

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
July 10, 2012

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Kathy Haben, Karen Hansen, Lori Haseltine, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Wally Setlock, Jane Shelton, Art Zwemke. Guest: Suzanne Setlock

Absent: Peter Gatsch, Gianna Marchese, Nancy Schatzeder

Wally Setlock began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed our two new Council members, Lori Haseltine and Karen Hansen. He then asked for prayer requests and Pastor Ron gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Wally asked if there were any changes or corrections to the June minutes. Anne B. moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ann M. The motion was approved with all ayes and the minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron announced the birth of a new grandson, Joseph Colton. He confirmed our thankfulness that the church property and chimney survived the storm on Sunday, July 1st. He also informed us that the father of our Church Office Manager, Lori Prang, passed away and a memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Petersen House Update:

Wally reported there have been 7 showings and said some minor repairs were mentioned that need to be done. A discussion occurred regarding the listing price of the home. It was confirmed that the lowest sale price approved at the November Special Congregational Meeting was \$175,000. Ann asked if the plat of survey had been updated yet. Wally said he would follow-up with Gary Estes on the status. Ron added that the homeowner behind the Dixon house would like to purchase a small piece of the property to square off their lot. This should probably happen at the same time the plat is changed for the Petersen house. Ron will talk with Peter to get him involved in the process.

Treasurer's Report: Art distributed the six-month statements. Usually we are at 50.82% of receipts and we are at 49.02% as our prepaid pledges are down. Our deficit is up from last year at (\$19,735) vs. (\$18,253) in 2011. Rental receipts are down due to the Dixon house and that property was discussed. Art suggested we decide what we should do with the property and then do it. Ron stated that we still have a property management company and he will talk to them. Bob moved that Ron instruct Mr. Barkley to break the lease at the Dixon house due to non-payment and ascertain the intention of payment from the renters. The motion was seconded by Lori, and approved with all ayes. Art mentioned the revenue shortfall will require us to use the line of credit at the bank. Second quarter payments have been made to the outreach charities. Ann will include a message about prepayments when the next statements are mailed. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Ann and seconded by Kathy Haben. The motion was approved unanimously.

Perpetual Fund Report and Q & A: Art reported that 2 trustee positions are currently open. The trustees are Dave Berger, Dave Poole and Nancy/Rik Alex. Several suggestions were made and Art will follow-up with those members. The committee explained in the current By-the-Way article that the meetings are underway and a survey will be forthcoming. The survey will ask if members are interested, not interested or already committed regarding the Perpetual Fund. The UCC guidelines were downloaded and the UCC also happens to be looking for bequests. Wally suggested that we make it as easy as possible for people to modify their wills to include the Little Home Church. Suzanne suggested including some history of how many people have currently committed might be helpful for people considering this option. Kathy Haben gave Art a brochure from another church that has members make an annual contribution for a finite number of years rather than wait for a bequest. Art will bring that idea to the committee.

Open and Affirming (ONA) Update: Anne stated that the ONA Exploratory Committee is trying to find a meeting date. She attended a National Coalition meeting in Elmhurst where she attended workshops and met some helpful people. She said it would be beneficial for the committee to have some speakers present information and discuss their church's process. She also distributed some brochures she received at the conference and will be bringing all this information to the committee. The committee is hoping to prepare a timeline for the future regarding the work that needs to be completed.

Moderator's Report: Wally has a new format for Council meetings that will include a list of the Council's action items with responsible party, start dates and target finish dates. This list will be included in the minutes for each Council meeting.

Moderator Elect's Report: Kathy Haben informed everyone she had visited Joyce Cox, who thanked everyone for their cards and prayers. Kathy asked if it would help if we had a representative from our church at the Fox Valley Association of UCC. She suggested that we may find some help regarding ONA there also. She will find out what is involved and how often the group meets and see if we can get a volunteer representative from our congregation. Ron said the representatives are a yearly position. It was discussed if we should ask our Moderator Elect to serve in that position or possibly the outgoing Moderator. Art suggested that we send someone to training for the Church Windows software and Kathy asked about responses. Bob said our current module is underutilized and he will work with Lori to bring it up to date. Karen Hansen said she would help. Kathy asked how we are keeping in contact with our shut-ins; she said Mealtrain.com is a tool we can use to get meals to a family in an emergency situation. Jane said the email blast could go out and people could follow-up. It was decided Congregational Life would handle this which is Anne and Jane. Carol asked about the transportation needs group and Anne will follow up with Nancy Alex. Ann M. said we need to update the group of transportation volunteers.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Lori will check with the youth group on the possibility of visiting our shut-ins. Marilyn said cards that the youth sent previously were a great idea. Ron explained Lori's work will begin next month on the Church School curriculum.

Congregational Life: Anne said there is already a discussion on the ‘survivor group’ celebration and how that will take place. Kathy said she Googled cancer survivor groups and the day they celebrate is the first Sunday in June.

Evangelism: Bob said we have a new LHC banner outside hanging on the Wayne Historic District sign. He will work on getting the insert for the old sign out in front of the church. He explained that with the banner hanging outside we look like an active church. The historic district sign was put there by the village and Bob will check with Susan Sherwood regarding the possibility of getting it moved to the east.

Facilities: Ron is working on having a mason check the chimney. The audio has been improved but there is additional audio work that Ron is looking into having done.

Outreach: Marilyn informed us that Rich Doerr will be Crop Walk chairman again. The food pantry is now called The Neighborhood Food Pantry and our location is Resurrection Church.

Stewardship: Nothing to report

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Nancy will be the Pastor for our July 22nd worship as Pastor Ron and Maggie are out of town. The fifth Sunday worship on July 29th will be a 9:30 a.m. service outside with a brunch potluck following. Saturday, July 28th is a scheduled church workday to cut trees and clear brush near the Petersen lot line.

Members-at-Large: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Art mentioned that we have about \$5,000 in the paint fund and \$15,000 in the renovation fund. He will get the exact numbers for the next meeting. We are still looking for a volunteer to put the ‘We Noticed’ information in our By-the-Way Newsletter. Jane Shelton offered to assist Karen Hansen with writing the column.

New Business: None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne B. and seconded by Ann M. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned and Pastor Ron led the closing prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk