

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
June 11, 2012

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Nancy Doerr, Peter Gatsch, Kathy Haben, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Jane Shelton. Guest: Karen Hansen

Absent: Gianna Marchese, Marilyn Poole, Art Zwemke

Ann M. began the meeting at 7:10 p.m. after the Council wrote notes to LHC members. Pastor Ron then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Ann asked if there were any changes or corrections to the May minutes. Kathy Haben said the name of the Open and Affirming (ONA) pamphlet is 'Taking a New Look'. Kathy moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Suzanne. The motion was approved with all eyes. The minutes were approved.

Church Action/Focus Items:

Open and Affirming: Recommendation of the Exploratory Committee:

Ann M. asked to discuss the Open and Affirming process first as she needed to leave early. Anne B. explained the Exploratory Committee has met 6 or 7 times and has reviewed various materials. They have had good discussions and email communications. Everyone is not in the same place regarding the concept, but everyone is positive regarding bringing the discussion to the congregation; possibly bring information every 3 or 4 weeks to the congregation regarding the ONA statement. Ann mentioned that it seemed that Sunday's questions at the Junual meeting were very much the same as the questions that have been discussed already at the meetings. Feedback from the Junual meeting was then discussed regarding the ONA topic at Sunday's meeting. People's concerns were how this might change the Little Home Church. Another concern was how quickly this may happen and what other concerns/obligations may come with the declaration. This can be a divisive issue and we should have a defined time frame with an extensive exploration and discernment process with the congregation. We need to encourage as much involvement as possible so everyone is well-informed on the issues now and how it will affect our church in the future. Anne B. moved that our congregation begins the process of discernment and exploration of the ONA covenant. Nancy Doerr seconded the motion. All eyes, no opposed. The motion was approved.

Audio for the Sanctuary: Wally presented the topic of changing our current audio system in the sanctuary to add some additional speakers and possibly add an audio 'hearing loop' which turns a hearing aid into a speaker. This device would be invisible in the sanctuary. Various options were discussed to assist our members that are having difficulty hearing the service. Ron recommended bringing back our former audio person and asking him to look at the static feedback problem and potential issues with the 'hearing loop'. Bob asked if we could get a recommendation from him before the next council meeting. The goal is to have the audio

problem resolved by the end of the summer. Wally suggested using the back page of the bulletin to list the Council and various ministries with directions to call or email Lori with any inquiries.

Member-at-Large Suggestions: Karen Hansen attended as a possible new Member-at-Large and was asked by the Council to consider the position.

Signage: Bob Kaska said a banner has been ordered for the front of the church and the plan is to obtain a graphic insert that fits over the current wooden sign so it will have an updated look (and also have a Facebook logo). Hopefully, these will be done before the next Council meeting.

Other Topics:

Peterson House Update: Wally stated the house is listed and a number of showings have occurred; no offers yet.

Pastor's Report: Leigh Bechet and Gianna Marchese are leading the Vacation Bible School this summer with a small amount of children but with great programs and kids. The youth are enjoying the week, and although the numbers are down, the school is a tremendous success. There will be a presentation during service this Sunday. Ron mentioned that the neighbors behind the Dixon house are interested in purchasing a small amount of property to straighten out their lot line. Research needs to be completed regarding the amount of land needed for the septic system. Ron mentioned that there is a tree that is dying and needs to be removed on that piece of property. Ron will check with Abbott on the tree.

Treasurer's Report: Art was absent and Wally presented the report. We have a projected deficit of (\$37,395) for 2012. We are trying to keep our expenses down and Ann has asked at the Junual meeting for people to prepay if at all possible. Karen suggested sending a reminder email if people are on vacation to please remember their pledges and Suzanne said she will write something for the By the Way.

Moderator's Report: Already discussed.

Moderator Elect's Report: Already discussed.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: There was a group thank you to Nancy Doerr. Lori Haseltine will replace Nancy as committee chair.

Congregational Life: Anne B. would like to consider a special celebration for people who have survived an illness and possibly have this celebration as an annual event.

Evangelism: Bob said he will review suggestions to get some incremental results. Nancy Doerr presented an article on growing congregations with 5 different communications such as Facebook, Twitter, emails, etc. Peter discussed a mass mailing type of service that targets a specific area to give out our church information.

Facilities: Peter said no specific projects are currently planned. Painting needs to be done. He will talk to Art regarding the funds available. Also, Peter will look into the issues with the lead paint concerns. Ron said we are working on getting some bids on the chimney repairs. We still need to work on the handicapped accessible door on the Parish Hall. He mentioned we could possibly obtain a grant for this.

Outreach: No Report

Stewardship: Suzanne said we are a little behind. She will write a By the Way article to request people pay while they are away. We thanked Suzanne for all her help in the past year. She mentioned that we now have the line of credit but we haven't had to use it yet.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Nancy S. reported that the July 'fifth Sunday' is July 29th. We can have a morning worship service outside and a brunch. Worship will be at 9:30 and it will be outside depending on the weather and bugs. The mosquito service has sprayed already (which was donated by Mosquito Authority) for VBS and Wayne Flag Day ice cream social.

Members-at-Large: Suzanne asked if someone else could do the 'We Noticed' in the By the Way. Kathy asked if the birthdays were listed in the BY THE WAY and they were. Kathy stated she will report the announcements in the newsletter from the church services. She asked that the annual reports go out in advance, possibly 3 weeks before the Junual Meeting or at a minimum the minutes from the last meeting. This would give congregation members more time and we may get more people to attend the meetings. Bob said we have email addresses for approximately 60% of our members, and he suggested the congregational meeting information be mailed out in advance. Kathy mentioned that the book for next month, Safely Home, is about China and she has asked a congregation member who spent 2 years in China to attend and present some personal experience information. Kathy asked about ministry binders and if people still had them. If not, she asked the current ministry chairs to create new ones as it would help us to move along on the issues that are in process. Karen suggested that issues brought to the meetings be written up and kept in the individual ministry books for future reference. The Council meeting schedule was discussed and we will keep the same schedule we have now, meeting the second Tuesday of the month.

Next meeting: July 10, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Nancy S. moved to adjourn and Jane seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all eyes. Ron led the closing prayer at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk