

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
October 11, 2011

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Nancy Doerr, Kathy Haben, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Art Zwemke

Absent: Peter Gatsch, Gianna Marchese, Jane Shelton

Ann began the meeting at 7:24 after council members had completed writing notes to church members listed in the church directory. Ron opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pastor's Report: Ron asked to speak first as he had another commitment and had to leave early. He has been busy with the Grant Bryant Memorial Service and the Kotecki Wedding. He has also been visiting/counseling church members. Crop Walk is taking place next Sunday, October 16, and Ron plans to be one of the walkers. He will not be at the next Council meeting and would like to change the date if possible. As the second Tuesday in November is Election Day and the church is a polling place, it was decided the Church Council will meet a week later on November 15. Ron will be representing the church at the DuPage Forest Preserve Annual Hunt Dinner tomorrow night. He is also working on a Comparative Religion Studies Series for Sundays and is working with Larry on the Christmas music. Ron reported on the status of the rental properties receipts and repairs. We are in the process of getting real estate brokers to give us appraisals on both houses. As we still need the congregation to vote regarding the sale of the Dixon home, discussion occurred regarding a date for a Congregational Meeting. It was decided to hold a short Congregational Meeting after service on November 20, for approval to sell the Dixon home. Art has another possibility of getting a line of credit with a local St Charles bank. The stewardship speaker will be Don Heinrich on Stewardship Sunday November 13th.

Church Action/Focus Items:

Sunday Dinner Feedback: Bob reported there was a lot of great feedback and thanked the hosts and facilitators. A total of 5 dinners were held. One of the questions raised was if we would like to host a second round of dinners yet this year for people who were not able to attend the first dinner and would still like to provide feedback. The main strengths were the pastor and the music programs. The negatives were basically that we need more members. Nancy D. reported that people cannot find our church readily and our visibility is a problem. We also need email blasts or to get the phone tree active again so our members are current on what's happening in the church. We have members who are interested in doing an email blast and have experience with databases. Bob and Lori have reviewed our church database and it is in the process of being updated. Kathy Haben suggested using a process similar to 'constant contact'. We probably need several different recipient groups which would include both members and neighbors/friends of the church. Carol Berger will work with a 'tech group' to get the email blasts up and running. Bob Kaska will be working with the members committed to getting the evangelism pledges. Anne asked if a summary of the 'Sunday Dinner Conversations' results could be circulated to the council members or printed in the BTW.

Matching gift challenge: As of yesterday, 4 friends and 22 members have pledged or given \$13,770 92% of our \$15,000 goal. More receipts/pledges are in the mail but we will need more than the \$15,000 match as our deficit exceeds the \$30,000. Ann suggested a phone-a-thon on Saturday to contact pledging members who have not yet contributed.

Banking Line of Credit: Art stated he is still in the process obtaining a line of credit for \$150,000 at a local bank, STC Capital. Art asked for the total of Cropwalk, when it is available, so he can write the matching check from the Outreach budget.

Other: Ann stated there will be no 5th Sunday service in October; worship will be at the regular time. Bob updated the calendar with: Stewardship on Nov 13, Hanging of the Greens on Nov 27, Advent Tea on Dec 6, Christmas Pageant Dec 11, Council Meeting and Dinner at Ann's on Dec 13, Christmas Cantata on Dec 18. Christmas is Sunday, Dec. 25 and there will be a service. January has a 5th Sunday and also April. Possibly we should schedule the next 'Sunday Dinner Conversations' for April 29, which is a 5th Sunday.

On signage, Bob reported we have the new letterheads and visitor cards with the new tag line. We were quoted \$3,400 for a new sign out front, something similar to the Dunham Woods Riding Club sign. This is just the first quote for a permanent sign for visibility, identity and communication which was one of the topics of the Sunday dinners. A decision needs to be made yet regarding the actual wording of the sign. Discussion occurred regarding the relocation of the Wayne Historic District sign in front of the Guild House. Anne and Dan Roach will look into moving the sign.

Treasurer's Report: Art reported that through the past 9 months we have collected 63% of our goal vs. 71% historical trend in overall receipts. Pledges are at 69% vs. historical 76% collection. Year to date we have a (\$42,782) deficit compared to last year's (\$26,858) deficit at this time. We are \$35,000 behind in revenue and \$9,000 lower in expenses (\$7,000 for lagging outreach payments). All our bills are currently paid. Our \$43,000 deficit and \$7,000 unpaid in outreach is the \$50,000 projected deficit. Our problem is the projected deficit every year, and we need to increase our membership in order to eliminate the deficit. The banks do not want any loans with real estate as collateral, and we need to sell our real estate. Anne Bouchard moved to approve the report; Wally seconded and all approved.

Approval of minutes: September minutes were reviewed. The Crop Walk DVD will not be a Christian Ed program but will be a write up in the BTW. There will be a different mission moment during the church service on Crop Walk Sunday, October 16th. Wally moved approval, seconded by Anne. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Moderator's Report: Ann is trying to get the real estate people through the Peterson House. Last week Ann and Bob met with Ron to discuss future of the church. Discussion ensued regarding our next strategic goal.

Moderator Elect: No report.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Nancy reported that Sunday School is going fine. She will meet with Ron regarding Adult Education Programs.

Congregational Life: Anne and Suzanne will meet regarding the phone tree update. Jane Shelton and Anne will reintroduce the concept of being an 'open and affirming church'. This is a big undertaking but we should think about this. They are looking at dates for a winter talent show and a chili cook off. Janual meeting will be January 29th with an 5th Sunday afternoon service. The Advent Tea will be on Dec. 6th.

Evangelism: Bob discussed the evangelism pledges from the 'Sunday Dinner Conversations'. We need to be inviting the prospective members to come to church events and possibly have names and email addresses. We need to make sure the ushers are asking visitors at church services to complete visitor cards. Bob would like to be targeting people to come to events around advent.

We need to wear our name tags in church and welcome any visitors each Sunday. Nancy S. suggested we have 'ASK ME' buttons for visitors.

Facilities: Wally reported that the downspouts have been re-attached, the second coat of paint is done near the kitchen porch. Peter made a big effort to get the work done before the Blessing of the Hounds event.

Outreach: Marilyn informed the group that Kathy Thorne is coordinating the sharing tree for the Wayne School families. The Community Crisis Center is the mission moment for next Sunday, October 16. Fox Valley Hospice was excellent when they presented their mission moment in September. Our church has committed to provide 45 dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas at the food pantry.

Stewardship: Suzanne reported that Stewardship Sunday is November 13th and she has a poster, 'Count Yourself Blessed' with bulletin inserts. Don Heinrich will be the speaker. Suzanne is recruiting congregation members to speak on their personal perspective regarding tithing. She is asking 2 people to speak on the next 3 Sundays. Special offering of the Christmas Fund will be in December.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Nancy S. reported that she has discussed the 5th Sunday with Ron and would like ideas. November 23 at 7:00 will be our Thanksgiving Eve worship. Hanging of the Greens is a pot luck dinner on Sunday, November 27.

Members-at-large: Council members thanked Kathy for the BTW article. Kathy suggested possibly having adult education/ bible study in the evening for members that work during the day. Nancy S. stated she would be willing to facilitate a Bible Study group. Kathy Haben said she would like to have a Christian Book Club on Monday nights. Ron is also considering Sunday afternoons for Comparative Religions Studies. After discussion regarding additional church programs, it was decided that the second Thursday of each month will be an evening Bible Study beginning Dec 8th at 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. January 12th will be next class. Kathy Haben will facilitate an evening Christian book group in 2012. The 'Book and a Prayer' Book Club will be meeting the fourth Monday of each month beginning on January 23 with the second meeting on February 27. She has a proposed list of books.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday November 15 due to 2nd Tuesday being Election Day. Move to adjourn by Anne, seconded by Suzanne.

Nancy S. ended with prayer at 9:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk