

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
February 11, 2014

**In Attendance:** Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Louise Aughnay, Susannah Lesswing, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke  
Guests: Rik Alex, Dan Roach

**Absent:** Sandy Antonelli, Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Kathy Haben, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Jane Shelton

Moderator Elect Susi Winquist conducted the meeting as Moderator Kathy Haben was unable to attend. Susi began the meeting at 7:08 pm and after reading a Bible verse she asked for prayer requests. Pastor Ron then gave the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** As there was no quorum, the January minutes were not approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ron informed the Council that Theo Moore, 91, has been in and out of the hospital.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Property Updates: Art explained that he asked Dan to attend the meeting to review some issues with the Peterson property. We have an old survey from 1959 showing the church septic field drawn on the Peterson lot. The drawing also shows a proposed addition to the Parish Hall that was never built. It is unclear where the church septic field is located. Neither the County nor the buyer will allow the church to maintain its septic field on the Peterson property. Dan consulted with a septic installer who quoted an approximate amount of \$18,000 to create a new field. It was decided to hold \$18,000 in escrow back from the purchase price pending a break in the weather to determine the actual location of the church septic field. Art suggested we determine where the wells and septic tanks and fields are located for all four church properties.

The Dixon tenant has moved out. The realtor currently has health problems. Anne will go through the house to determine readiness for sale. There is an offer of \$4,000 to purchase the 'stub' property at the back of the Dixon lot 42' x 57'. We are going to seek \$400 from the purchaser to pay for the survey required to redo the lot lines.

Financial Report: Art explained that through January 31, our year-to-date income is \$9,199 compared to prior year which was \$16,725. We are spending more because of our cold and snowy winter. Due to a new software program, the 2014 budget will be loaded next month. After observing some other churches, Art suggested we look into classic and contemporary services. He also discussed the possibility of selling gift cards as a fund raiser and using smart phone scans, QR codes, to obtain pledges or contributions online.

**Moderator's Report:** Kathy's report was submitted in advance and is attached.

**Moderator Elect Report:** Susi said her report is very similar to Kathy's. She is making a list of possible Moderator Elect candidates for next year. Susi and Kathy have discussed a Pastor Search Committee and will be meeting with Jonathan Knight from the UCC for guidance. A committee is in the process of being formed and the necessary steps will be followed. The nominating committee decides the search committee and the nominating committee is made up of past and present Moderators and the Moderator Elect.

### **Ministry Reports:**

**Christian Education:** Lori said she looked at VBS curriculum because the one selected was not appropriate for the size of our church. The Fermilab tour which was cancelled due to bad weather will be rescheduled for late March. The Feed My Starving Children Programs is another topic she is looking into for consideration

**Congregational Life:** Susannah said the report is included. She added that we raised \$720 at the Chili Cook-Off. Louise suggested that we have a silent auction at the candlelight dinner, if we have one this year. Art suggested a progressive dinner at congregation members' homes that would end up at the church for dessert and the silent auction. Susannah said she would like to have a fund raising project to 'fund a chair' once the chair style is decided. She is going to ask Kathleen Sullivan Kaska to work on a graphic for the project. Another function will also happen but is not yet planned.

**Evangelism:** Carol Berger emailed her report which includes a new member party on April 13. Ron said new members are interested and will be joining soon.

**Facilities:** Anne said there is a list of projects that need to be done, now and in the future, and Rik added that managing a property we should have funds set aside each year for future projects. This list would be revised as new issues are noted. Any work to be completed outside needs to be approved by the Wayne Historic Commission. We need to know what needs to be done, where we are getting the funds, and then prioritize the projects. Art suggested another capital campaign fund raising project. Susannah suggested that we do a community-wide fund raiser for the capital projects. Anne is looking into the 'sexton' function that was suggested by Kathleen at the last meeting. A handyman ministry is another process that Anne is researching. Pastor Ron also has an audio/visual person who has assessed our needs and reported that our system is very dated. We have the wrong speakers, among other issues and his review came in between \$3,500 and \$4,000 (which included the hearing loop for most hearing aids). Anne will do an email request for the Council vote to approve the new sound system purchase.

**Outreach:** No report. Art said there were wonderful thank you letters from the agencies that we support.

**Stewardship:** Ann McLaughlin said there is nothing else to report. Anne said that a church bulletin visual on pledges and receipts might be a good thing to have and Art said he will put something in the By The Way newsletter.

**Worship & Spiritual Growth:** Sandy submitted a report that said pulpit associates and ushers are filled.

**Members at Large:** Louise talked to some current members that are not attending and they are still interested in being members here at LHC.

**Old Business:**

New Chairs for Parish Hall: Discussed above. Chairs preference has not yet been decided.

New Beginnings: Kathy and Susi talked to UCC about this along with the search committee.

After ONA: Nothing to report

Kathleen sent the communications report which is attached.

New business: None

We noticed: Rik Alex and Dan Roach have been working hard on facilities and properties, Art & Gail Zwemke have been contributing to the sale of the Peterson house as well as tasks around the church.

Ash Wednesday Pot Luck on March 5, 2014

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Pastor Ron gave the closing prayer at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk