

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
August 9, 2011

**In Attendance:** Bob Kaska, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Art Zwemke, Kristen Thornton (substitute for Jan Marchese)

**Absent:** Gianna Marchese, Anne Bouchard, Carol Berger, Peter Gatsch, Jan Marchese

Ann began the meeting at 7:15 after council members completed writing notes to church members listed in the church directory. Ron opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of minutes:** There was not a quorum. Therefore the minutes were not approved.

**Church Action/Focus Items:** Art Zwemke reviewed the details of the working capital loan. He is presently in discussion with four banks which are Harris, Chase, Private Bank, and American Bank & Trust for the loan. He asked for suggestions of other banks and PNC and Associated were suggested. A letter to the congregation explaining the loan and subsequent sale of the Dixon and Peterson homes will be sent out prior to the properties being put on the market. Ann will be in touch with Baird and Warner Realty and Suzanne suggested a ReMax realtor. It was decided that Ann McLaughlin and Wally Setlock would coordinate the sale of the properties together. They plan to secure a realtor by the next meeting.

Art Zwemke also explained through financial projections that the membership of the congregation must increase in order to be financially secure in the future since we will be reducing our assets by selling the properties.

Bob Kaska presented the plan for Cottage Meetings which will happen on Sunday, September 18. These meetings will provide fellowship and an opportunity to “mix it up” and kick-off of new Church Program Year by dividing people up into groups of eight to have dinner at someone’s home. These meetings will be for the adult members of the LHC with a goal of 60-80 members participating. The hosts will provide the entrée and the guests bring salad, sides, or desserts. There will be a council member as facilitator at each home to lead conversation topics which may include feedback on the LHC Strategic Plan, new member pledge drive and joys and concerns. Members will be assigned a home by the dinner committee. The event will be advertised to the congregation by being mentioned in the By the Way and by doing a separate post card.

Bob Kaska also introduced the “Membership Pledge” plan to increase membership by recruiting 30 members to make a pledge. The pledge will be for them to introduce one potential new member to the church by the end of the year. A new member Sunday will be held January 8, 2012 with a hope of 15 new members if the plan works. Members will be encouraged to invite visitors to our “Evangelism” events such as the Blessing of the Hounds, Advent Tea, Pageant, or the Hanging of the Greens.

Ron Purser asked on behalf of Judy Hopkins for approval for a woman who Judy knows to sell cards during our fellowship time in order to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. Council members that were present approved.

Ann asked Kristen if our new “tag line” which describes our church can be added to the Web Site. The ‘tag line’ is “Worship, Fellowship and Service in the Congregational Tradition.”

**Pastor’s Report:** The Wayne Art League, which meets in our church, has asked for permission to display their artwork in our fellowship hall. Ron suggested that easels be used so the walls would not be damaged. Council members in attendance approved. Lori Hazeltine will coordinate the use of easels. She is a member of the Wayne Art League as well as our church.

Our insurance has been updated with a rider to cover the new hand bells. Information was also given to the agency regarding the new fire district which our church is in. Unfortunately, the crib in the nursery will need to be replaced because cribs with drop down sides like ours, will no longer be able allowed in nurseries like ours because they are not safe. We have until 2012 to correct the problem.

Youth activities will start with the Pool Party at Dunham Hunt Club on August 21<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday morning Bible Study now has an average of 12 people attending. Ron is planning to add an evening study.

On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be a service to remember those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. In addition to Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, several events were added to the calendar. They were; Roger Kotecki Wedding on Oct 9 during the regular service time, Mission Moments on Aug. 28. and Oct. 16, Every Member Canvas – Nov. 13, Christmas Pageant – Dec. 11, Christmas Cantata – Dec. 18, Hanging of the Greens – Nov. 27, New Member Sunday, Jan. 8. A firm date has not been set yet for the Rummage Sale but will be probably be Oct 14-15.

Starting in the fall, the theme of the services will be the history, theology, background and issues of the United Church of Christ.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Art Zwemke reviewed the Treasurers report for August. Currently the church is behind in their overall receipts due to a slow start at the beginning of the year with less prepaid pledges received compared to previous years. The working capital loan and the property sales were discussed earlier. The report was not approved because there was no quorum.

**Moderator’s Report:** Ann circulated copies of a letter written to the council from Susi Winquist and a response to the letter by Anne Bouchard.

**Moderator Elect:** None

**Long Range Plan Report:** Items were previously discussed.

**Ministry Reports:**

**Christian Education:** None – Chair still needed

**Congregational Life:** None – Chair still needed

**Evangelism:** Items were previously discussed.

**Facilities:** Items were previously discussed.

**Outreach:** Marilyn is looking for someone to chair the Crop Walk. Any suggestions or volunteers would be appreciated.

**Stewardship:** Suzanne will be working with Ron on securing a stewardship speaker for Stewardship Sunday.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth;** No Report

**Members-at-large:** No Report

Ron closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting finished at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Thornton  
Substitute Church Clerk for  
Jan Marchese