

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
June 9, 2015

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Susi Winqvist, David Russell, Carol Berger, Kristen Thornton, Art Zwemke, Alex Kentfield, Susannah Lesswing, Bob Kaska

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Jan Marchese, Sandy Antonelli, Maureen O'Donnell, Jane Shelton

Moderator Susi Winqvist began the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor David Russell gave an opening prayer.

Council members were released from their council positions and responsibilities by the remaining council members, effective July 1st.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor David sent the following report to council. (*Comments at the council meeting are in italics.*)

Pastors Report - June

- Hats off to Lori and the **LHC blood donors for a successful drive.**
- Lori, Bob Kaska, Carol Berger, Ann McLaughlin and I met to **cull through our membership lists** and to develop a realistic number of “active” members. We came up with 175, which, by the way makes our 55 worship attendance a healthier %.
- **Sundays May 24th and June 7th have been spiritually on fire!** On 5/24 we welcomed four young men into membership culminating a great year of confirmation and we celebrated Pentecost! On June 7th, we witnessed the rare combination of our two sacraments in one worship service with baptism and communion. We also had a good Annual Meeting and great fun at the Cougar's (winning) game. What a wonderful day for LHC. Thanks to Art and the Men's Group for sponsoring the baseball outing.
- I attended the **state meeting of the Illinois Conference UCC** in East Peoria. It was a good series of workshops, keynote, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. I hope that LHC can designate 1-2 people who will be able to attend this annual state meeting.
- One outcome from the above was meeting the delegation from the **Congregational Evangelical Church of Angola. As you may know they are coming here to LHC this Wednesday for Bible Study, Presentations on Angola and lunch!**
- Looking ahead, I see **three important Sundays** to mention: July 26 our “preacher” will be the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Arun Gandhi. On August 30, Rev. Eric Dickey from Biloxi will be in our pulpit. And on our outdoor service, Sept. 13, we are blessed to have renowned UCC songwriter Bryan Sirchio to lead our service (preceded by breakfast and followed by a blessing of the motorcycles.)

David added that the outdoor service, a “Blessing of the Hogs” will be at Wayne Pratt Woods Forest Preserve on September 13th. The Men of LHC plan to cook breakfast prior to the service.

David asked the Evangelism and the Worship & Spiritual Growth ministries to contribute funds to cover Bryan Sirchio's expenses who will be leading the service that day.

The pilgrimage scheduled for later this June was canceled due to low numbers.

On Sat. Sept 26, we have been invited to attend service at the Ahmadiya Mosque in Glen Ellyn at 6:00 pm to understand the Quran and their faith. On Sunday, October 25, we invited them to come here to attend our church service and enjoy some dialogue and lunch afterwards.

Next Sunday is Flag Day in Wayne. Someone is needed to carry the church flag and march in the parade. Suggestions were made.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke forwarded a treasurer's report for May to the council. This is the cover page of that report.

Treasurer's Report
May 31, 2015

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$92,649 is 37.82% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000 versus 45.81% three (3) year average. Total pledges received of \$79,810 are 46.95% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000 versus 50.48% of three (3) year average. As noted last month, we are close to plan on pledges, but lag in non pledge income, primarily Identified Contributors. Also, pledges for May were the highest in 4 years!

B – 1 - B - 6 YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$13,972) in 2015 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of (\$21,351) in 2014 and Net Income (Loss) Budget of \$3,885.

C – 1 – C - 2 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$244,473 at 05/30/2015 compared to \$263,666 at 12/31/2014 and \$207,568 at 05/31/2014.

D- 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

Art again mentioned that we have more pledges than we have had in any of the past four years. However, the donations from identified contributions continue to lag behind previous years' amounts and the budget. Bob Kaska volunteered to follow up on these past contributors.

Bob suggested that our church needs to develop an annual event that can develop into a larger event that could potentially raise \$20,000-25,000 per year. He suggested that our church considers doing something like a "Wayne Walk" where people could purchase tickets to raise money for the church.

Bob also suggested that we identify a benefactor that may help the church with a "matching donation" campaign.

Art mentioned that to meet the planned deficit in the budget, money will need to be raised to replace the lost monies from the missing identified contributors' donations.

Discussion followed regarding the development of a large fund raiser event and fund raising in general. It was suggested that an “ad-hoc” committee be developed for fund raising. The committee would need to develop a strategic plan and research what is needed. They would need to determine what amount of funds need to be raised from our Neighbors (events), Friends (contributions), and Members(pledges) to keep the church financially viable. Art noted that our church needs approximately \$275,000 per year to operate.

Kathleen moved to approve the treasurer’s report which was seconded by Susannah. All were in favor. Report approved.

Moderator’s Report:

Susi sent the following report to council.

June Moderator's Report

In addition to my June By The Way and Annual Report information:

- * I completed the third and final session of the Sunday New Beginnings congregation discussions. Compiled the notes to share at the June 18th Leadership Team meeting.
- * Met with David for our monthly communication meeting to discuss Church happenings. As always, it was informative and uplifting.
- * Currently working with Larry Dieffenbach on a Music Director Job description.
- * Currently working with David to revive the Endowment Group.
- * Assisted to recruit Council and Committee members for 2015/2016.
- * Prepared for the Junual meeting.
- * Facilitated the Junual meeting. It was great to see that we not only met but exceeded the quorum requirement. Folks voiced that they would like to receive the Annual Reports electronically prior to the meeting so the information could be reviewed and better prepared for discussions. They would also like to receive the minutes as soon as possible after the meeting. A motion was made for review of our voting practices and a possible By Law change. Mark Lesswing volunteered to be part of that group.

I cannot thank you all enough for the past twelve months of dedication and hard work. As I have stated previously, you all have made my load much easier.

Susi moved that the church extend David Russell’s contract for another three months. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Moderator Elect: Alex reported that the Search and Call Committee (S&C) has received eight profiles (resumes). He explained the process that the S&C Committee will follow to hire the next minister. The committee will be reviewing resumes, interviewing candidates and references, and possibly attending church services lead by candidates at other locations to observe them prior to making decisions. Once the S&C Committee selects the best candidate, the candidate will come to our church to give us a sermon prior to being voted upon by the congregation.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Movie Night is this coming Friday night.

Congregational Life: See annual report.

Evangelism: See annual report.

Facilities: Anne is looking for volunteers to help paint the church sometime after June 24th, probably June 27th or July 11th. Anne will advise as she is coordinating the use of scaffolding with Rik Alex. The facilities ministry is receiving bids to provide and install our power-assist door. We will also be seeking bids to repair the patio in front of the church.

Outreach: Valeri was absent but forwarded her report.

- A representative from the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV) will speak to the congregation during Mission Moment at Sunday service in the near future. We will present the final check for the Tammy's Trace Room setup to them at that time. A date for setting up the room will be ASAP and volunteers will be needed. Tammy's room is a room to house homeless women veterans which we have purchased the furniture for.
- We will continue to provide funds to the Elgin Community Crisis Center. Gretchen's talk to the congregation during their Mission Moment was compelling.
- Future groups are being scheduled to speak at church during "Mission Moment" time.

Stewardship: Bob gave his comments during the Treasurer's report for raising money.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: See annual report. Sandy Antonelli was absent.

Members at Large/ Communications:

- Kathleen scheduled a Gardening Angels group meeting at 10:00 am Friday, starting this week. Fellowship will be combined with working in the garden. See the annual report for details regarding communications activity.

OLD BUSINESS:

Susannah noted that extra folding chairs were needed for a recent funeral service and so we need to keep some of the old folding chairs to handle sanctuary overflow. Therefore, she asked for council's advice regarding keeping the dolly which stores the folding chairs. Council advised keeping the dolly if necessary or developing another storage system for the chairs utilizing space in Guild house or elsewhere. The storage room off of the fellowship hall is getting crowded so the folding chairs with dolly should be moved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Anne B. advised the council that she is researching a group in Kane County that is comprised of representatives from churches and other non-profit organizations which works on various environmental and social concerns. LHC may wish to send a representative in the future.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Alex moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Susannah. All were in favor.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk