

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
July 14, 2016

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Barb Braulick, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Karen Kaluzsa, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke, and guests, Larry Dieffenbach, Rik Alex, Nancy Alex, Andrea Ferguson, and Fletcher, the pastor's dog

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Chip Braulick

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:08 pm after some social time with snacks provided by Kathleen. Kathleen distributed new binders with information to all of the council members. The binders included meeting date information, a copy of the bylaws, and sections to store past minutes and treasurer reports. She asked council members to supply cell phone numbers to complete the council contact list. On the calendar, the date of the Blessing of the Hounds should be changed to Oct. 2nd.

Following the distribution of materials, Pastor Richard Malmberg led the council with a devotional reading, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The council members introduced themselves to each other and Pastor Richard.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the June minutes. Ann M. moved to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Anne B. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Renovation Proposal: Anne Bouchard, Rik Alex, and Andrea Ferguson have been working several months on a project to restore the Little Home Church buildings. At present, the church buildings have some serious deterioration that needs to be addressed, especially in the Guild house. They met with Fred Schramm, of Schramm Construction, who suggested architects who spoke with Anne and Rik. After meeting with the architects, Sharp Architects Inc. was asked to offer a proposal to review and assess the renovation of the church. Sharp Architects have successfully completed restoration projects like our church in the past.

Much explanation and discussion followed. A copy of a proposed plan by Sharp Architects was distributed to council members. The initial planning work would be done by Sharp Architects with Fred Schramm Construction becoming involved with executing the restoration.

Anne Bouchard, as facilities chair, seeks approval from the council to continue discussions with the architect on this proposal. Andrea Ferguson needs the approval and the proposed budget to secure the interested donors. The cost of the architect's time is \$32,000 in which it would be divided over three payments over several months. It is hoped that the restoration of our church to a historically accurate facility with updated amenities would be completed by 2021, the church's 150th anniversary.

The reasons given for going with outside professional help is to make sure that our facility meets safety and building codes, historic guidelines, and best utilization of the space to meet the needs of the church as well as the community.

Funding for the project would be provided by non-budgeted contributions. Andrea Ferguson has been in touch with interested contributors. Their 'pledged' money would be collected over a period of three to five years.

After much explanation of the project and discussion, Susi Winquist moved to authorize the facilities chair to go ahead with the proposal presented by Sharp Architects Inc. to plan renovation of the Little Home Church which will be funded by non-budgeted contributions. The motion was seconded by Jane. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

My first report to the Council has a few firsts (for me) at Little Home Church. I preached my first sermon, taught my first Bible Study. The turnout on July 3, was impressive, for any Sunday, incredible for a summer holiday Sunday. I found it deeply gratifying. As Fletcher and I have been beaching it in our St Charles townhouse, people have been welcoming me to their homes and taking me out. It has been a great way to get to know the congregation and get out of a semi-empty house. As Jane and I are quite occupied in our respective work, it distracts us from each other's absence. That said, we are both eager to live under the same roof again. In fact Jane and Oscar will be out for a visit from the 15th-19th for DePaul freshman orientation.

Regarding relocation, the budgeted moving expenses of \$5000 have proven woefully inadequate. We have done our due diligence in seeking bids and moving as much as we could ourselves (which cost \$1544 for rental of a 15 foot truck, packing materials, gas and tolls). So far moving company quotes based on our doing all the packing, range from \$6700 - \$12400.

The first Bible Study I led was held on July 6, when Army Trail Rd was closed due to a downed power line. I had to leave my car by the police station and walk the rest of the way to church, where there was no electricity in the office. Still, ten people showed up to study scripture! I continue to be pleasantly surprised by the spirit of commitment I find at Little Home Church.

Lori Prang has been an enormous help in getting me settled in and learning to navigate the office, the congregation and parish. While Lori is in Sweden for a couple weeks, I will be soloing in the office, which will be good sink-or-swim training. By the she returns, I hope we will be functioning optimally as an office. I am still working from my laptop, and am using my church email address. For a while, you might want to play it safe and address everything to REMalmberg@aol.com, or at least cc to it.

I am trying to establish a standardized order of worship just so there is a regularity to worship. I would like for us all to get on the same page for communion choreography. I didn't have any problem with it, but I got some feedback that some found it disorderly. Larry Dieffenbach and I met this week and talked about the order of service. I have enjoyed working with him, and look forward to the collaboration ahead.

On July 8, in the aftermath of the shooting of 12 police officers and two protesters in Dallas, we rang the bell five times in honor of the five officers who died. The following Sunday I preached on racism and white privilege. That Sunday I began including the

giving of non-perishable food items in our weekly worship and enlisting the children to gather them. I attended the Men's Group breakfast at Colonial Café on July 9, and look forward to the Cougar's game outing they organized for the 17th

At council, Richard mentioned that index cards will be added to the program on Sunday for the congregation to suggest topics that can be included in the next week's sermon.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Art Zwemke submitted the treasurer's report for the past month. The cover of that report is as follows. A complete copy of the report is available from the office. The letters signify different sections of the accounting report.

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| Treasurer's Report |
| June 30, 2016 |
| A - 1: Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$121,774 is 49.10% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 51.99%, 3 year average. Total Pledges received of \$99,422 are 52.33% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 compared to 54.03%, 3 year average. |
| B - 1 – B – 6: Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$6,992) in 2016 compared to Prior Year Net Income (Loss) of (\$21,350) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$8,217). |
| C - 1 – C – 2: Comparative Balances Sheets show overall financial position at \$235,772 as of 06/30/2016 compared to \$238,243 as of 06/15/2016 and \$242,707 as of 12/31/2015. |
| D – 1: Consolidated Fund Activity |
| E – 1: Outreach Tracking |

Art reported that we are “on target” for the first six months of the year.

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

Kathleen mentioned that there was a need for additional funds to assist Pastor Richard with moving expenses. Art reviewed previous conversations regarding the budget and the new pastor search which did not originally include moving expenses. Art suggested that the Memorial Fund be considered to help with this problem. The moderator would need to nominate a committee to review the fund's use. *Anne B. moved to reconvene the memorial fund committee to discuss its use to offset the costs of Richard's moving expenses. Ann M. seconded the motion. Anne B., Ann M., Jane and Carol volunteered to serve on the Committee. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

Moderator's Report:

Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month.

Meeting with New Pastor

Met with Rev. Richard Malmberg on June 30 for a very pleasant and productive get-acquainted lunch. We discussed that in this time of transition we could take the opportunity to change-it-up a bit at our council meetings, and maybe thinking of the group more as a ‘small group’ —being mindful of Fellowship; Spiritual time; Sharing; and

Covenant of commitment to the group. Rev. Richard and I met again on July 12 to make preparations for his first council meeting, and share info/plans regarding LHC.

Digital/Print Updating

Working to update all online and print references to the LHC Pastor. Email, web site, business cards, and letterhead have been updated. Additional printed materials and signage will be updated asap.

Council Connecting

Something to consider: Using 'WhatsApp' Messenger, a cross-platform mobile messaging app that allows you to exchange messages without having to pay SMS (Short Message Service-up to 160characters-commonly referred to as 'text message'). Users can create groups, send each other unlimited images, video and audio media messages. We would use this for quick council communicating.

NOTEWORTHY...

Office Manager

Lori Prang will be on vacation out of the country for two weeks. She will not be in the LHC office after July 18 and will return on August 1. Lori has worked hard to cover all the bases, but if something important comes up please contact Rev. Richard or Kathleen directly and we will try to fill in for her.

AA Group

This group will no longer be meeting in the Guild House on Sunday evenings. After 30 years, the group has dwindled down to be too small a group to keep it viable. Many larger groups are available in the Fox Valley area.

WHPS-Historic House Tour

The Wayne Historic Preservation Society will be hosting a driving tour of historic houses in Wayne on **Saturday, August 20, 9 am to Noon**. The group will be using the Parish Hall for an Art League exhibit, and they would like to have the LHC Church and the Guild House open for viewing. The group has connected with Lori, and they discussed how nice it would be to have members of our congregation be 'docents' to share info about the history of these buildings. Possibly we could use this event as an opportunity to pull together LHC historical details into a self-published brochure we can use in general.

Moderator Elect: Anne Bouchard submitted a report for Facilities, which she also chairs. As Moderator Elect, she will be chairing the By-laws committee.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Karen Kaluzsa, new to position, has nothing new to report.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick has nothing new to report.

Evangelism: Ann McLaughlin has nothing new to report.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard submitted the following report.

Working on

- Grant funded Handicap Door: The power assist door has been delivered and Rik Alex is working with a contractor to install it.
- Broken generator will be repaired in the next few days.
- PH/GH Roofs: Soliciting bids from several sources.
- Sanctuary water softener clog problem.

Completed:

- Tai Chi classes have started.
- The air conditioner has been installed in the Bride's Room in the Guild House.
- All chandelier globes cleaned in sanctuary.
- Bricks and pavers moved from outside exit doors in workroom.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin absent. No report.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska has nothing new to report

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton has nothing new to report

Members at Large: Carol Berger and Susi Winquist have nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS: There are still a couple of tickets left for the baseball game on Sunday, July 17th.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 9, 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susi and seconded by Jane. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer at 9:02 p.m.:

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk