

**LITTLE HOME CHURCH BY THE WAYSIDE (LHC)**  
**JUNUAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 10, 2012**

Moderator Ann McLaughlin called the Junual Meeting to order at 10:53 a.m. and Pastor Ron opened the meeting with a prayer. Thirty-three members of the church were present.

Assembled members reviewed the minutes of the January 22, 2012, Junual Meeting. Greg Hege moved they be approved as presented, Anne Bouchard seconded. Nancy Alex asked for the addition of Rik Alex as a Perpetual Fund trustee which had already occurred and the motion carried with all ayes. The minutes were approved.

Pastor Ron began the meeting stating our church is healthy, and he thanked the Council for their hard work and Larry for the wonderful music. He said how remarkable it is that we accomplish so much in a year and he thanked the congregation for their support.

**Outgoing Moderator's Report:** Ann McLaughlin remarked that for the past year in the life of our church, we have relied upon our worship, the music, the programs and the events that are some of the 'sameness'. We have also had a lot of new things: our evening bible study, the book club group, work days, the bells and bell choir, the Petersen house decision, a line of credit with a new bank, the UCC Open and Affirming process and the focus on being part of our denomination. We've had a lot of good news and good energy. We have a full council with one exception, and we have new faces and new members joining which brings our church alive with new people and new ideas. The Council is reaching out to everyone throughout the year. We are looking into a hearing loop for everyone with hearing aids to be able to hear our church services. It's been a fascinating year but there is still much yet to be done. Ann stated she will stay on as Chair of Stewardship and she thanked Jan Marchese for staying on as Church Clerk. The new Council Slate of Officers are Wally Setlock as the new Moderator; the Moderator Elect, Kathy Haben; Christian Education Ministry Chair, Lori Haseltine; Congregational Life Chair shared by Anne Bouchard and Jane Shelton; Evangelism Chair, Bob Kaska; Facilities Chair, Peter Gatsch; Outreach Chair, Marilyn Poole; Stewardship Chair, Ann McLaughlin; Spiritual Growth & Worship Chair, Nancy Schatzeder; Carol Berger as a Member-at-Large. We need another Member-at-Large. Also returning will be Art Zwemke as Treasurer and Jan Marchese as Clerk. Ann stated that the Annual Ministry Reports are included in the packets. She thanked Peter Gatsch for all his hard work on our facilities. Nancy Schatzeder asked people to participate in the worship service as a pulpit associate to facilitate participation and leadership in the church.

**Incoming Moderator's Report:** Wally Setlock, as the incoming moderator, followed tradition and presented a gift to Ann McLaughlin and said she had been a faithful moderator and added he was planning to continue the objectives set forth by the Council several years ago. His personal objective is to get more people involved in the church. He remarked that we accomplish a large amount of work with just a few people. At the work day yesterday, a small group of workers transformed the Guild House basement, filling a dumpster with 60 years of stuff. The Church gardens are beautiful and work has

been done at the Petersen house. There is a lot that has been done and we would like more help to continue the work that needs to be done. We value the diversity of our church and Wally encouraged everyone to participate, and to attend future Council meetings.

**Long Range Planning Committee Report:** Bob Kaska commented on the Long Range Planning Committee stating that when the goals were decided on the LRP poster, June 2012 seemed a long way off. We have made some headway on the strategic goals and they continue to keep us focused. We now have some challenges to come up with some new goals and we need to be specific within a reasonable time frame of 24 to 36 months. Endowment: The Perpetual Fund is underway with the trustees and it is very important to the long-term health of this church. The properties have resulted in thoughtful decisions. The Petersen house is on the market and we will probably sell the Dixon house in the future. Membership: During the course of the year we have only had two new members. This year we will focus on getting new members as a continuing goal. We will continue to ask the congregation to bring friends and neighbors to come to our services. Bob stated we need to restate our goals, focusing on what we need to do, the real goals and challenges. The LRP Committee is planning to present new goals at the January meeting.

Ann updated everyone on the Petersen house. It is listed with Ashe Realty and has had some showings. Today there will be an open house from 1-3 during the Wayne Flag Day celebration.

**Treasurer's Report:** Art Zwemke was not able to be in attendance, so Ann presented the financial report. Our receipts are on target as compared to the last 3 years. Pledges are slightly down, and our prepaid pledges are down. Our expenses are consistent and predictable, although this year our expenses are about \$3,000 lower than expected due to a low snow winter. Ann asked that anyone who can prepay their pledge would help a great deal so we don't need to use the line of credit, as summer is usually lower in receipts. The most critical aspect is to continue the growth of the membership. Ann thanked Art for his participation as the Church Treasurer for many, many years.

**Perpetual Fund Update:** Rik Alex discussed the Perpetual Fund, which is really the future of our church. Some of the other funds in the church have a specific focus, such as the Brent Alex Memorial Fund which is dedicated to youth and the Flett Fund which is tied to Christian education. Dave Poole and Dave Sterner have already started to formulate the process. In late winter, the Endowment Group met and started to think about how the Perpetual Fund will be governed, how it will work, etc. Goals have been discussed and are the same as those of other churches with endowment funds. Rik explained that as churches decline in members and activity, they remain intact due to endowment funds until they are revived again in the community. The group will report back to the congregation through By the Way, and will ask the congregation in a survey for their expectations. The Perpetual Fund will start slowly, grow over a long period of time, and remain a fund for the church. More information will be coming in the near future. Nancy Alex said in conjunction with that, Dave Sterner has stepped down from the Perpetual Fund Board of Trustees as his firm feels that it is a conflict of interest.

Carol Berger has asked to be on the board due to the loss of John Berger. Nancy said they have asked Bruce Weigel, and he will check with his company for a possible conflict of interest. Nancy moved to incorporate Carol Berger and Bruce Weigel (if no conflict of interest exists), as the two new trustees. A second was given by Jim Winquist. The five trustees will be Carol Berger, Bruce Weigel, Dave Poole, Nancy Alex & Rik Alex. Discussion continued that information about staggered terms will be forthcoming. Also, we should not have immediate family members serving as trustees at the same time, so at the January meeting Nancy or Rik will step down. All ayes. Motion carried. Discussion ensued about whether the Perpetual Fund should be separate from the three other existing church funds and a question arose about Art's previous suggestion that the funds be combined. Nancy asked for the 3 funds to remain separate from the Perpetual Fund: the Brent Alex Fund, the Flett Fund and the Memorial Fund. The trustees would like the funds to remain separate. Nancy moved the funds stand alone. Suzi Winquist seconded the motion. Greg Hege asked why the funds were combined. Anne B. explained that the funds were never formally combined and she stated that each of the existing funds had clearly articulated purposes. Dan Roach asked why Art proposed to combine the funds. Nancy Alex said she thought Art wanted some funds to start the balance, with the intention of having a large enough balance so we can use only the interest from the Perpetual Fund. After discussion on the individual funds, it was decided to table the motion until Art could be consulted for his opinion. Ann said it will be tabled and presented as Old Business at the next congregational meeting. A motion to table the previous motion was made by Greg Hege and seconded by Wally Setlock. With three opposed, the motion to table was approved.

**Open and Affirming Update:** Anne Bouchard presented the Open and Affirming (ONA) process as chair of the ONA Exploratory Committee. She explained that in 1985, the wider UCC church developed a covenant that churches can choose to accept as their own. Over time, ONA has become very broad to include many groups of people who may have felt disenfranchised by the church. Currently the Exploratory Committee is made up of Anne Bouchard, Carol Berger, Nancy Doerr, Kathy Haben, Marilyn Poole, Nancy Schatzeder, Wally & Suzanne Setlock, Ann McLaughlin and Pastor Ron. Anne stated that this is a chance for spiritual growth, a test to love neighbors as ourselves, and to open our hearts. She has been at other churches and some of the church websites list their covenants. Over 1,000 churches have accepted ONA. The committee will be presenting a motion at the June Council meeting for proceeding with the ONA process at our church. Mary Roach asked how long the process will take. Anne said hopefully we would decide our statement and vote a year from now. Discussion took place on specifics of what the covenants contain and what commitments are made. Anne said each church is free to write its own statement. People seek out churches that are Open and Affirming. Anne said churches become more vibrant and encouraged people to review some online websites. Nancy Schatzeder said the UCC guides, but does not dictate anything. Rita Estes commented that she thought we were already inclusive of everyone. Anne said that to specifically state that we are open and affirming by adopting an ONA statement reaches out to people who feel excluded and that we would be going another step to actively say we are inclusive. Discussion occurred on the types of people that would be included in our statement and the committee is investigating what our church would adopt as its own statement. Some history was discussed regarding congregational issues in the past. The committee will bring the proposal to the Council in

June and get approval to pursue the ONA process. Wally asked the congregation to please ask the committee members or attend meetings if anyone has any questions regarding ONA. Ann McLaughlin said there will be sufficient opportunities for everyone to participate in the ONA process and invited everyone to attend meetings.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

A move to adjourn was made by Gary Estes and seconded by Alex Kentfield. The motion was approved with all ayes. Pastor Ron gave the final prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk