

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
May 12, 2014

**In Attendance:** Sandy Antonelli, Anne Bouchard, Louise Aughnay, Kathy Haben, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Susi Winqvist

**Absent:** Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Lori Haseltine, Susannah Lesswing, Jane Shelton, Art Zwemke

Moderator Kathy Haben began the meeting at 7:15 and after reading a favorite Bible verse, she asked for prayer requests. Pastor Ron then gave the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** As there were questions that required clarification in the April minutes regarding the Endowment Fund and ‘two branches’, they were not approved.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Ron said this Sunday will be Confirmation for four of our church youth, one who will also be baptized. We will have one other new member join at that time. Pastor Ron and Larry have been working on the music through June and the special music for June 29<sup>th</sup> service. Pastor Ron has had lots of questions regarding what will happen in his future absence and he will forward those to Kathy for the Interim Search Committee. There is a list he has prepared and will get that to Kathy. Lori also knows a lot of the information. Pastor Ron is trying to get some funding for the sound system improvements that need to be made and will continue to work on that.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Art emailed the April report in advance as he was absent. The April report is attached. The Treasurer’s reports for January thru April were approved after a motion was made by Anne and seconded by Louise. The escrow from the Petersen house was not yet released, but we have verbal information from the septic company that our septic is not located on the Petersen property. Kathy said they looked at the Dixon property and the septic is in order so we can put the house up for sale. However, the church field needs to be cleaned according to the septic company.

**Moderator’s Report:** Kathy said the Interim Search Committee has been working very hard. There have been three interviews. References are being checked and second interviews will be scheduled. The Bob Naylor meeting was very good and he seems to think that we should be very joyful and hopeful for our future. Anne and Kathy attended the Fox Valley Conference and they will be asking churches to take on CTS as a mission ‘outreach’ to support seminaries. Church Chat was well attended, 28 people. A list was made and Anne suggested that each council member rank our church’s top four issues for discussion at the next council meeting. Kathy will send it out again and ask for feedback from Council members. Kathy suggested that we have training for ushers, Sandy will ask Lori to write a list of instructions. She also has information on a Stewardship seminar and passed the information on for Bob Kaska as incoming stewardship chair.

**Moderator Elect Report:** Susi said she is still in the process of looking for a Moderator Elect and a discussion occurred about involving new (and existing) members in the Council. A Member at Large and the Clerk position are also open. Pastor Ron said he also has someone who may be a trustee on the endowment committee.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

**Christian Education:** No Report. Ron said the information for VBS should be going out to the community very soon and Kathleen will try and have Lori put something in the By the Way.

**Congregational Life:** Susannah sent her report and it was printed in the agenda. Kathy said they are still in the process of deciding on chairs. Pastor Ron's retirement and the garden party are in process. Jane, Susannah and Carol are working on the party on the 29<sup>th</sup> for Pastor Ron.

- (From Agenda: **Congregational Life** – Susannah absent – Here is her report:
- I have some pictures of chairs to present to the group on Tuesday. I will be out of town and would like you to present them for me. I have told both Carol and Anne that I had someone working on these for me. She has given us several options. We have to decide how much our budget can handle. As soon as we decide on a chair, she can give us the color possibilities with regard to the high density chair. She believes most options come in a tan but is not sure about brown or rusty red. The folding chair will have color options that will fit our decor in the room. Please note that the folding chair selection has an enhanced padded seat option-3200 series. I thought that was interesting. All pictures will include prices. I will leave the packet in your mailbox.
- PS She has quoted chairs that are considered good quality and durable)

**Evangelism:** Carol Berger emailed her report which was printed in the agenda. She had a new member party at her home on April 7 which was very successful and she would like to do another possibly in June. Please encourage visitors to fill out the visitor cards. Carol will chair Evangelism next year. She is checking into the New Beginnings Program on Aug 16 & 17. She is also working with Jane on a letter regarding Pastor Ron's retirement celebration.

- (From Agenda: **Evangelism** – Carol absent; Here is her report:
- 1. Our New Member dinner at my house on April 7 seemed to be successful. We all had a good time getting to know each other better. Ron and I are in the process of following up with 3 couples who have expressed an interest in joining. We are hoping to do another New Member Sunday in June.
- 2. I urge all Council members to email me if they have anyone I should be following up with. I also will remind Ron to encourage people to fill out the Visitor's Cards each Sunday. Lori has been diligent about forwarding to me all completed visitors cards, but I have not received them in a while. I have not received any from Easter so perhaps none were completed.
- 3. I plan to do Evangelism again next year, and thinking ahead, I will host another Sunday night affair in the Fall. I would like to make these 2 per year dinners an ongoing activity for the LHC because I think they can be extremely beneficial, fun, and something we haven't tried in a long time.
- 4. After checking into the "New Beginnings" Program, it was suggested that we wait until our Interim Pastor comes on board, and that he/she becomes involved with us.
- 5. Jane and I are working on getting a letter out regarding Ron's last Sunday)

**Facilities:** Anne said they are working on a grant application to replace the Parish Hall doors to the porch. The grant application is due by June 1. A proposal for the sound system needed to be revised and they are waiting for that. Anne said she has attended the meeting of the village historic commission so they know what the church is doing regarding repairs. The generators needed some maintenance and have been repaired and the north door to the Parish Hall needs to be repaired. The fire extinguisher has been replaced and the mice exterminator has also been here. The window in the Guild House is being fixed and the facilities have peeling paint due to no roof ventilation as well as the fact it has been twelve years since the painting was done. The church front doors need to be repainted black and Pastor Ron will get in touch with the original installer. Anne submitted a report in advance and it is attached.

(From Agenda: **Facilities**

1. Ron and I met with 3rd sound system person. Waiting for revised bid.
2. Working on grant for power-assist door for Parish Hall.
3. Working on repair of north side door in Parish Hall.
4. Hung fire extinguisher in PH to pass inspection.
5. Contacted electrician to check on fans in sanctuary.
6. Mouse reduction plan underway.
7. Septic field reviewed by Selsor's; waiting for drawings.
8. Met with Village of Wayne Historic Commission to present plans for ongoing repairs.
9. Lori contacted Chuck Hall to perform maintenance on generators
10. Gardening Angels...kind of under the wing of Facilities...up and running)

**Outreach:** No report.

**Stewardship:** Ann McLaughlin said there is no report but she will update everything before the end of the church year.

**Worship & Spiritual Growth:** Sandy is recruiting a member to oversee the ushers and the usher training that was discussed earlier.

**Members at Large:**

- Louise had someone ask about Bible Study when Pastor Ron has retired.
- She also mentioned that someone was upset about the Interim Search Committee (all women and all about the same age = no diversity) and the issue was resolved with the Church Chat (per the By Laws the committee is made up of Moderator, Moderator Elect, Past Moderator and Member at Large – which currently are/were all women).
- Several people have mentioned to her (Louise) that they are interested on being on the final search committee.
- Louise stated that there was also a question regarding the Plant Sale which will be the Garden Party this year. Kathleen said it is now on the website and will take place on June 14.

Kathleen handed out her Communications Report which is attached. She mentioned that the website now has the new outreach logo of the Little Church with the Big Heart. There is also a link to a Summer Calendar that was sent out as an email blast. In the By the Way Newsletter, the What's Happening section has been updated. The Blood Drive email was also sent out. The Church Windows database software was updated and our database is scheduled to be updated. The Sunday bulletin will have an update every Sunday regarding the Pastor search. The insert for the Church sign has been redone and will be in place in a few days. Kathleen had a few proposals regarding the Endowment Fund and suggested that we have brochures that outline our endowment program. She also suggested we have a process to recognize the people that are including the church in their wills. Kathleen added that we should consider having signs made regarding the no gun policy for security, (instead of paper signs). This will be discussed at the June meeting.

**Old Business:** PARKING LOT LIST

- New Chairs for Parish Hall
- New Beginnings - UCC growth team (as presented by Marilyn Poole)
- Suggestion to create a Sexton position for sound system and on-sight set-up/troubleshooting during events
- After ONA

**New Business:** Bible study is now at 9:00 on Wednesdays. June 8 will be Graduation Sunday. We need more information about what is happening at our church, such as the flyer for the Garden Party, that we can get out into the community.

- (From Agenda: Outreach giving on home page; Outreach in Living the Word, Endowment Envelopes, Roberts Rules of Order, link to UCC on our web, link to youth event/summer camps on our website)

Move to adjourn by Anne and seconded by Louise.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Pastor Ron gave the closing prayer at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk