

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
February 15, 2011

**In Attendance:** Bob Kaska, Judy Hopkins, Susannah Lesswing, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Kristen Thornton

**Absent:** Anne Bouchard, Ralph Daehn, Gianna Marchese, Marilyn Poole, Jim Winquist, Art Zwemke

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ron at 7:12 p.m. Bob asked everyone to share their favorite Valentine's Day memory.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed. Wally moved to approve, seconded by Suzanne, all ayes. Minutes approved.

**Pastor's report:** Ron stated that there is quite a lot going on right now. The confirmation class will start soon and will end with an early fall confirmation. The youth group retreat activities are being planned which will take place April 8-10 and also underway is planning for the Youth Mission Trip to Cincinnati probably in June. Possible destinations are the Cincinnati Underground Railroad, sites on the river and the Hebrew University. Vacation Bible School is in the planning stages. Ron's looking into an adult education program, a group he would lead on comparative religions. Lenten and Easter worship services and music (cantata) are being planned. He is considering a Good Friday evening program. A discussion followed regarding the Good Friday service replacing the Maundy Thursday service. Ron has also been in communication with the Bartlett Music Quartet regarding music on March 13 and a stringed recital on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Little Home Church. There are also quite a few weddings coming up in spring. Ron & Maggie will be on vacation March 17 through April 1.

**Moderator's Report:** Bob handed out the updated church calendar adding an Ash Wednesday Pot-Luck on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The February Meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> went well, with good participation from the congregation. The Wayne Historic Sites Commission is generally interested in maintaining the streetscape on historic Army Trail Road and possibly finding a use for the Dixon House which would benefit both the church and the village.

Bob distributed a Member Focus list with new, lapsed and prospective members. Corrections and additions were made and this is something we will do at every meeting to stay focused on our goal. He would also like new member referrals.

Bob quickly mentioned two things we need to consider: 1) Re-branding Little Home Church. He handed out examples of an updated logo to use on Visitor Cards; and 2) The Church taking on a 'tag line': "Worship & Fellowship in the Congregational Tradition". We need to better communicate who we are and how we practice fellowship: that we "reclaim the congregational aspect". The Visitor Cards are being redesigned to the new 2 color version. He will research the design and history of the old logo.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob reviewed the Treasurer's Report for January 31, 2011, saying we are off to a slow start. Receipts are down and prepaid pledges are the lowest in four years. The year-to-date surplus is \$4,197 compared to prior YTD surplus of \$26,392.

Ann McLaughlin reported that January receipts were weak compared to the past. The Alex's would like to change the investment of the Brent Alex Memorial Fund and the Council would like written instructions from the Alex family. These funds are currently invested in a CD which the bank has agreed to release to us without a penalty. The bank doesn't want to lend against real estate right now, although Art has submitted our financial statements to them. Ann moved that once we have written instructions from the Alexs regarding their intentions for the Brent Alex Memorial Fund, the church will proceed with investing the balance in an alternate investment, (subject to Art's approval). Suzanne seconded. All ayes. Motion approved.

**Moderator Elect's Report:** See Ann's report above under Treasurer's Report.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Membership Team was covered in Bob's Moderator's Report. No Endowment Team report as Art was absent. Ann gave some information on banks that may be interested in loans to churches as the Facilities Team report.

### **Ministry Reports:**

**Christian Education:** Ralph emailed a reminder that Dr. Carhart is scheduled to speak to our congregation after church service on Sunday.

**Congregational Life:** Susannah reported that the Chili Cook-Off will be Saturday, February 26 and we are in need of cooks. We only have 6 cooks at this time and the most fun is the chili. Suzanne and Wally are going to organize this event. The Candlelight Dinner is gearing up for April 30<sup>th</sup>. The committee is pursuing more outside donations. The proceeds will go towards painting the exterior of the church.

**Evangelism:** Kristen stated that the Committee met and discussed signs that allow the community to know we are an active church. We would like to have our temporary sign visible as much as possible with the Chili Cook-Off, VBS, etc. but also when special events are not happening to have a Pancake Breakfast sign or Bible Study Sign out front. Possibly, we should consider the addition of posters at the post office, too. Also discussed was a semi-permanent banner that could be visible from the road saying 'Everyone Welcome'. Kristen was going to add pens to the pews for visitor cards (which are being revised). And, lastly, updating the Church Directory with photos was recommended if there is no expense to the church. It has been six years since the last directory and the committee will look into that option if there is no cost.

**Facilities:** Ron reported that the bell is not working and Wally agreed to talk to Gary regarding its repair.

**Outreach:** Marilyn asked Ron to report that more 'mission moments', presentations to the congregation from the organizations supported with out-reach dollars, are currently being planned. Also, memorial donations have been received and we will use those for one of the outreach projects of the church.

**Stewardship:** Suzanne stated that we now have 69 pledges which amount to almost \$165,000 and she is in the process of sending thank-you notes to everyone who has pledged. Also, the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Wally reported that there will be a Pot-Luck before the Ash Wednesday service coming up on March 9<sup>th</sup>. People have asked about the fifth Sunday services that are usually scheduled later in the day with a congregation-wide event. These will continue but have lately been pre-empted by holidays, etc. The next one will be on Memorial Day so that will be a regular 9:30 a.m. service. We should have a special service for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July, possibly something outside in the courtyard. A question was raised regarding the absence of volunteers to sponsor fellowship refreshments. Instead of using church dollars at this time, we will encourage people to sign up and, in addition, there is a list of people who don't mind being called at the last minute.

**Members-at-large:** Judy has located some organizations that support the food bank and persons in need of clothing. After additional research, she may include this information in our By-The-Way so the congregation can access these locations or donate items.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Ann moved to adjourn the meeting. Wally seconded. Ron closed with a prayer at 9:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk