

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
July 9, 2013

In Attendance: Kathy Haben, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Art Zwemke, Susi Winquist

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Lori Haseltine, Louise Keen, Susannah Lesswing, Jane Shelton

Moderator Kathy Haben began the meeting at 7:09 p.m. and asked for prayer requests. Pastor Ron then gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Kathy asked if there were any changes or corrections to the June minutes. No changes or corrections were noted, but no quorum was present. June minutes will be approved at the August meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron reported that it has been busy. There was a member wedding this past Saturday. Nancy Schatzeder will be preaching this coming Sunday in his absence. The tree in back is almost down. Pastor Ron will meet with the new facilities co-chairs, Anne Bouchard and Dan Roach, regarding the current issues. Ann asked Pastor Ron about contacting members who are no longer attending due to the ONA process and Pastor Ron said he has spoken to some of the members. He also said he has been spending quite a bit of time with the members who are having trouble comprehending the fact that there people are leaving as they are not able to accept an ONA statement.

Treasurer's Report: Art informed the group that midway through the year our collections of \$136,624 are at 60% of the total receipts budget. That number is somewhat skewed due to the castle fund raiser receipts of over \$12,000. We are still waiting for about \$4,000 in credit card receipts which will be recorded upon receipt. We are usually at 54% at the 3 year average. Pledges are lagging at \$83,790 or 51% versus our 3 year average of 58%. This trend is a concern as membership has been impacted by the ONA matter. There is a year-to-date deficit of (\$5,179) compared to last year at (\$19,735) and a 2013 budgeted deficit of (\$2,488). Without the \$12,000 from the castle fund raiser, our YTD deficit would be (\$17,179). Summer months are usually lean and we have had expenses for air conditioning and sump pumps that are a big part of the deficit. Marilyn asked about the Berger Memorial Funds being used for the music programs and Art will check into the music expenditures with Larry. Ann asked about the facilities charges coming out of the Renovation Fund and Art explained that everything runs through the operating fund until year end transfers. He asked about the Dixon house and anticipated expenditures and it is hoped that we will have funds from the Peterson house sale. No vote on the report as there is no quorum.

Guests: Kathy introduced Susi Winquist as the new Moderator Elect and mentioned that she is involved and informed and will be an excellent Moderator Elect. No vote was taken as there was not a quorum present.

Moderator's Report: Kathy read her favorite Bible verse (Matthew 22:37-39) and then asked the Council members to write thank you notes to the host families for the Danish Ballerup Concert Band that performed in the Parish Hall last Sunday.

Peterson House: At the Janual Congregational Meeting, the Council received approval to sell the Peterson house at \$160,000. Now, one of the buyer's family members lost their job and has asked the church to be the bank for 3 years until they can obtain a mortgage. Art spoke to the lawyers and outlined the recommendations to proceed with the sale of the house. The email outlining the process is attached to the minutes. We would receive the \$32,000 down payment which would help our cash flow. We have not had to borrow yet on our line of credit. Art suggested that we have a special congregational meeting to approve the sale with the LHC acting as the bank. We would need an email blast and a publication in the bulletin for a special meeting on July 28 as a two week notification is required in our by-laws. Art will contact Karen Ashe and explain the process. Between Ann and Art, the requirements will be met regarding the credit/background check, etc. as outlined in the attached email. As there is no quorum tonight, Art will email the attached email to all council members. Ron will see if we have a recorded plat of survey on the Peterson House.

Dixon Home: Kathy said that realtors are supposed to be going through the house to get comparisons/appraisals. The current renter is interested in purchasing the home. Kathy said there is a need for the plat of survey. Kathy will call Karen Ashe regarding the Dixon house.

Paperless: Kathy asked if we could go paperless and it was discussed that we should be able to eliminate some copies and excess paper distributed at the meetings if we cannot go totally paperless.

Expectations of Ministries: Kathy asked that we please start the meetings at 7:00 and have the minutes read before the meetings. Kathy would like to see measurable goals listed for each ministry and she would also like to see the 'To Do List' reinstated. Kathy and Jan will work on getting the minutes distributed within a week of each meeting and Kathy will attach the "To Do List". Replacement of the Parish Hall chairs is still on the list. Congregational Life and Stewardship will write a letter to the 'missing members' and Ann will follow-up with Jane and update the church membership. Kathy would like to see the ministry chairs submit a monthly report sheet prior to the council meetings. Kathy would also like to remind the members to please let her know in advance if they are unable to attend the meetings.

Moderator Elect Report: Kathy explained that we would need Susi's signature for legal documents and the letter of credit.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Although Lori was absent, Kathy explained that 3 goals were listed in her Junual report.

Congregational Life: Co-chairs will be Jane Shelton and Susannah Lesswing.

Evangelism: Chair is currently open; hopefully, it will be Sandy Antonelli.

Facilities: New co-chairs will be Anne Bouchard and Dan Roach. Anne and Rik Alex are repairing the window in the Guild House. A member has offered to pay for the replacement of the second story door to the Guild House and is pursuing a contractor to install it. We need to find out how to operate the irrigation system in the garden.

Outreach: Marilyn Poole attended for new chair Valeri Baldwin and asked about the proceeds of the castle going to meet our outreach responsibilities. Art suggested that we give 15% of the proceeds to the 5 outreach charities which would be about \$2,500. The council would need to approve this at the next meeting as we have no quorum.

Stewardship: Ann McLaughlin had nothing to report as it is a slow time for stewardship.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Maggie Purser and Carol Berger will be the new co-chairs.

Members at Large: Louise Keen and Kathleen Kaska will be the members-at-large.

Old Business: Anne Bouchard has written an article for the BTW Newsletter and the draft statement will be mailed to the congregation. A current membership list needs to be updated before a vote is taken for Open and Affirming. Art will ask Gail Zwemke to give Anne a call regarding the ONA statement and help with the voting process and the language of the statement. Ann M. will forward the ONA email to Gail.

New Business: Kathy said it was suggested to her when some ministry chairs were vacant, that the number of ministries be combined or decreased. This was discussed and Pastor Ron explained the history of our ministries. We need to encourage more members to be part of a ministry and have the ministries meet monthly. Also, Kathy will look for a personnel committee for employee reviews and personnel policies.

The Long Range Planning Committee is usually the Past Moderator, Current Moderator, Moderator Elect and another member. Art explained Long Range Planning should have \$250,000 with the sale of the 2 homes, and inquired about the plan for that money after we take care of the planned deficits that have occurred. The former goals of LRP were to grow membership, sell the rental houses and set up an endowment fund.

The Endowment Committee is made of 5 trustees: Nancy Alex, Tom Atkins, Carol Berger, Wendell Clancy and Dave Poole. The group is meeting tonight and will have a speaker after the service this Sunday regarding wills and charitable giving. The Endowment Fund amendment to the by-laws was approved at the Junual meeting and Jan will call Lori Prang and get it incorporated into the by-laws.

Nancy will be preaching this Sunday in Pastor in Pastor Ron's absence so please support her with your attendance. The Gardening Angels will be working on Fridays this summer.

Pastor Ron gave the closing prayer at 8:59.

The next meeting is August 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk