

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
January 17, 2017

**In Attendance:** Carol Berger, Barb Braulick, Karen Kaluzsa, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

**Absent:** Valeri Baldwin, Anne Bouchard, Chip Braulick, Ann McLaughlin,

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:17 pm. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

**Approval of Minutes:** No corrections were made to the December minutes. Jane S. moved to approve the minutes. Susi seconded the motion . All were in favor. Minutes approved.

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

January Pastor's Report

Sisters & Brothers,

As of Jan 1, I have served as your pastor for six months. The time seemed to go quickly, and I am beginning to feel settled in, though hopefully not complacent.

Advent and Christmas worship went very well, thanks to our wonderful staff and a host of dedicated volunteers. The Cantata and Christmas Pageant went well as did the lasagna dinner were well attended. My first Christmas Eve at Little Home Church was wonderful, as far as I was concerned. Though the content of the early and late services were almost identical, they were slightly different in character and spirit. Larry performed an instrumental recital as prelude that was lovely, and a number of others contributed their talents at the late service. In our staff discussion, we thought it might be a good idea to offer childcare for the early service, if that is feasible.

Three worship services in less than 24 hours was a bit challenging, though Christmas morning was better attended than Larry or I expected. New Year's day was similarly a pleasant surprise. Our new Blue Christmas service went quite well, with wonderful solos contributed by Jen Haseltine and Mary Alice Roach. We intend to offer it again this year. In preparation for Lent we are planning a special Fat Sunday service which will take place in Parish Hall over a pancake breakfast which the Men's group has agreed to prepare.

The men's group met this past Saturday or the monthly men's breakfast at Colonial Cafe, to an excellent turnout. There was much discussion of better communication with the congregation about enhanced activities. The discussion was still in progress when I left to attend the field trip to Fermilab. While not as well attended, it was an excellent and inspiring event for Epiphany Season. Many thanks to Lori Haseltine for guiding us.

In February we will begin our experiment in mid-week programming: Wednesday Dinner Date by the Wayside. I will cook a light supper. We will offer children's

activities/childcare on the night of choir practice. I will offer an adult ed class in Christian basics. At the end of the month we will reassess/evaluate and take it from there.

At council, Pastor Richard wanted to let everyone know that Karen Kaluzsa is running for the St. Charles Library board.

He also wanted council to know about the Wednesday night “Dinner Date By the Wayside” which is mentioned in his report above. It will be held every Wednesday during the month of February. Dinner at will be at 6:30 with a class following at 7:30. Choir practice will begin around 7:00pm as well. Pastor Richard will provide the food for the first Wednesday.

He also noted that last Wednesday’s Bible Study at 10:00 am was extremely well attended with 16 people in attendance.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Art Zwemke submitted the year end treasurer’s report for 2016. The cover of that report is as follows. A complete copy of the report is available from the office.

Treasurer’s Report  
December 31, 2016

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$246,140 is 99.25% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000. Total Pledges received of \$179,167 are 94.30% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016. 2017 Pledges to date are \$163,000, used \$175,000 for 2017 Operating Budget. Prepaid Pledges only \$4,350 compared to \$21,100 last year.

**B – 1 - B - 6** Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$21,041) in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$21,520) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$16,350). Note that Investment Income for 2016 is \$14,329 compared to a loss of (\$2,830) in 2015. This is a \$17,159 favorable swing from 2015 to 2016 for a line item that is not budgeted.

**C – 1** Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$212,619 at 12/31/2016. This is net of a (\$21,041) Operating Fund deficit and a (\$4,290) Historic Preservation Fund deficit. The Roof Repair Project of \$25,240 was funded by the Renovation Fund and Paint Fund.

**D - 1** Consolidated Fund Activity – Cleaned up Special Projects and Specified Fund. Transferred surpluses of \$2,897 and \$928, respectively to Operating Fund.

Treasurer's cover continued

E – 1 Outreach – All paid!

F – 1 – F – 2 Human Resources and Operating Budget Comparison.  
Projected 2017 Operating Fund Deficit of (\$42,725) due to a forecasted decrease in Revenue of (\$12,140) and increase in Expenses of \$9,544 compared to 2016 actual results.

At council, Art reviewed the report and the proposed budget. Susi moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Bob. All were in favor. Report approved.

### **2017 Budget Discussion**

Since Art presented a budget with a \$42,725 deficit, discussion followed regarding how we could change the budget to reduce the deficit. After much discussion, it was determined that we could increase our income by budgeting to collect \$5000 of the \$14,014 unpaid 2016 pledges and to add an Outreach Pledge fund of \$7,500 which would be made by a Spring campaign or other fundraiser. On the expense side, our church could give \$5,000 less money to UCC for their missions and outreach, allowing us to keep our local charities donation budget intact. Also, we will reduce the facilities proposed budget by \$7650 which is still a \$5000 increase from last year. And, it was decided to reduce the WSG budget by approx. \$3000 to \$20,000, which is more than last year. Everyone was in agreement.

Bob Kaska reminded everyone that our concern for the future is that we need raise more income through pledges from new members since we no longer have the number of identified contributors as we have had in the past. He suggested that at every month's council meetings, we discuss new members. He suggested a theme of "50 new members by 2020" be our new theme.

Bob K. moved to approve the first draft of the 2017 proposed operating budget with the following amendments; increase 'prior year pledges' income to \$5000, add an Outreach Pledge income fund of \$7500, reduce the facilities expense to \$45,000, reduce the Outreach expense by \$5,000 (from the UCC Contribution line), reduce the WSG expense to \$20,000. Total income: \$246,000 Total Operating Expense: \$260,725. Total Deficit: \$14,725. Jane seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### **Moderator's Report:**

Kathleen Sullivan Kaska submitted the following report:

#### **LHC Restoration Project**

—Joined meeting w/Sharp Architects, Schramm Construction, Anne Bouchard, Chip Braulick, Rev. Richard, Andrea Ferguson, and Rik Alex on Dec. 20 to review LHC property renovation projects for the purpose of budget estimating

**January BTW; email marketing; web site; social media**

—Helped compile, edit and produce online LHC newsletter

—Produced email blasts: Blue Christmas service; ‘Last Minute Help Needed’ outreach; and 2017 ‘Janual’ Meeting

**Personnel Relations Committee**

—Met with Kathy Haben, Alex Kentfield, Susi Winqvist and Rev. Richard Malmberg on Jan. 5 for the 2016 HR review. It was decided that 85% of the \$2,500 contribution to the Sabbatical Fund would be made. A meeting will be planned to identify 2017 goals to add to the continuing three goals outlined initially.

—Committee will also finalize all staff job descriptions and the Human Resource Policy document for review by Council and official adoption.

**New Beginnings/Re-visioning**

—Congregational meeting will be planned for the spring to present a ‘wrap-up’ of this initiative

—Team will develop a powerpoint presentation and celebration for this meeting

—Progress/plans will be reviewed at the February Council meeting

Kathleen reported briefly reviewed her report. Valeri is currently working on several items for some of the mission actions.

**Moderator Elect:** Anne Bouchard submitted a report for Facilities for the past month. She was absent at the council meeting. See Facilities for report.

**MINISTRY REPORTS**

**Christian Education:** No report.

**Congregational Life:** Barb discussed dates for the Chili Cook-off with the council, and it was decided that the event will be Feb 11. Barb also mentioned that a summer event, possibly a *Pig-nic* or a *Farm to Table* event is being considered. For the summer event, a band/garden party was suggested. A tentative date of Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> was set.

**Evangelism:** No report. Ann McLaughlin was absent.

**Facilities:** Anne Bouchard was absent. She submitted the following report for the past month.

Facilities report:

I appreciate everyone's help with the de-hanging of the greens. It made a big difference for the week's clean up that all was done on the 8th. Thank you.

Other news:

- Roof was completed in three days and just before Xmas.
- We are working on repairing the ceiling leaks and insulation problems over the kitchen area.
- We are covering our cleaning needs for the moment (probably 2 - 3 months) with two people who need service hours.

- We resolved a problem with the power flush toilet.

#### 150th Anniversary Renovations Report:

Brandon Eberhardt (Schramm Const. Co.) is working on ball park estimates for our most immediate renovation needs and we are also looking at a couple remodeling projects. These projects are just ideas at this point, grown out of our assessment phase with the architects. I think we will want to consider them closely as we move forward and implement our ideas for New Beginnings as well as any other ideas which will fuel our vitality.

I plan to make a report at the Janual meeting, but I think we will need at least one if not two special council meetings to discuss these projects. These projects also require a new contract with Sharp Architects if we decide to proceed. That contract would be for design drawings. This is tricky because we would like to know what kind of money we are talking about as we approach donors and the congregation. That said, we need to decide about some of these remodeling options sooner rather than later since some work would be done in concert with the renovation work.

**Outreach:** Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report for the activities happening with the charities that we support. She was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

#### **Bridge Communities/Transitional Housing Ministry ([www.bridgecommunities.org](http://www.bridgecommunities.org))**

- A couple of months ago I reported a donation check was not being sent to Bridge like we do with the other Outreach Ministries.

#### **Community Crisis Center ([www.crisiscenter.org](http://www.crisiscenter.org))**

- Join Elgin StandingTogether January 21 Time-2:00-4:00 PM Location-Hemmens Auditorium. Purpose...In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights. Elgin StandingTogether will take place in solidarity with marches and rallies that are occurring throughout the United States. The format is...Elgin Standing Together will begin with a gathering at the Hemmens featuring speeches and music. Followed by a walk (weather permitting). Return to Hemmens for closing ceremony. Co-sponsors-YWCA Elgin Advocacy Committee & Elgin Human Relations Commission.
- Save the date for CCC's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala & Auction fundraiser is being held Saturday, March 11, 2017!

#### **Fox Valley Hands of Hope** (formerly Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice, [www.fvhh.net](http://www.fvhh.net))

- Save the date for Sunday, February 26, at 6 p.m for FVHH Viva Villa Verone Fundraiser being held at 416 Hamilton Street, Geneva. Join the fun filled evening with the Magic of Scott Piner as he entertains and creates a memorable experience with his blend of humor and magical entertainment. Tickets are \$30 and include a delicious Italian buffet and high-energy entertainment. You can purchase tickets by going the website below or by contacting Kathy or Amy at 630-232-2233.

#### **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans ([www.mshv.org](http://www.mshv.org))** – no news to report

#### **Neighborhood Food Pantry** (formerly Feeding Northwest DuPage, [www.stisidoreparish.org](http://www.stisidoreparish.org))

- Today (with the help from my aunt & uncle), we dropped off 108lbs of food!

#### **Play Date ([www.lhc.org](http://www.lhc.org))**

- The new 2017 play date time is Thursday mornings from 10 to 12.

**Renz Addiction Counseling Center** ([www.renzcenter.org](http://www.renzcenter.org)) – no news to report

**Stewardship:** Bob Kaska commented on the budget and the need for more members and pledges. The number of pledges and members is down from last year.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Jane questioned if anyone has applying for the custodian position. It was noted that anyone interested should be contacting Susi and the personnel committee.

**Members at Large:** Carol had nothing new to report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane and seconded by Karen. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk