

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
July 14, 2015

**In Attendance:** Valeri Baldwin, Anne Bouchard, Barb Braulick, Carol Berger, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Alex Kentfield, Ann McLaughlin, Frank Muno, David Russell, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton,

**Absent:** Chip Braulick, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke, Debra Galloway

Moderator Alex Kentfield began the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Alex welcomed the new members of the council. Following introductions, Pastor David Russell gave an inspirational reading and an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Members introduced themselves to each other. Pastor David asked the council if they could plan to be available on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> for an installation ceremony during church.

**Approval of Minutes:** No corrections were made to the revised copy of the June minutes. Anne moved to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Frank. Minutes approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor David submitted the following report.

Pastor's Report

July 2015

- I feel like an **'event planner'** with Gandhi, Shrimp Boil, Outdoor Worship keeping me busy with my part on the planning of these wonderful special events that I hope will draw in new people and bring lots of our LHC folks out!
- On August 10 we had a hurriedly put together **visit by a delegation of leaders from the Angola Congregational Evangelical Church** partnering with the Illinois Conference UCC. We joined together for Bible study, lunch and a genuine sharing and learning together.
- On June 13 our **Men's Group** met at the Colonial for our regular monthly gathering. This group is really on fire with energy and spirit. ☺ They are helping to pull off the shrimp boil and the fall outdoor worship, blessing of the 'hogs' and picnic. They also have a retreat planned for Oct. 2-3 at Tower Hill UCC Camp. And just last Saturday, July 11, we had our regular breakfast here at LHC followed by a fun painting service project with our Facilities folks We were even joined by some faithful LHC women who are our garden angels.
- I have been busy with pre-marital wedding meetings with **4 weddings in October!**
- **Flag Day** was a blast meeting the community on the back of a motorcycle! Thanks Charles Sbarbaro.

- The **New Beginnings** leaders and I met to put our recommendations together for *next steps*. A report will be given to Council at the August meeting.
- I am enjoying relating culture, film and scripture in our **Sunday at the Movies** which has received positive responses. *Amazing Grace is this Sunday 7/19*.
- As part of our intended bridge to **understanding Muslims**, a few us visited the Glen Ellyn Ahmadiyya mosque for an evening of worship, prayers, food and fellowship during Ramadan. We were welcome with open arms by a congregation whose denominational motto is “Love for All: Hatred for None”.
- Please let everyone you know about our guest pulpit visit of Arun Gandhi July 26!!!

*In additional to the above report, David commented on the Gandhi event. It is anticipated that there will be many guests and non-members attending. David asked for parking attendants from the Men’s group. It was suggested that the Police department be notified as well. Also, the screen will also used in the fellowship room for overflow. Gandhi will be doing a quick Q and A session after the service. There was a discussion regarding the location of the Q and A time. There was concern that the fellowship time might interrupt Gandhi while he answered questions. Gandhi would need a microphone in the fellowship hall.*

**Treasurer’s Report:** Art Zwemke sent the financial report for June to council. This is the cover sheet with his comments. The complete report will be available at the office.

Treasurer’s Report  
June 30, 2015

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$105,291 is 42.98% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000 versus 52.96% three (3) year average. Total pledges received of \$90,715 are 53.36% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000 versus 57.50% of three (3) year average. *YTD our pledges are at the highest level in 4 years, but starting to lag compared to the 3 year average. Overall Receipts are well behind historical trend, mostly die to lagging Identified Contributors.*

**B – 1 - B - 6** YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$21,350) in 2015 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of (\$23,981) in 2014 and Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$1,294). *Given the lagging receipts, we could be looking at an Operating Deficit over \$50,000 for 2015!*

**C – 1 – C - 2** Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$238,243 at 06/30/2015 compared to \$263,666 at 12/31/2014 and \$204,320 at 06/30/2014 that did not reflect the closing of the Dixon property.

**D- 1** Consolidated Fund Activity

**E - 1** Outreach Allocation & Tracking

Bob Kaska reviewed the treasurer's report in Art's absence. The main financial concern for the past month has been the lack of income from the identified contributors. Plans are being made to contact those contributors. The income from the church membership has been very good.

Bob shared his idea of having another "challenge" for the end of the year which would be similar as one that was done a few years ago. He gave an example as to where one group of contributors donates a specific amount, such as \$10,000 and the balance of the church membership needed to match the funds.

Ann McLaughlin moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Frank. All were in favor. Report approved.

**Moderator's Report:**

Susi forwarded to the following report. She was not present.

June Moderator's Report

Pastor David and I will meet with the Endowment Committee July 22. This gathering has been most difficult to get off the ground but after many postponements and reschedules we are set to move forward. The purpose of the meeting is to develop a strategy for our LHC Planned Giving Program. David will share his experience with the group and provide direction as needed. As we begin the task of re-visioning the future and mission of LHC, providing financial stability is vital.

The New Beginnings Leadership Team met June 18th to review the information gathered from the congregational discussion groups. All groups came away with a similar thought; LHC needs to revision our mission as a Church in order to successfully move into the future. Prior to the August meeting, the Council members will receive a report highlighting the New Beginnings assessment, summarization of the discussion group information, an explanation of what it means to revision, and an outline of the recommendation for next steps.

How the recommendation is presented to the congregation and the creation of a team made up of LHC members to spearhead the implementation of the plan will require Council input. September 20th has been designated as "Visioning Sunday".

**Moderator Elect:**

Alex submitted the following report for his transition into the Moderator position.

Moderator-Elect's Report and Comments  
July 14, 2015

As we move from one group of council members to another, with a few new members and a few in new roles, it is important that we try to be as efficient as we can as there are only so many of us, and so much to do. If you have questions about procedures or activities in your particular ministry, seek out someone who has held that spot before.

And if you need help for your ministry, seek out those who (on their tithe cards) indicated a willingness to help. If you ask people for help, they often will. If you don't ask, they may presume they're not needed, *or worse, not wanted!*

In late June, I had my first monthly meeting with Pastor David in preparation for moving into the moderator role. We discussed the state of our church and congregation in general terms, and my thoughts (strategically) on where we are going and what needs to be done. David and I were very much in sync.

To the degree that confidentiality was not broken; I discussed the Search and Call team's progress and the candidate pool that we've been looking at. Here too, David's insight was valuable.

We also discussed the New Beginnings process, and he forwarded to me the latest assessment that came out of our small group meetings. Making the stated desires of the participants (our core group of about 40 active church members the "fighting forty") a reality depends, in my opinion, on increasing the critical mass (number of *active* church participants) to at least 60. Too many of the fighting forty are holding down double, and even triple "jobs" within the church. Surely God blesses them and gives them renewed energy to do His work, but we need to help them out by finding ways to share the joys of service with more folks. "God helps those who help themselves".

Pastor David and I went out to Pratt's Wayne Woods Park to check out the location of our upcoming outdoor service.

All of us have a lot on our plates: at home, with our families, at work, in other activities and organizations. The time and effort that you have chosen to give to our church, is greatly appreciated and valued by all.

*He added that someone from the Search and Call committee will be reporting to council. Speaking for the committee, Alex told the council that they have looked at over twenty applications. For those individuals that the church is interested in, they are sent our church profile for the candidate's review. The committee is in the process of viewing videos of potential candidate sermons.*

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

**Christian Education:** Frank Muno is the new Christian Education ministry chair. This Sunday will be the mental health speaker after church. Future plans include the 'end of life' forum in the fall.

**Congregational Life:** Barb Braulick and Debra Galloway are the new ministry chairs. Jane reported that there is nothing new to report for the past month regarding Congregational Life.

**Evangelism:** Ann McLaughlin is the new Evangelism chair. Carol reported that there will be a new membership class in the fall.

**Facilities:** Anne submitted the following update.

#### Facilities Report – June 2015

##### Completed:

- Chip Braulick agreed to serve as Facilities Co-Chair!
- Bathroom fan repaired. Emergency lights in office repaired.
- Submitted first interim report to Retirement Research Foundation regarding grant for power-assist door
- Submitted building permit application to Village of Wayne in anticipation of door and concrete projects

##### Working on:

- Replacement of one speaker in the sanctuary, assessment of sanctuary mics
- Quotes for the power-assist door. So far, unable to find one contractor who will provide both the door and the hardware.
- Bids for concrete repair to plaza in front of sanctuary, and several spots on the sidewalks
- Building contents inventory for insurance
- Cost assessment for all repairs needed on all buildings

##### To Do:

- Repair railing on front porch and stairs of Guild House
- Repair exterior faucet handle on east wall near kitchen door
- Repair/replace vent for stove-top in kitchen
- Repair roof on the box bay on the southeast corner of the Guild House
- Create specs for repair/replacement of east window in Nursery
- Create specs for repair/replacement of fire escape door on second floor of Guild House

**Outreach:** The following report was submitted by Valeri Baldwin which she reviewed with council.

#### **June - Outreach Ministry Report – July 13, 2015**

Community Crisis Center:

- People continue to donate toiletries and as they accumulate, Richard and Valeri run them over to the shelter

Feeding Northwest DuPage:

- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice:

- Gregg Weider, executive director, will be providing a Mission Moment on July 19th
- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans:

- MSHV is the newest addition to LHC's Outreach Ministry.
- MSHV has lots of options for male veterans, but Tammy's Trace is new housing specifically for woman.

- The name and initial funding for the Tammy Trace project was from her dad in memoriam
- A \$960 donation was made from the Outreach Ministry miscellaneous budget
- That donation purchased:
  - \$170, night table
  - \$450, bureau
  - \$340, single bed
  - \$960 total
- Since Pam Kostecki's resignation, I've been working with Jane Tyschenko-Mysliwiec to schedule a time to drop off the checks and take a picture of our room
- W.George Fountain also made a donation in the amount of \$340.00
- Address: 718 S. Naperville Road, Wheaton

#### Renz Addiction Counseling Center:

- Deb How attended worship on April 12<sup>th</sup> for a Mission Moment and left some brochures for the Center in Fellowship Hall
- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

#### Transitional Housing:

- Mark Milligan, executive director, has agreed to provide a Mission Moment on September 20<sup>th</sup>
- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

#### Advocate United Church of Christ:

- Rev. Sandra Florentino, Associate Pastor, Advocate UCC Chicago will speak to the congregation on August 9<sup>th</sup>
- Pastor David invited Rev. Florentino to speak for a few minutes so that members were aware of another UCC related institution
- To be clear, the intent is not for them to receive money or become one of our outreach organizations

#### Recommended changes to the Outreach Ministry Budget:

- Community Crisis Center from .58% to .5%
- Fox Valley Hospice from 3.0 to 6.0
- Renz Addiction Center from 3.0 to 6.0
- Transitional Housing from 9.0 to 6.0
- Neighborhood Food Pantries from 9.0 to 6.0
- Midwest Shelter for Homeless vets 8.5

**Stewardship:** Bob reported that he plans to send a letter to approximately a dozen past identified contributors asking for them to donate to our church again as they had done in the past. The style and content of the letter was discussed as well as the follow up. Each of the letters will be personalized.

Bob expressed concern on how the church could to raise \$20,000 before the end of the year. Appealing to the past identified contributors and a hosting an end of year giving challenge are a couple ideas. Bob also suggested initiating a fund raising event that can develop into a signature

event. Timing of the event was discussed and it was suggested to have an event during Wayne days when people would be possibly open to supporting a community activity. Bob's suggested developing a "Wayne Walk." He plans to work up some more concrete plans to present to council next month.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** New Chair for W&S is Jane Shelton. Jane reported that several people have requested that the passing of the peace be returned to the service. David was in favor of adding it to the service.

Jane asked the council if we would be able to invite Ron and Maggie back to the church. David along with the council suggested that we hold off inviting Ron and Maggie back to the church until the new minister is in place. Discussion followed. The interim committee will discuss this further. However, they will be invited to hear Gandhi speak.

**Members at Large/ Communications:** Kathleen Sullivan Kaska submitted the following report.

#### June Communications Report

##### Completed...

- **June BTW Newsletter** - Sent June 1, 2015 — (185 sent; 104 opened; 56% open rate)
- **July BTW Newsletter** - Sent June 29, 2015 — (192 sent; 115 opened; 60% open rate)
- **Web site**—Monthly updates on homepage; Sunday schedule; Flowers & fellowship; Events; and Book Club pages

##### Email messaging:

- Kane County Cougars Extra Tickets — Sent June 3 (185 sent; 79 opened; 44% open rate)
- Vacation Bible School — Sent June 4 (172 sent; 69 opened; 41% open rate)
- Angolan Leaders Visit Special Notice — Sent June 8 (191 sent; 116 opened; 61% open rate)
- Camp Lead (UCC Summer Camp) — Sent June 9 (172 sent; 75 opened; 44% open rate)
- Flag Day Reminder — Sent June 10 (185 sent; 88 opened; 48% open rate)
- July BTW Reminder — Sent June 11 (15 sent; 6 opened; 40% open rate)

**Facebook page**—Up to 127 "Likes"—([click](#))

**LHC Ad**—Created 7x9", 1-color, generic LHC ad for UCCMA 2015 'Crossroads' conference program booklet. (See attached)

**Media List developed**—(See attached) Researched news publications online and created list of five with web site or email information to submit press releases, photos and news items. Most require the person submitting the information to be registered with their publication. I have registered and I will be working with Lori P. to help her register. Also developed a list of ten churches in the area to which we can submit information. Please let Lori or I know if you are aware of any additional outlets to include on the list.

**Arun Gandhi Press Release**—Developed 2-page press release for the July 26 event and submitted to the new list of publications and churches. (See attached)

Attached was the Crossroad conference program booklet cover, the media list and the press release for the Arun Gandhi's visit.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Fund raising ideas were discussed earlier in the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Anne has been collecting notes and cards and \$750 for the Emmanuel AME church.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn by Valeri and seconded by Frank. All were in favor.

Frank Muno gave the closing prayer at 9:37 p.m.:

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk