

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
January 9, 2017

In Attendance:, Louise Aughnay, Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Judy Hopkins, Bob Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Chuck Sbarbaro, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist

Absent: All present!!

Moderator Anne Bouchard began the meeting at 7:05 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 October minutes. Jane moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Louise. All were in favor. Minutes approved. Carol moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Jane. All were in favor. Minutes approved. Valeri moved to approve the December minutes, seconded by Jane. All were in favor. Minutes were approved. October and November minutes were approved at this time because there was no quorum at the past two meetings.

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

At council, Richard reported that he had his first Pastoral Relations meeting today and will continue on a regular basis.

The Meditation Group is meeting, 9-10 on Thursdays, in the Guild house. It's open to all regardless of religious affiliation.

The '3 Kings and 12 Nights Fiesta', was attended by a small group. The greens came down. The service was lively. Fun was had by all. Hopefully, the service will be better attended next year and become an annual event.

Pastor's Report
December 2017

Friends,

As I write, we are in our second week of Advent, in the aftermath of the Xmas Pageant, looking forward to the Cantata, with plans for Blue Christmas, and Christmas Eve. I am pleased to report that we have solid plans to inaugurate a fresh Sunday School effort beginning January 14. We have purchased a One-Room-Schoolhouse curriculum. A roster of volunteer teachers and helpers are signed up through February.

This week I will meet with the Personnel Committee for my annual review. I am happy to report that I have finally met with the pastoral Relations Committee, and hope that we will have monthly meetings. Alex Kentfield has left the PRC to serve on Personnel, and Nancy Schatzeder has agreed to take his place.

My plan is to take the last week of the year off and return in time to prepare for Epiphany and another big year. I did not use any of my continuing education time in 2016 or 2017, but am looking at a conference on science and religion in early 2018 in Saint Paul at the Lutheran Seminary. I will speak with the Personnel about the conference when I meet with them.

Faithfully submitted,
Richard

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Susi Winquist submitted and reviewed the treasurer's report for the past month and for the 2017 year end. Overall financially, the church ended the year in the black. The cover of that report is as follows. A complete copy of the report is available from the office. The letters and numbers represent different parts of the financial report.

Treasurer's Report: December 2017 Financials

A - 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD: **\$265,292 is 107.84% of \$246,000 Budget.** There were \$3,450 pre-paid pledges in December for a total of \$8,150. The LHC Christmas Collection totaled \$2,350.

A - 1 Total Pledge Receipts YTD: **\$172,455 is 95.80% of \$180,000 Budget.** ****Note that the \$180,000 budget included collecting \$5,000 of 2016 pledge money in 2017 of which we only received \$1,680. Keeping that in mind, we actually collected 98.55% of the anticipated \$175,000 2017 pledges.*

B - 1 - 6 Operating Report. Current 2017 YTD Net Income of **\$26,357.** Compare to budgeted Net Income (loss) of (\$14,725). In 2016 the Net Income (loss) thru December was (\$21,040).

C - 1 - 3 Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$250,873 on 12/31/2017.

Compared to last month \$247,342 at 11/30/2017.

Compared to last year at this time \$214,073 at 12/31/2016.

D - 1 - 2 Consolidated Fund Activity. Higher than beginning 2017 balance: \$212,618 on 1/1/17 → \$250,873 on 12/31/17.

E - 1 - 2 Fundraising totals to date: \$33,666. The Women's Advent Tea collection totaled \$584 for Tammy's Trace. Christmas Poinsettia sales netted \$130.

Food Pantry donations YTD \$2,249. \$1,950 has been disbursed which equates to 6 thousand pounds of food buying power. Current collections are at \$299 towards the next \$650 gift.

F - 1 Toys for Tots monetary donations \$1,300; Christmas Fund (Vet of the Cross) donations \$1,355; One Great Hour of Sharing donations from Spring sent to UCC and totaled \$490.

Humbly offered,
Susan F. Winquist
Treasurer

Louise moved to approve the October treasurer's report. Seconded by Lori. All were in favor. Report approved. Valeri moved to approve the November treasurer's report. Seconded by Chip. All were in favor. Report approved. The October and November treasurer's reports were approved at this time because there was no quorum at the past two meetings.

Jane moved to receive the December treasurer's report with gratitude. Seconded by Louise. Report was approved.

The tentative 2018 budget was presented by Susi. Salaries, insurance, and other payroll expenses were reviewed. Council further discussed income. It was suggested to budget for investment income. It was also suggested to add another large fundraiser in 2018 to raise another \$10,000

Louise moved to approve the revised proposed budget, Bob seconded the motion. Proposed budget approved.

It was noticed that donations increased on the special 'sharing' events. The letter and personal appeal may have help to increase donations to those causes such as the "One Great Hour of Giving."

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: The following reports were sent to council.

Lori Haseltine reports...

Christian Ed - Sunday School begins January 14, and I have talked with some of the parents who will be taking turns conducting Sunday School and seeing what they need to make it work. They would like more leader books and 2 bibles to go with the curriculum.

Judy Hopkins reports.....

I personally have not had any Christian Education activities over the past month to report.

Unrelated to CE: a Women's Fellowship is being organized through joint efforts with Anne Bouchard. I have volunteered to chair the group. A preliminary questionnaire was distributed on Sunday to capture opinions and preferences of our women worshippers in advance of the announced organization meeting on January 21.

In late December, I took an additional action related to a matter discussed at the previous Council Meeting which was unrelated to Christian Education. LHC's neighbor, Gene McCormick, offered to display a few paintings in our parish hall for a short period, then change those displayed to others of his. He offers that any that are sold would have their purchase price split 50:50 with LHC. The other half goes to his support of local no-kill animal shelters. We arranged for him to come to see the actual space and facilities available. Pastor Richard, whom he has met, was there also. We strolled around discussing how and where his pictures could be displayed, enjoyably to our Coffee Hour visitors and others during the week, while not creating any pressure to purchase.

Gene has obligations--other exhibits-- through February. So we agreed that a display of his works at LHC would necessarily take place after that. We will keep in contact on this.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick forwarded her report on the upcoming congregational Life Events.

Women's Advent Tea, though not a formal CL event, was well attended and beautifully appointed with food and floral arrangements to compliment the theme of God in Nature.

2018 Chili Cook Off Date: Feb 10

No announcements made yet since we are just coming off of New Years, but expect to be advertising shortly. Would love to introduce live music to the event if anyone knows musicians with a country beat!

Lent: "21 Questions" to be sponsored by Christian Life

Pastor Richard and I discussed having a discussion group themed on 21 specific questions to ask ourselves and answer when the group meets. The study group would meet on a temporary basis just for the duration of the study. We discussed possibly once a week for 3 weeks but nothing confirmed as of yet. It's a great opportunity for people who may not have the time to commit to something longer term but can reap the benefit a short intensive study.

Cards were sent to

Dan Roach and family

Cadence O'Connell

Alie Johnson and family

Spoke to Kay Brynson before Christmas and followed up with a note via FB Messenger after the holiday

Respectfully Submitted
Barbara Braulick

Evangelism: Carol Berger forwarded the following report to council.

Christmas notices were sent to all our visitors in December. I gave a "goody bag" from the church to all pageant participants who are not members of the church. Thanks to Mary, Samantha, and Larry for collecting tons of names for the pageant. I am in the midst of following up with "pageant visitors". This was a great way to introduce LHC to those who are looking for a church home.

I met with Richard, Susannah, Chuck, Maggie, and Anne before Christmas regarding the planning of community projects spear headed by LHC, Chuck S. and Susannah. We are hoping to attract new visitors who might be interested with church-community sponsored projects.

I am accumulating a list for another dinner at my house. Evangelism Sunday will be February 4. I am hopeful to do a dinner on the night of the 4th.

I continue to follow up with visitors.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin sent the following report to Council.

Community Crisis Center

As toiletries pile up in the donation bin, I take the collection to the CCC. For the 2nd years, we also participated in CCC's Coat drive and it was a HUGE success. I filled my car including the trunk, back and front passenger seating areas with bags...my first trip! I eventually made two trips. See the attached picture of our COAT DONATION!

Giving Tree – Big thanks, again, to Lori Prang for working with Jim Winqvist to provide Christmas gifts to the Marine's ToysForTots Foundation. We met our goal of collecting **80 TOYS** for local children. We also collected monetary donations and Anne M. will report on that.

Neighborhood Food Pantry

We delivered 45 Christmas dinners on 12/16. Most of the people I spoke with said they received a thank you call for their donation. If you or someone you know DID NOT get a, I would like to know about it. Thank you calls are an important component of this effort and NFP wants to be sure everyone receives a call. I only found out after the fact that they were short on volunteers to do Thanksgiving thank you calls. I emailed Kathy and let her know I would be happy to help out with Christmas thank you calls. She emailed back and said it looked like they have it covered, but would let me know if they needed any assistance.

By the end of November total monetary collection was \$2,024. That said, LHC sent three checks, \$650.00 each, which totaled 6,000lbs of food. We have ~\$80 towards our next check.

In 2017, I dropped off 121lbs of non-perishable food.

Open Door Health Center

Jacob Harshbarger, coordinator, is confirmed to provide a Mission Moment on January 14th.

On January 5th, Jacob invited LHC to be part of the collaboration planning for National Week of Prayer (NWoP) for the Healing of AIDS. The NWoP is observed the first week of March (3/4-3/10). He's also reaching out to all of the LGBT friendly and affirming churches to create events throughout in the McHenry to Aurora coverage area. The event might be a luncheon with keynote speakers, an evening of stories shared on a panel, or any other suggestions are welcome. I forwarded the invite to Anne and we plan to discuss WoP with Jacob on the 14th.

Bridge Communities

I spoke with Susannah Lesswing during Fellowship January 7th about the options we have for Once & Done Projects in which some are listed below. She is going to get back to me on how she plans to proceed.

“Once and Done” volunteering opportunities –

Bridge Communities

Giving Party - to benefit the client families, be a part of the **GIVING PARTY** birthday. Party guests will participate in activities from What's It Like to Be Homeless, Educational Curriculum and receive Bridge Communities token gifts for a party 'goodie bag'. In lieu of (or in addition to) traditional birthday gifts, your guests will bring a gift for a family or child. Gift suggestions include:

Roll of quarters – the leased apartment building has laundry facilities and a roll of quarters is a way to help the family clean their clothes.

Gift cards - provide that extra bit of help with gift cards to food stores and retailers (Wal-Mart, Target, Kohl's).

Gasoline cards - every client family must work or attend school so extra help paying for gasoline is much appreciated.

New Books & Games - both of these make great **GIVING PARTY** gifts to share with Bridge kids for their own birthdays or other special occasions.

Family fun certificates - every family wants to create special memories spending time together, but many family-fun activities can be too expensive for Bridge families. A day at a local amusement park, zoo, movies or museum make great gifts the whole Bridge family can enjoy.

Community Crisis Center

- **Food rescue** - picking up food donations at nearby restaurants/businesses.
- **Group Activity** - Bingo, board game, movie, arts & crafts, or cookie baking night (see attached).
- **Shelter Dinner** – Bring in a meal, having it catered, prepare meal onsite (see attached).

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

- **Yard work** at Tammy's Trace (mulch, annual flower planting in May).
- **Spring cleaning** for Veteran houses.

Neighborhood Food Pantry Monday and Thursday 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, Tuesday 1:00-4:00, Saturday 8:00-11:00

- **Volunteer hours** – stock shelves, organize donations, help guests collect their groceries

Play Date – January 2nd was the first play date for 2018 and given the influx of children in 2017, the year is off to a great start!

Stewardship: Bob Kaska sent the following January 2018 report to council.

2017 Stewardship Campaign

Our “Journey of Generosity” Stewardship Campaign started on October 19th with our first letter to the Congregation, followed by a second letter and pledge card mailed on November 1st. Our Stewardship Sunday event occurred on November 12th with a Portillio's brunch hosted by the Ministry. The total of Pledges is expected to be \$176,000.00

Financial Responsibility Task Force

We have started regular meetings of this important group; Anne Bouchard; Chip Braulick; Greg Hege; Bob Kaska; Susannah Lesswing; Susi Winqvist; and Art Zwemke.

We will determine specific goals for the next five years and define the relationship between the Operating Budget, Capital Campaign, and Endowment to achieve a stable Today...Tomorrow...and Future for Little Home Church.

5/15/17 - Initial meeting regarding Stewardship structure; Operating, Endowment, Capital

7/12/17 - Kick-off meeting; assignment of leadership positions; discussion of long term goals.

9/12/17 - Council meeting establishes 125/2.5/35 goals for “three legged stool” of Stewardship

9/22/17 - Letter from Moderator announcing 125/2.5/35 Congregation Meeting 10/8/17

10/1/17 - Call with UCC regarding fundraising

10/4/17 - Call with CCS regarding fundraising

10/6/17 - Coordination meeting for 10/8 presentation
10/8/17 - Presentation of Long Term Stewardship Goals to Congregation: 125/2.5/35
11/13/17 - Meeting to define specific action steps for Annual meeting

Peace be with you,
Robert E. Kaska-
Stewardship Ministry Chair 1/9/18

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton sent the following report to council.

Worship and Spiritual Growth December Report

As per usual December was a busy month for worship.

Starting with the **Women's Advent Tea** we had an excellent worship service with guest preacher Paige Wolfhanger from the Dundee First Congregational in the pulpit. Pastor Paige preached on the theme of Nature and Creation. The Little Home Church Ladies' Choir sang "What a Wonderful World" and Jen Haseltine sang solos. Anne Bouchard was pulpit associate. The reception was beautiful and well stocked.

Hanging of the Greens. Many hands + Food + Kathi Abell = Beautifully decorated church. Thank you!!

Next up, the annual **Christmas Pageant**. I was sorry to miss this event. All reports I received were very positive. Larry Dieffenbach, Mary Roach, Carol Berger, Jen Haseltine, Greg Abell and Samantha Prang took up leadership for the performance and Anne Bouchard, Wanda Hochstetter and others oversaw the Lasagna Dinner. Larry built on relationships spawned at the **Trunk or Treat** event at Halloween. We saw some returning families. YAY!

The **Christmas Cantata**, "Joy" was indeed joyous. Larry led the helm and packed the altar with musicians and singers. Pews were filled to the gills. Beautiful.

The **Blue Christmas** service on December 20th was very meaningful and provided a serene place for people to just sit and worship and remember without feeling like they have to be singing Joy to the World at the tops of their lungs.

I was not in attendance for any of the 3 **Christmas Eve** services but assume they were all fine. Larry engaged the children in lighting the Christ candle which in turn brought out the sad news that an untimely passing had occurred in one of our younger family's family. This provided an opportunity for Richard to connect with the family and help them talk about their trauma. God works in mysterious ways.

The last WSG event to report on was last Saturday, January 6th, the **3 Kings/Epiphany/De-hanging of the Greens**. This was a first time for the church to celebrate epiphany on the actual day. There were enough helpers to take down the greens, but again, I had to leave before the food and fun began. Perhaps next year (2019), when Epiphany falls on a Sunday, we will have more people involved. Shout-out to all who helped shop, cook, clean, climb, vacuum, store, lift, carry out, work and play.

Looking forward to 2018 and the start up of Sunday School.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE sign up for ushering, PA'ing, fellowship, flowers in 2018.

A continuous thank you goes to Kathi Abell for preparing the elements for communion each month.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jane Shelton

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Richard is considering hosting Wednesday evening dinners during Lent again. Plans will be made in the near future. Volunteers will be needed to cook.

Anne wanted to remind everyone to be considering individuals who may be interested in becoming more involved with the church through heading up a ministry. As some of the terms of current member positions are nearing their end, new people need to be considered that would enjoy 'growing the ministry' within our church.

Richard requested approval of the council to attend a weeklong seminar (CREDO) in Florida during April. The registration is due in February so he is asking for their support at this time. Judy moved to approve the seminar, seconded by Chip. Motion approved. Richard is applying for scholarship money to pay for his travel and seminar expenses. However, there is enough money in the budget if he is unable to get the scholarship.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ann M. and seconded by Charles. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer .

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk