

LITTLE HOME CHURCH BY THE WAYSIDE (LHC)

JUNUAL MEETING JUNE 23, 2013

Moderator Wally Setlock called the Junual Meeting to order at 10:58 a.m. and Pastor Ron opened the meeting with a prayer. Thirty-five church members were in attendance. Wally welcomed everyone and mentioned how important attendance was today and that the agenda item order will be changed to accommodate requests.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron thanked everyone who served on the council this year and specifically thanked Lori Haseltine for Christian Education, Dan Roach who took over facilities mid-year, Bob and Kathleen Kaska for organizing Evangelism and Kathleen especially for the new look to our Sunday service bulletin and the By the Way Newsletter. He mentioned how great our newsletter looks, and how professional, compared to others that he reads. He thanked Ann McLaughlin for Stewardship, Nancy Schatzeder for Spiritual Growth & Worship, and Anne Bouchard & Jane Shelton for Congregational Life. Ron said Larry Dieffenbach, our Director of Music, is always a perfect musical compliment to his worship topics and he also thanked Lori Prang, our Office Manager, who is able to interpret his thoughts. He thanked Anne Bouchard for all her time and effort on the Open and Affirming (ONA) process which is controversial but very worth-while. He gave a special thank you to Mary Roach for leading an incredible fund raiser at the castle and the Flag Day celebration, and to Kathleen Kaska for the Plant Sale.

Moderator's Report: Wally thanked the Council and congregation and said this past year was filled with good times and bad times. The facilities are old and have issues; there is a lot to take care of and much more to do facilities-wise. He thanked Kathy, Anne & Jane, Lori, Dan (and Peter), Bob & Kathleen, Marilyn, Nancy, and Karen & Carol for serving on the Council. Also, Art for treasurer, Gianna Marchese for youth representative and Jan Marchese for taking minutes as church clerk. Every Moderator says that it was a fast year, and Wally said it seemed that there was always something to do and someplace to go. He didn't get to do everything he wanted to do, and he hopes Kathy Haben as the Incoming Moderator is the first to set out and do everything she intends. A lot of work was completed on the ONA process and he thanked Anne Bouchard for getting all the information out. Wally said he wished more of the congregation attended and discussed the ONA issues that Anne has worked on so diligently. Bob & Kathleen also worked so hard on Evangelism: Kathleen on Constant Contact and working with Lori to get the mailings to the community to try to increase membership. The strength of this church will be measured by how many people are sitting in these pews. Wally is comfortable leaving this position knowing that we are in the black, courtesy of the Castle Tour Fund Raiser and Mary Roach and that the Peterson house is sold with a scheduled closing on July 26th.

Perpetual/Endowment Fund Report: Nancy Alex reported for the Endowment Fund Trustee Committee and explained that everyone should have received the new amendment to the By-Laws in the mail. When our Church was 125 years old we had a "Growing the Future Fund Raiser" which started a Perpetual Fund or Endowment Fund. Carol Berger, Wendell Clancy, Dave Poole, Nancy Alex and Tom Atkins are the trustees. Anne Bouchard moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Sandy Antonelli. The motion was approved with all ayes. The trustees are doing a survey of who has

knowledge and who would like more information regarding the Endowment Fund so the Little Home Church can be included in the wills of church members. After our church service on Sunday, July 14, we will have a speaker with information regarding endowment funds and the process of having LHC included in members' wills. Nancy left information and survey forms for everyone to take after the meeting. Don Heinrich added that the funds can also be used as operating funds.

Treasurer's Report: Art highlighted the last 5 months of information in which we are ahead of our plan by \$9,189 due to the castle tour that happened in May. The receipts budget was \$110,810 and we had \$119,999 which included \$12,000 from the castle and we are waiting for \$4000 in credit card payments which will be recorded on receipt in June. Historically, half of our pledges are collected by May 31, but now at 5 months we are only at 42% of our goal, mostly due to attrition. We are in the black by about \$5,200. Last year we were in the red by \$9,775. Overall we are in good shape, but we are still anticipating a deficit at the end of the year. The plan was a \$36,000 deficit at year end. Wally asked about the expenses of the castle tour, the only expense was Wayne police, we netted \$16,000. Art thanked Ann McLaughlin for her assistance with the collection and deposit of funds.

Introduction/Election of Council Members for 2013-2013: Wally acknowledged the new council and asked if anyone would like to chair Evangelism, Worship & Spiritual Growth, Facilities, and be the Moderator Elect. Wally thanked Kathy Haben as our new Moderator, Lori Haseltine for Christian Education, Jane Shelton & Suzannah Lesswing for Congregational Life, Ann McLaughlin as Stewardship, Valerie Baldwin as Outreach and Karen Hansen and Louise Keen as Members-at-Large. Wally asked for a motion to approve the new Council which was made by Greg Hege and seconded by Jim Winqvist. The motion was unanimously approved.

Moderator Elect: Kathy Haben opened with a Bible verse from Matthew which she will use to guide the Council as Moderator. She appealed to the congregation to volunteer as Moderator Elect telling the story of her acceptance of Wally's request for her to take the position. She looks forward to the coming year.

Approval of Minutes: Wally asked for the minutes to be approved for the January Meeting. A motion was made by Art with a second by Anne Bouchard. The minutes were approved with all eyes. There was a motion to approve the May Special Congregational Meeting made by Greg Hege with a second by Don Heinrich. The motion was approved unanimously.

Open and Affirming Update: Anne Bouchard discussed the ONA update in the packets and the struggles with the process that our church is experiencing. She acknowledged the exploratory committee and said the end of the process is voting on the ONA statement. Anne had a draft statement which she handed out and said it will not be discussed today, but wanted to give everyone an idea of what is in process. She has discussed the voting procedures with Pastor Ron and said the vote may happen in the fall. After some discussion regarding the vote, Anne mentioned that the congregation can also decide to stop the process rather than vote yes or no, although that would not be the committee's recommendation. A straw poll may happen just to get feedback, and also information on what needs to be discussed so people will be able to vote. It was also discussed how the vote will happen so everyone

gets to vote. Possibly an anonymous paper ballot was suggested by Gail Zwemke. Anne asked if anyone had suggestions for the statement to please get back to the committee. Wally reminded everyone that this statement is taking a long time because this is something that is so important to our congregation and it is a big issue. Doug Hancock suggested that everyone be contacted by mail, the entire 215 members, regarding their thoughts on the issue (statement) and information they may need, with suggestions for changes. Art moved that we set a date certain that the vote will happen and Gail suggested that all the information be sent out in advance. Don Heinrich seconded the date certain. Doug Hancock suggested that we amend the motion to have the committee come up with a time commitment. Doug moved to approve an amended motion for the exploratory committee to come up with a time line to conclude the ONA process. Art seconded the motion as amended. The motion was approved with all ayes. Kay Brynelsen suggested a healing process for the congregation due to the issues and tensions that have been created by this process. Anne said the committee will take all the information under consideration.

Dixon House: At the Janual meeting, it was discussed that we put the Dixon house on the market. We have a nonfunctioning septic system which will be a problem with the sale. The intent will be to take proceeds from the Petersen house sale and fix the septic at the Dixon house which may cost from \$5,000 to \$20,000. It may also interfere with the septic field at the church. The plan is to go forward to get the house repaired and ready for sale. At this time, we do not have appraisals for the Dixon house.

Peterson House Update: Currently, we have a pending contract for the sale with a scheduled closing date of July 26, 2013.

Don and the congregation gave Wally a standing ovation for all the hard work that he has done as it has been such a tough year. Kathy Haben gave Wally his outgoing moderator gift. Wally has done so much for the facilities throughout the years here at the church that he was presented with a personalized LHC memorial brick which came from the chimney repair.

Don Heinrich moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Ann McLaughlin. The motion was approved and Pastor Ron gave a closing prayer at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Marchese

Church Clerk