

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
June 10, 2014

In Attendance: Sandy Antonelli, Louise Aughnay, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Kathy Haben, Susannah Lesswing, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Absent: Valerie Baldwin, Lori Haseltine, Jane Shelton

Moderator Kathy Haben began the meeting at 7:15 and after reading a favorite Bible verse, she asked for prayer requests. Pastor Ron then gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Anne moved to approve the May minutes, seconded by Ann. All ayes, minutes approved. The April minutes were discussed with one small change and a motion to approve was made by Susi and seconded by Anne. The April minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Art explained that the May Operating Receipts of \$100,173 are at 43% of our Total Receipts Budget and our three year average is 46%. The year-to-date loss is (\$21,351) compared to Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$12,510), with a 2014 budgeted deficit of (\$52,545). Our financial position is better because we have the cash from the Petersen property and have also received the \$18,375 septic escrow from the closing. While we still have a deficit, we have enough cash to take \$100,000 and add it to our Moderate Balanced Fund. Art proposed we invest it, and it was moved by Anne, seconded by Louise to put \$100,000 into the United Church Funds, specifically the Moderate Balanced Fund. All ayes, motion approved. Art will write an article for the By The Way as an explanation. A discussion occurred regarding weddings and possible wedding revenue for our church in the future. Susannah moved to approve the May Treasurer's report and Susi seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron commented that this is his last of 44 years of council meetings for him and fourteen years at the Little Home Church Council. He encouraged the council not to get discouraged about our financial position as we have the resources and talent to raise funds. Pastor Ron is trying to clear out his office but weddings and funerals have interfered. He will be meeting with the interim pastor next Tuesday and will answer any questions he has. He is a retired pastor and has a lot of experience. Pastor Ron has worked hard to establish a good reputation for our church and hopes it will attract a pastor much quicker than it took last time to recruit him. He is hoping that the 'friends of the church' will continue to contribute as they have in the past. He is also available for any questions or problems that may occur and will be happy to assist us in any way he can and explained that it has always been his policy to work with the outgoing pastor in previous situations. Kathy Haben has handed back a list of questions for Pastor Ron and he will have the answers back to Kathy before he leaves. He will also turn in his cell phone that has the LHC pastor's phone number. Art suggested that we have the number for

another month or have a message that gives the number for the interim pastor. The keys to most of the doors are so old that the key base to cut is no longer available. Pastor Ron is still working with the neighbor to the north to sell the small piece of property and he will be happy to continue that process. The Council thanked Pastor Ron for his many years of service to our Little Home Church.

Moderator's Report: Kathy said the Annual Ministry Reports are due to Lori for the Junual meeting. The Illinois UCC Conference 50th Celebration is in Springfield this weekend and Kathy will attend. The Interim Pastor will start July 1. He is Rev. Dr. David Russell from Palatine, Illinois, and an Arlington Heights church. He will assume the current duties of our pastor including the weekly Bible study and will also have office hours. His contract will be for six months, with 3 month renewals. Art revised the covenant which has been discussed with him and has been accepted and can be signed. Kristen Thornton has accepted the Church Clerk position and Jan Marchese will be the new Member-at-Large.

Moderator Elect Report: Susi said she has no Moderator Elect and is still looking. She has been busy working with the Interim Search Committee.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: No report. Kathy mentioned Lori did ask for help for Vacation Bible School on July 7 through July 11.

Congregational Life: Susannah is working on Pastor Ron's farewell reception on June 29th. She also mentioned she was planning to have another fellowship at her home in August which will be an opportunity to meet the interim pastor. She has also been busy helping with the Garden Party planned for June 14.

Evangelism: Carol Berger is working on a few new members before Pastor Ron leaves. It was a great dinner at her house for the new members and visitors. Anne and Carol have located new tablecloths for the church and they will be available for the June 29th reception. Hosting the New Beginnings for the church may be the weekend Carol is gone. Kathy said she will handle it if Carol is unavailable.

Facilities: Anne said the grant to renovate the Parish Hall doors has been submitted. The estimate for the project is \$20,000, and the grant would pay for 50% of the total cost. We will find out in 4 to 6 months. The sound people were here and we have 3 quotes to improve the audio in the sanctuary. The pastor's office east wall needs to be painted but we are not at the quote stage yet. There is some question as to why the paint peels and we need to resolve that first. The Guild House window will be replaced in the next several weeks. Anne will get Pastor Ron's list. The Dixon house has now been emptied and a plumber has fixed some major plumbing issues. Kathy said we are hoping to have the house listed before the Junual meeting. Kathy asked Anne to put an article in the BTW regarding the facilities issues and repairs. Anne will also put her long term facilities plan in the annual report. Kathleen discussed the BTW and that only 50% open their email BTW. Pastor Ron sent letters to Abbot for the lawn service and O'Brien for the snow removal, asking them to continue their relationship with our church.

Outreach: No report.

Stewardship: Ann M. and Anne B. spoke to Steve MacCarthy regarding donations in memory of his mother Barb MacCarthy. Steve had indicated that he was interested in the church using those donations for a specific need. Ann and Anne suggested the donations could be used to fund half of the cost of the proposed power assist door in the Parish Hall and Steve agreed. (This is the project for which we have applied for an accessible faith grant from the Retirement Research Foundation.)

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Sandy calls every week for the usher reminder. Nancy Alex is getting members to sign up for the flowers and fellowship.

Members at Large: Louise has contacted the three people that wanted to be on the search committee. Kathy said she has asked people who are interested to send her their qualification information. The Nominating Committee will establish the Pastoral Search and Call Committee which will have an odd number of members, probably 5 or 7.

Kathleen has the signs for the 'no gun' policy. The Garden Party is Saturday and it should be a beautiful day. Set up will be Friday and the garden will be decorated. There will be a wine pull and raffle prizes. Kathleen discussed the By The Way Newsletter and that only 50% open their emailed BTW.

Old Business: Susannah said she has a contact for chairs and has several options and styles. We have storage capability for folding chairs, but the other chair styles are stackable.

New Business: None

Move to adjourn by Ann and seconded by Anne.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Pastor Ron gave the closing prayer at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk