

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
June 13, 2017

In Attendance:, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Barb Braulick, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Chip Braulick, Karen Kaluzsa, Bob Kaska

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:10 pm. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Approval of Minutes: Jane Shelton moved to approve the May minutes. Anne seconded the motion. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

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.

Art reviewed the treasurer's report. He reminded the council that the value of the church properties has a value of over three million and is insured for that amount. The last two pages of the report (E-1, E-2) show the valuation calculations. He recommended the addition of the property values to the report to help with fundraising efforts. Art also suggested that there be a line item added to the operating budget that would be used for regular capital maintenance

Ann moved to approve the treasurer's report, Susi seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report
May 31, 2017

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD – Total Receipts of \$123,169 is 50.07% of \$246,000 goal, well ahead of the 3-year average of 45.74%. Total Pledges of \$89,372 is 49.65% of \$180,000 goal, a bit ahead the 3-year average of 48.86%.

B – 1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$23,769 in 2017 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$11,611 in 2016 and budgeted Net Income (Loss) of \$9,200. So far so good!

C – 1 - C – 3 Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$251,072 at 05/31/2017 compared to \$250,632 at 04/30/2017 and \$280,373 at 05/31/2016. Note comparison columns.

D - 1 Consolidated Fund Activity – Higher than beginning of year!

E – 1 - E – 2 Buildings and Grounds – Presented this concept a couple of months ago to account for existing Buildings and Grounds that assumed that land was 20% of the value of the replacement cost of the buildings. Revised to 10% on next spreadsheet as a value of \$649,060 for the land seemed too high. Why should we care? I would like to show the congregation that we have insured buildings whose replacement costs are estimated by Church Mutual Insurance at \$3,245,300 on land that is worth about \$324,530 and that we are starting to improve our existing facilities with a new roof and door for the Parish Hall that has added another \$42,000 to the buildings. I think that this will be very helpful when we move forward with the fund-raising aspect for our 150th anniversary so that prospective donors recognize the context of a major restoration and improvement program.

Lastly, But Not Least – Somehow 30 years has passed by in a flash. Our kids were 16, 13, 10 and 8 then, now we have grandkids that are 15, 14, 13, 11, 10, 9, 6 and 4. As we say at LHC, there are Joys and Concerns and in my tenure, there have been many more Joys than Concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to proudly serve as your Treasurer.

Prayerfully submitted,

Art

Arthur C. Zwemke
Treasurer since 1987

Art added that the stewardship committee oversees the three areas of fundraising; the present (operating budget), the tomorrow (the renovation fund), and the future (the endowment fund). It was suggested that a profession be invited to talk to the church regarding the fundraising efforts.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Richard submitted the following report (by email to council) for the past month.

Along with my regular pastoral and worship responsibilities, I have been thinking about how I will use my vacation time. I did not use any vacation time from July 1 through the end of '16, so I am hoping the time I took in May to officiate a wedding in Newport, RI would be counted as carry-over of 2016 vacation time. Otherwise, I flexed weekly days off to cover the 3-day course I took last week.

My vacation plans for 2017 which I have discussed with staff are to take the last Sunday of July and the first two in August, and weekdays to amount to three weeks. The fourth week of vacation and continuing education time for 2017 will be determined at a future date. I am now trying to work out pulpit coverage for the Sundays I will be absent.

At council, Pastor Richard mentioned that he attended two recent meetings for the endowment fund.

The pastor's vacation request will be reviewed by the personnel committee.

Moderator's Report:

Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month.

June BTW; email marketing; web site; social media

Email Blast: LHC Annual Report. (Slow month for email blasts...!)

Office Manager Review

Participated in Lori Prang's annual review on May 16, along with Anne Bouchard and Pastor Richard...and of course, Lori!

Plant Sale

Managed fundraiser on two very rainy days, June 19 & 20, with a Net Profit of \$1,200

Nominating Committee

Compiling roster of nominations for the 2017/18 LHC Council

Gardening Angels

Worked to whip the church garden in shape (and clear out the kitchen porch) for Flag Day celebration, along with Anne B., Jane S., and their niece, Maggie

Moderator Elect: Anne Bouchard submitted the following report for the past month.

Anne Bouchard announced that Chip Braulick will be the moderator elect. Other positions
Louise Aughnay will be member at large
Charles Sbarbaro – considering facilities
Jane Shelton– staying with WSG
Open position for Sunday School Supt.
Christian Ed. – open

At the Junual meeting the nominating committee will ask for volunteers to fill additional spots on committees

Anne reminded council about a lecture on Fundraising which will be held by the Philanthropic Network on Thursday, June 15 in Naperville on the topic of Fundraising. Reservations and an admission fee are required.

RESTORATION UPDATE:

Anne reported that Lisa Sharp has been asked for 'working drawings' and a phase plan. Anne also suggested that the Sanctuary remodeling (moving pews/making center aisle) should be removed from the current plan based on the feedback from congregation members. Also, the plan to upgrade the kitchen to a commercial standard has also been thought to be not necessary. Discussion followed. Council agreed that 'working drawings' would be very helpful to facilitate fundraising. Most felt that priority should be given to the repair of the facility followed with the plan to connect the sanctuary with the parish hall. Further thought will be made regarding the priority of the projects.

The kickoff of the renovation project will be Sunday, October 8th. Anne suggested that a 'theme' be announced at the Junual meeting. A separate meeting to discuss theme will be planned.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Karen Kaluzsa was unable to attend this evening meeting. She will be stepping down as Christian Ed. ministry chair.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick had nothing new to report. She will continue to chair Congregation Life another year.

Evangelism: Ann McLaughlin had nothing new to report. She will become 'Member At Large' next year on Council. Carol Berger will be the Evangelism Chair next year.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard submitted the following report. Chuck Sbarbaro has been asked to chair Facilities next year.

As for a facilities/maintenance update, Anne hired a pest control service to control carpenter bees that are drilling into the Parish Hall walls.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin was not able to be at this evening meeting because of work obligations. She will be remaining as Outreach ministry chair. Her focus on her Outreach activities this month is mentioned in her Annual Report which will be presented at the Junual meeting. Mark Milligan spoke to congregation on June 18th and a representative from the Crisis Center spoke on June 11th.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska was not able to attend this evening meeting. He will remain as Stewardship chair.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton will remain at WSG chair.

Members at Large:

Susi Winquist will be the Treasurer next year. Louise Aughnay will take her place as 'Member at Large' on council.

Carol Berger will become Evangelism Chair next year. Ann McLaughlin will take her place as Member at Large on Council. Carol emailed the following comments as her report to council which led to discussion.

"I had received feedback regarding announcements and prayer concerns. Some church members would like to make their own announcements... it has the potential of making a bigger impact. Also, the prayer concerns are not being heard by everyone. If Richard could repeat the concerns so everyone can hear that would be helpful. Also, when asking for prayer concerns during prayerful time, it doesn't lend itself for the joys. "

The way in which the congregation shares their prayer requests and announcements was discussed. The council asked the Pastor to repeat the names in the prayer requests, if possible. He expressed concern in handling the requests so that the person making the request is not made to feel uncomfortable if they aren't heard.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Cougars' Game is Sunday, July 16 and 60 tickets are being sold to the game by the Men of the LHC.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Carol and seconded by Susi. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk