I've been catching up on sleep☺
- We have had some **deaths in our LHC family**: Dulie Ware (memorial service here in 2-4 weeks); both Susannah and Mark Lesswing have lost their fathers (services out of the area); and Kathy Haben's dad, funeral held last Saturday in Streamwood.
- The **Re-visioning Team** is on track getting ready to interview community leaders and understand how LHC can better serve our "neighbors".
- I have invited **UCC missionaries to visit LHC on Sunday 2/14** when Gloria Vicente will take the pulpit to tell the story of our church's mission in Guatemala.

Little Home Church Men's Group Events 2016

Saturdays February 13 **or** March 12 – Interfaith Breakfast with men from Ahmadiyya mosque

Saturday April 9? – LHC Spring Clean and Fix Up

Saturday May 14? – Blessing of the Bikes (at LHC? and/or at a Dealer?)

Sunday June 11 – 1pm Cougars Game, All Church Outing

Saturday August 27 – All Community Shrimp Boil (fundraiser)

Sunday September 11 – Outdoor worship and picnic at Pratt Wayne Woods

Friday-Saturday October 7-8 – Men's retreat

During Council, David asked that the Council share what they learned and noted from reading "Real Good Church". Some of the items that were mentioned were:

- David - During worship service, we could share stories more in order to continue and grow.
- Valeri – Outreach and Social Justice. (Chapter 5 page 72)...that the mission giving that the church mentioned in the book was the most important thing that continued to keep the church together. Therefore, she reminded everyone that we should not underestimate the importance of mission giving.
- Kathleen – Caution needs to be taken with our use of words, so that everyone knows what we are saying. We often use words in our services and printed materials that make sense to members of the church but not necessarily to outsiders. Such words such as "narthex" or "fellowship" were mentioned. Using words familiar to everyone makes potential members visitors more comfortable in church. Kathleen plans to incorporate the idea into our materials and encouraged everyone else to do so too.
- Also, the book mentioned that times are always changing and that the congregation should keep an open mind to new ideas for using space or other ideas.
- ONA was mentioned in the book as another important factor that helped the church attract members.
- Kristen mentioned that simple changes include encouraging members to wear nametags to make visitors and new members feel more comfortable. Also, it is impressive to make new nametags for regular visitors, even if they haven't joined yet. It may make them to feel a part of the church, encouraging them to join.
- Kristen – Good signage also makes visitors more comfortable because they don't feel as sense of being lost or in a foreign place

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke submitted the treasurer's report for December and 2015. The cover sheet for the report is as follows which states the contents of the report and Art's comments. The complete report is available from the office.

Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2015

A-1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$224,590 is 91.67% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000. Total pledges received of \$163,294 are 96.06% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000. *Received \$30,875 toward Budget Deficit from Challenge Match.*

B -1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$23 ,921) in 2015 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$50,499) in 2014 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$33,295). *Without the Challenge Match of \$30,875, the Operating Loss would have been (\$54, 796)! These are preliminary numbers as we have not received the statements from TD Waterhouse and the UCC Fund as yet from 12/31/2015 and Investment Income in the 4'h quarter should reduce the operating loss, maybe \$5, 000+/-.*

C- 1 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$242,162 at 12/31/2015 compared to \$263,666 at 12/31/2014. *Again, this will improve with the 4'h quarter Investment Income included.*

D- 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

E- 1 Outreach Ministry Tracking

F - 1 - F - 2 Operating Budget Comparisons and 2016 Human Resource Budget. *Column 1 = 2014 Actual, Columns 2 - 4 = 2015 Budget, Actual and Variances and Columns 5 & 6 = 2016 Budget, variances from 2015 Budget and 2015 Actual. Added \$4,000 for New Pastor starting 07/10/2016, no raises for staff*

At the meeting, Art reviewed the report. He noted that we are in good financial status because we have a lot of funds in various accounts that have not been used. He reminded the council that if there is a big need for funds to do something, there is money in various funds that could be tapped upon to cover the expense that may not have been budgeted for.

Bob moved to approve the treasurer's report December 2015 Financial Report which was seconded by Chip Braulick. It was noted that some of the financial figures in the report are preliminary, waiting for statements from investment companies and banks. All were in favor. The financial report was approved.

Budget Discussion

Art distributed the 2016 budget for approval of the council.

Bob reminded everyone that we no longer can count on the identified contributors giving money as they have in the past. Ann also commented that Pledges are up this year and greatly credits Bob for his stewardship efforts and Carol toward the new members (resulting in new pledges.)

Bob added that the money that people donated during the end of 2015 to the church was with the idea that the church gets its financial affairs in order. Bob suggested that we get our financial affairs in order before increasing our spending. Carol reiterated the comments that she had received from the congregation that questioned why we continue to give away money if we are having to go into a deficit.

Art expressed concern with budgets that were being prepared with not enough money to provide the services needed within the ministries. Art reminded that there is money in various funds that can be used if we have something that needs funding that is not in the initial budget.

The council discussed approving the budget with a \$16,000 deficit. The consensus of the group is that we are ok with the budget. Bob has supplied a plan for fundraising for 2016. Art suggested that the plan be shared with the congregation at the annual meeting.

Kathleen plans to give a presentation at the Annual meeting regarding the fundraising plans.

Pastor David suggested, as part of the fund-raising, that our local missions make Sunday presentations with a request for the congregation to give directly to the mission after the presentations. Therefore, those contributions would add to our giving to various missions but would not be part of the operating budget. However, it was mentioned that we may consider doing this with care so we do not to create “donor fatigue” of frequent requests for money.

Susi moved that the council approve the proposed 2016 budget with the understanding that budget numbers will be revised to increase the facilities budget by \$1400 by reducing the human resources budget by \$1400. Frank seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

‘Janual’ Meeting, January 31: Council will provide refreshments, It was determined that quorum number is 33. (20% of the active 165 church members)

Moderator’s Report:

Alex sent the following report to council for his activity for the past month. Alex was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

On Dec. 21, I had my December monthly meeting with Pastor David. Moderator-elect, Kathleen Kaska, also attended as she will chair the January council meeting in my absence. We discussed a range of issues and topics as usual. Among them again was the book, “Real Good Church”, which, with David’s encouragement, I read. At the December council meeting, I briefly shared my thoughts on that enlightening book and presented one specific idea from it that I feel applies to our church: the need to have more outward focused events on an annual basis. There will be further discussion of the book at the January council meeting, with others asked to share a thought or idea from the book that they feel is applicable to LHC.

We also discussed the concept of a post-Sunday-Service, “Theology on Tap” monthly gathering, much like our Men’s Group Saturday get-togethers.

The church budget process was also a topic, and we felt that some sort of graphical presentation of the data to the congregation (in addition to the usual spread-sheets) might better explain our fiscal status and activities.

I brought both Kathleen and David up to date on the search and call team's activities, and thanked David for his continued patience with the team.

Moderator Elect: Kathleen Kaska submitted the following report for the past month.

Meeting with Moderator and Pastor

Alex Kentfield, Pastor David and I met for lunch to discuss agenda items for the January Council meeting because Alex will be out of town (enjoying frequent reminders that he's in Hawaii) and I will need to lead the meeting.

BTW and Email messaging re-design

Re-designed new templates for the church online ByTheWay and email blasts as a fresh start to 2016. The templates incorporate more interactive functioning and will focus on both news delivery and inviting people to participate in LHC. The messaging will be more outward and less insular...speaking to people who do not know us as well as our church buddies.

De-hanging the Greens

Bob, Frank Munro and I got ahead of the snowy weather forecasted for Saturday night and Sunday, and had fun clearing away the greens/decorations in and out of the sanctuary. We even did a little work in the attic...yikes!

Budget Committee

Worked with Stewardship and Treasurer to formulate a 'Budget Blueprint' for the 2016 Budget discussion at the January council meeting. Also began a Fundraising Budget plan with Stewardship to be a part of that discussion.

'Real Good Church'

Actually finished reading this book Pastor David and Alex gave the Council. It did inspire some ideas/perspective changes for our church...(but still want to add an 'ly' in the title).

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Frank announced that Feb. 28 will be the first "Theology on Tap."

Congregational Life: The chili cook-off will be Saturday, Feb. 27.

Evangelism: No specifics to report. Ann M. will be following up with people who visited during the holidays for whom we have names and addresses.

Facilities: Anne submitted a written report for December. Items on her report include the following.

Completed:

- Created ongoing contract for salt delivery for softeners
- Repaired exterior door near kitchen
- Purchased draft "snakes" for PH and sanctuary doors

Working on:

- Pew door repairs
- Final drawing and contracts for power assist door in PH

- Check all furnace filters
- Maintenance contract for HVAC systems (previous contractor has retired)
- Service for generators (may be under warranty)
- Maintenance contract for Exit light light bulbs and batteries
- Cost assessment for all repairs needed on all buildings

To Do:

- Complete kitchen door repair
- Stump grinding in front of GH (spring project)
- Planting replacement (memorial) tree in front of GH (spring project)
- Bids for concrete repair and stone wall ramp
- Bids for roof between sanctuary and Guild House
- Building contents inventory for insurance
- Repair of railings and stairs of GH
- Install air conditioner in Bride's Room in Guild House (next spring)
- Repair locking mechanism on north door in Parish Hall
- Replace glass circle on one chandelier in PH
- Repair/replace vent for stovetop in kitchen
- Repair roof and additional exterior wood on the box bay on the southeast corner of the Guild House
- Create specs for repair/replacement of fire escape door on second floor of Guild House

Outreach: Valeri submitted the following report for the past month.

- Community Crisis Center - Happily accepted our donated soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower cap, lotion and other toiletries that hotels put out on the bathroom vanity.
- Feeding Northwest DuPage – Another successful food drive. LHC donated 45 meals.
- Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice - No new activity to report.
- Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans – Big thanks to the Avent Tea ladies who raised \$469 to benefit Tammy's Trace. I spoke with Jane, Executive Director, and she wanted me to pass along her thanks and sincere appreciation.
- Renz Addiction Counseling Center - No new activity to report.
- Transitional Housing - No new activity to report.
- Playdate – The popularity of Play Date continues to grow in attendance thanks to Nancy and all those who provide their support. Following are the activities that took place in December.
 - December 14th the "Bee Man" showed how to separate honey from the honey comb and included sample tastings from different kinds of honey. The kids learned some interesting sweet tidbits about bees.
 - December 21st Play Date was visited by the "Baker Man" (aka Rik). The kids had fun with their "hands on" decorating Santa reindeer cookies, making Christmas ornaments, and listening to Christmas stories.
 - December 28th Gianna Marchese visited the class, along with two of her college friends, dressed in their Frozen costumes. Their beautiful voices filled the nursery

with joy as they led the class in singing popular Frozen songs The Wayne Examiner was sent pictures. A repeat performance is being planned for the spring.

Stewardship: Pledged money in at higher amount than in the past which has helped our budget situation.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Susi is helping Jane with WSG. She is presently coordinating the pulpit associates and ushers.

Members at Large/ Communications:

OLD BUSINESS:

Search Committee is still reviewing resumes. They interviewed a candidate last week and did a second interview for a candidate. The committee continues to get three to four profiles every three weeks. They are still considering four profiles and are meeting weekly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ann announced that there will be a Valentine's Day College Care boxes.

A UCC missionary family will be visiting LHC on Sunday, February 14. David asked if anyone could host the family on Saturday night. Valeri offered to host the family for the night at her home if they needed a place to stay.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn by Ann M. and seconded by Bob. All approved.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk