

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
January 18, 2011

**In Attendance:** Anne Bouchard, Ralph Daehn, Bob Kaska, Susannah Lesswing, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Kristen Thornton, Art Zwemke

**Absent:** Judy Hopkins, Gianna Marchese, Jim Winqvist

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ron at 7:05 p.m. Bob welcomed Marilyn as the new Outreach Chair replacing Maggie Purser. He then asked everyone to share their New Year's Resolution not involving money or weight.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed and Bob asked that they be accepted with the addition of Ralph's previously emailed Christian Education report, all ayes. Minutes approved.

**Pastor's report:** Ron reported that the Christmas season at church went well, although he is just finishing Christmas visitations as he had been ill. Confirmation class will start soon and, as it is a diverse group, it will run through Spring and Summer finishing the end of Fall. He is expecting 8 or 9 youth with mostly 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 2 or 3 high-school age. He is working on the Easter events and also is in the process of planning the Youth Retreat for April, probably April 8, 9 and 10. Ron will be on vacation March 17 through April 1.

**Moderator's Report:** Bob quickly updated the church calendar to add the Youth Retreat for April 8-10, Dr. Carhart speaking for Christian Education on February 20, and the next Church Council meeting dates of Feb 15, March 8 and April 12. The Chili Cook-Off is February 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be no late 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service this month, so service for January 30 will be at 9:30 a.m.

Bob stated that the main focus of the meeting tonight is the plan for the Februal Meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> regarding the church financial report. The agenda will include the Pastor's Report, Moderator's Report and then focus on the Treasurer's Report including the budget vote as well as the 2010 deficit resolution. His Moderator's Report will mostly consist of the Long Range Planning Committee's report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Art reviewed the Treasurer's Report for year end. We had good news, actual revenues of \$254,867 exceeded budgeted revenues of \$251,200 by \$3,667. Pledges were at \$176,743 which also exceeded budgeted pledges of \$161,200, adjusted to budgeted pledges of \$171,400 for late submissions. Prepaid pledges are down for 2011 at \$12,950 compared to \$30,850 prepaid last year.

Art reported that our 2010 YTD deficit of (\$26,488) is less than the budgeted deficit of (\$27,190) by \$702. Pledges from prior year of \$4,300 came in 2010 but our non-pledge revenue was down from 2009. Everything else was 'on point' with the budget. Extensive discussion among Council members on how to reduce the 2010 deficit resulted in consolidating some minor funds and unrestricted funds and transferring them to the operating fund. A reduction in the UCC commitment of \$4,000 for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was proposed. This will reduce the 2010 deficit to approximately (\$15,000) as opposed to the budgeted deficit of (\$27,190).

The 2011 budget came in with an approximate deficit of (\$25,000). To reduce this deficit, it was proposed that no salary increases for the staff positions occur in 2011. Also, a reduction in our Outreach was proposed to cap it at \$28,000 (down \$3,000 from 2010). This will reduce our long-standing tradition of 20% of pledged revenue for Outreach. Art will draft a letter to the congregation disclosing the deficit and proposed reductions to be sent before the Februal meeting. A Save-the-Date reminder card was

also proposed so we will have maximum attendance at the February 6 meeting where the budget for 2011 will be approved. Bob asked the Treasurer's report be accepted, all ayes. Report approved.

**Moderator Elect's Report:** No report.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Bob stated that at the Feburual Meeting the Moderator's Report will be an update on the the Long Range Planning Committee's activities.

**Ministry Reports:**

**Christian Education:** Ralph reported that Dr. Carhart is scheduled to speak to our congregation after service on February 20<sup>th</sup>. He will be presenting an Adult Christian Education message on 'Science vs. Religion'. Dr. Carhart is a Physics Professor Emeritus for the University of Illinois. Ralph is planning an article regarding Dr. Carhart for the next By-The-Way. He is also scheduling Rev. Matthew from Geneva United Methodist Church to speak regarding his bicycle ministry for the homeless.

**Congregational Life:** Susannah reported that the Candlelight Dinner and Fundraiser is being postponed until April 30<sup>th</sup> due to a scheduling conflict. The committee is looking for items to be donated for the silent auction at that time. The Chili Cook-Off will be Saturday, February 26 and the first pancake breakfast is this month, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Mark Lesswing, Jerry Marchese and Chris Thornton will be doing the cooking.

**Evangelism:** Kristen stated that the Committee hasn't met, but a meeting will be scheduled for February.

**Facilities:** No Report

**Outreach:** Marilyn, as the new chair, reported that the committee will be scheduling informational presentations to the congregation from the organizations our church supports with the outreach budget. This is an effort to increase awareness and participation in outreach at LHC. As Marilyn is a board member at one of those organizations, Feeding Northwest DuPage, she would like to circulate their annual appeal letter to our congregation. Valeri Baldwin is the vice-chair and will be attending Council meetings in Marilyn's absence the next 2 months.

**Stewardship:** Suzanne mentioned concerns that we currently have 5 less pledges than this time last year and that those pledges are down by

\$13,000. The Time & Talent Survey results were distributed and Suzanne asked that the Chairs be sure to contact the people who have expressed interest in serving on their ministries.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Wally reported that the fifth Sunday in January will be a regular 9:30 a.m. service (and also the pancake breakfast).

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

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Anne moved to adjourn the meeting. Wally seconded. Ron closed with prayer at 9:36 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk