

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
April 12, 2011

In Attendance: Judy Hopkins, Bob Kaska, Susannah Lesswing, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Kristen Thornton, Art Zwemke

Absent: Anne Bouchard, Ralph Daehn, Suzanna Setlock, Wally Setlock, Gianna Marchese, Jim Winquist

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ron at 7:05 pm. Bob asked everyone to share their favorite Rite of Spring or best memory of Spring.

Approval of minutes: A quorum was not present to approve the March minutes.

Pastor's report: Ron was on vacation from March 17 until April 1. He has a full Spring calendar with the Youth Retreat, two memorial services, and May will be full also. Ron stated that, on Monday, articles are due for By the Way. Ron has been working with Larry on special music for Good Friday: the cooperative service in Bartlett and the 7:30 evening music at LHC, Hayden's Seven Last Words of Christ. Easter Service is at 10:00 with a continental breakfast at 9:30.

Ron reported that the Youth Retreat this past weekend was a success. We had 8 youth attending. The Easter Mobile portraying the 7 Last Words of Christ was completed which was Emma's project. This was her first retreat and she did a great job with the youth. Ron also mentioned that there are a lot of weddings upcoming.

Moderator's Report: Bob circulated the new visitor cards which will be available starting with the Easter weekend and they will also be available for the May 22nd special music concert by Rachel Barton Pine, part of the Wayne Concert Series fundraiser. The cards have the new tag line: "Worship, Fellowship and Service in the Congregational Tradition. The two new Banners are also ordered. Bob explained the new brand for the church, the orange and blue colors and the new tag line and that we are adopting that look for LHC.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zemke reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March. The first quarter is now completed and last year started with over \$30,000 in prepaid pledges. This year we only had \$13,000. Usually at this time we are at 38% of receipts (pledges) and we are at 28%. Expenditures are the same as last year; however, income is down \$20,000. We have no credit line at our current bank when we cash in the last certificate of deposit. The bank wants a CD for the amount of any future loan. We need to have a fund raiser or decide on the properties we own. Art would like to have a plan before contacting any banks regarding loans. Discussion followed regarding the process with the Long Range Planning Subcommittee and banks in terms of long range planning. Our church is low-overhead and in a good financial position relative to other churches. May/June Council will be focusing on recommendations for the Junual Meeting regarding the properties instead of the 2012 Junual Meeting due to our current revenue stream.

Moderator Elect: Ann mentioned we have a new Fire District according to the St. Charles Township Newsletter with a new Fire District Chief, Greg Benson if anyone wants to send a note of congratulations. We need new Council members for June. Susannah and Ralph are retiring, along with Jim Winquist.

Long Range Plan Report: Based on the Treasurer's Report, Bob stated the Long Range Planning will become short ranged for the purpose of real estate focus.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: In Ralph's absence, Bob reported that May 22nd will be and Adult Christian Education program with Pastor Matthew Johnson. Vacation Bible School will begin June 13th and Music Sunday is June 12th as well as the Flag Day in Wayne. There is no Maundy Thursday Service this year. The plant sale is May 13th & 14th, Council is on the 10th and the Blood Drive is Monday the 9th.

Congregational Life: Susannah announced that April 30th is the Candlelight dinner and we still need some silent auction items. The theme will be "Let's Paint Our Church" to raise funds to paint the outside of the church building. Dinner RSVPs are due by April 25th and the cost is \$25 per person with an 80 maximum capacity.

Evangelism: Kristen Thornton has updated the LHC Membership Focus Report. She has also been looking into producing a new Church Directory, at no cost to the church, with possibly Olan Mills Photography or Lifetouch which does the school photos. Our last Church Directory was 2006. Now we can also have an on-line directory which requires a password to access. Kristen will begin gathering information to proceed with a new directory.

Facilities: Bob stated there will be a Church Work Day the Saturday before Easter at 9:00 a.m.

Outreach: Marilyn Poole reported that Ralph has asked Fox Valley Hospice to do a 'Mission Moment' at one of our services. On May 15th, Mark Milligan from Bridge Communities will report to the congregation. The committee is in the process of designing a new outreach bookmark showing the organizations that are supported by our church. We have 45 commitments for Easter baskets at this time from our congregation.

Stewardship: Ann mentioned our "One Great Hour of Sharing" was April 3 and is still open for donations yet. Ron stated his Easter Letter will be going out this week.

Members-at-large: None

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Ron reported the main focus has recently been working on the music with Larry and the memorial services.

New Business: None

Move to Adjourn by Kristen, 2nd by Ann. Meeting adjourned. Ron closed with a prayer at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk