

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
March 10, 2015

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Susi Winqvist, David Russell, Carol Berger, Kristen Thornton, Alex Kentfield, Bob Kaska, Maureen O'Donnell

Absent: Susannah Lesswing, Valeri Baldwin, Jan Marchese, Art Zwemke, Jane Shelton, Sandy Antonelli

Moderator Susi Winqvist began the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor David Russell gave an opening prayer. Lori Prang will be out of the office next week, Tuesday through Friday.

Approval of Minutes: A revision was made to the February minutes. Bob moved to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Anne B. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David sent the following report to council by email which he reviewed with council.

- I was very excited about the **New Beginnings retreat**. The eight of us who attended were given plenty of good information about: churches in today's culture; about Little Home Church; and about how to share the Assessment LHC Report with the congregation; and develop a plan for the future. Important stuff!
- Kathy Haben, Peg Schramuk and I met and developed a plan for a June 20-28 **Pilgrimage**. We would spend time helping the Appalachian South Folk Life Center near Hinton, West Virginia with some mission projects and then we would return via Oberlin, Ohio where we would learn about the historic events there including the Underground Railroad as well as spend a day at the national UCC Synod meeting in Cleveland.

At the council meeting, David passed around an itinerary of the trip for council to review.

- I have been working with Rev. Susan Tyrell at Immanuel UCC Bartlett to both partner with them for **Good Friday** and to give our LHC folks a new option of attending an evening Good Friday service at 7pm in Bartlett.
- I was able to find a date for **Rev. Bobbie McKay** about whom I spoke at Council having her come during Lent, which we scrapped. Now she will be preaching on Sunday April 19. She has a wonderful story to tell about people all across the UCC wanting to tell their stories about how God has touched their lives.
- For **Maundy Thursday** I am looking for some scripture readers and I will be passing a sign-up sheet around tomorrow night in the hope that some of you will be able to help with that service. *A sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting.*

- I would also like to know **if you as church leaders think we at LHC could offer a presentation about Islam and its relationship to Christianity**. Given the world political climate perhaps we could offer a voice of reason, tolerance and learning. I have some contacts in the Muslim community who are very “liberal” and interested in dialogue to promote understanding and peace.

Response to the presentation was favorable by council. There was a brief discussion on how the program would be promoted.

- Lastly, I am so very pleased with the progress of our **Small Group Ministry**. We have identified seven LHC leaders who are being trained as small group facilitators. The goal is to offer 2-4 small groups to our congregation in September. These would be intentional covenantal groups spending time in fellowship, prayer and personal sharing.

David also reminded committee chairs to contact their volunteers. Phone calling was recommended.

Treasurer’s Report: Art Zwemke was absent so Susi shared his report. The following is the cover page of his report. Contact Art with any questions.

Treasurer’s Report
February 28, 2015

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$35,225 is 14.38% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000 versus 23.00% three (3) year average. Total pledges received of \$28,815 are 16.95% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000 versus 28.90% of three (3) year average. Very weak numbers for January include \$4,775 in 2015 pledges, paid in 2014 Better in February, including a \$5,000 contribution to be used where needed.

B – 1 - B - 6 YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$3,966) in 2015 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of \$4,834 in 2014 and Net Income (Loss) Budget of \$16,617.

C – 1 – C - 2 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$260,047 at 02/28/2015 compared to \$258,106 at 01/31/2015 and \$79,156 at 02/28/2015. Net increase due to Petersen and Dixon closings.

Anne B. moved to approve the treasurer’s report which was seconded by Alex. Report approved.

Moderator’s Report:

Susi sent and reviewed her report to council.

MARCH MODERATOR REPORT

I am getting back into a routine of sorts after my surgery. It feels great to be back in Worship and singing in the Choir. It is challenging at times as I am an independent woman who is not used to being cared for. And since I have not been driving the task has fallen on hubby Jim who has been a great and willing chauffeur.

David and I have not had a **formal meeting** this past month but have kept the communication flowing via email and phone calls. I trust we will resume our get together in the near future.

New Beginnings: Pastor David and a team of seven members attended the two-day Leadership Retreat February 27 & 28 along with members from four other UCC congregations. Our group (Kathy Haben; Kathleen and Bob Kaska; Nancy Schatzeder; Peg Schramuk; Susi and Jim Winquist) came away excited and energized about what the future may be for LHC.

We each received and reviewed the LHC comprehensive draft assessment compiled by Doug Pfeiffer. We participated in in-depth discussions on aspects of the reports as individuals, home Church groups and en mass. Please be aware that at this point only those persons on the committee will have access to the Report though I will work with Search and Call on pertinent information they may find useful for their Profile completion.

The committee met after Worship that following Sunday to brainstorm next steps. We have established a tentative schedule for four separate series of congregational gathering beginning the end of April into May. Why the wait? First, a CD with corrections to the draft and a PowerPoint presentation will not arrive until sometime around Easter. Second, the congregation is currently working on vital information for Search and Call and has been asked to attend a meeting in the next few weeks. We do not want to interfere with that process. Third, Spring break will find many folks out of the area. Fourth, our snowbirds will be returning. They possess much knowledge and insight and LHC will benefit from their input. Fifth, the committee needs time to organize and plan as this is important work and should not be done hurriedly.

Each congregation member will be invited to participate by attending one of the series of gatherings. We plan to offer a Friday/Saturday time; Sunday after Worship for three sessions; and two week night series each with three sessions. Again this is **tentative** and may be adjusted based on sign-up commitments and expressed need of congregation members. Information will be posted in the very near future. Those folks in attendance will receive a copy of the Report at the first session. The Reports will be reviewed and discussed in depth in small groups facilitated by one of the committee members. All information from the various sessions will be collated and shared with the entire membership.

After prayerful consideration of all the discussions, the goal is to come to a congregational consensus on the future mission/direction for LHC. Then the work shall begin in earnest. New Beginnings is not a problem solver program for LHC or any Church. It is a path to guide us to look to the future with clear vision and in different ways.

At the council meeting, the **New Beginnings Program** was further explained and discussed. The **tentative** schedule includes one of the groups meeting after church on 4/26,5/3,5/17. Another group will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in May and another group would meet during the first weekend in May. Each of the four groups would have the same content given to them. Anyone participating in a group would be receiving about six hours of training which entails 'self-evaluation' of our church. After the training, congregational members would gather to

decide upon the direction of the church which would be presented to the new pastor. The goal is to have 60 members attend the meetings.

In addition to her written report, Susi also added that the **personnel relations committee** has had difficulty in finalizing the personnel handbook but is making progress.

Susi reminded everyone to consider replacements for themselves if they are not on next year's council. Names should be forwarded to Susi.

On April 1st, **David's contract** requires another three month extension. Anne B. moved that David's contract be extended for another three months. Maureen Seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Also, a further update was given regarding the **Search and Call committee**. Carol added to Susi's report that 15 members of the congregation stayed after church last Sunday to meet with the Committee. The group was divided into three discussion groups, resulting in positive and similar ideas which the committee can use to formulate information which would be provided to UCC regarding our church and its focus. The committee continues to meet every Tuesday night, except on the second Tuesday because of monthly church council meetings.

Moderator Elect Report:

Alex forwarded the following message to council as his report.

We all work so well together, and enjoy each other's company so let's "hold the course". During this period of significant change (Search and Call process, and New Beginnings) the good ship "Little Home Church" needs a solid anchor. That anchor of course is Christ, but each member of the council is an important link in the anchor-chain itself.

As our ship bobs in often large waves, waiting for a captain to come on board, and as the crew repairs the sails to perhaps head in new directions, the anchor-chain must hold fast!!

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Maureen reviewed the following report that she sent to Council.

- Sunday School attendance is down to zero.
- We may have to cancel the forgiveness retreat on the 21st due to low participation. Sunday morning Bible study has decreased to two people.
- The first adult education forum, An Evening of Gaelic and God, will be this Friday March 13th at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.
- We will continue with movie nights again in April, May and June.
- I have not had any response from the two people who said they were interested in helping with the Christian Education Ministry. I will contact them again.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June with the Congregational Church in Bartlett, June 16-20. They have approximately 30 children but will be needing teachers.

Congregational Life:

Congregational Life Report: Susannah forwarded the following report. She and Jane were unable to attend.

Ash Wednesday pot luck and service was well received. Lots of great Mardi Gras themed food.

The chairs should arrive the week of March 22nd. I have emailed Art to send a check to Lori. I will follow up on the "Buy a Chair" pledges this week.

What to do with the old chairs was discussed. We are considering giving them to another church in need.

Evangelism: Carol forwarded the following report to council.

On Sunday, March 8, I had a casual dinner for prospective new members. Even though there were only had four prospective members in attendance, I have several couples who might be interested in joining LHC who were unable to come to dinner. Thanks go to Alex, Ann McLaughlin, Greg Hege and David for attending Sunday night's dinner.

Our membership classes will begin in April after Easter, and we are hoping for eight people to join, but the final list is still a work in progress.

Facilities: Anne submitted a written report. Items on her report include the following.

1. Got ant traps for the ant parades in the Parish Hall bathrooms
2. Changed a couple furnace filters in the Parish Hall and Sanctuary basement
3. Met with Rik Alex to discuss next steps for the power assist door in the Parish Hall

Anne added that she has just emailed the Facilities volunteers to attend a meeting after church on March 29th.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin was absent but forwarded the following report.

Feeding Northwest DuPage, Easter food baskets:

- LHC committed to donating 45 dinners. The drop off date is March 28th, 8:00-9:00 AM
- If people are unable to drop off their meal(s) on 3/8, then meals can be dropped off at Resurrection church food pantry during these hours: Mon & Thurs 10-1, Tues 1-4:00, or Sat 8-11
- I made an announcement in church on Sunday requesting people sign up to donate and received 20 meal commitments
- I emailed Lori and assigned 10 meals to the church office to accommodate those folks who call or email about donating a meal
- Wanda Hochstetter has always been a big food pantry supporter so I made a point to call her and ask for her support for Easter meals.

Community Crisis Center (aka battered women's shelter):

- The shelter recently transitioned from being a battered women's shelter to a crisis center serving the community at large

- Toiletries including soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, tooth brushes/paste, etc., are always in demand
- Richard and I dropped off four large bags of toiletries two weeks ago
- Nancy Alex made a suggestion that since the CCC has lots of support already, might we consider supporting The Midwest Shelter For Homeless Veterans, 119 N. West Street, Wheaton, IL, 60187, <http://helpaveteran.org/>, (630) 871-VETS that her and Rik have had some experience with
- I would like to suggest we continue donating toiletries to CCC and shift our monetary support to the Homeless Vets

Mission Moments:

- Pastor Russell and I discussed scheduling Mission Moments in 2015 for April 12 and May 17
- I have been seeking volunteers to help with making calls and scheduling Mission Moments, but so far no one else has volunteered. I will do my best to try and make these calls and schedule Mission Moments

Per Valeri's report, Council discussed the change at the Community Crisis Center and would like more information about the organization. The church could then decide whether it should continue to support the organization or needs to substitute or add a different organization to Outreach. The mentioned Veterans organization is a possible new outreach which could be considered. The Council felt that the reason that the church initially supported the Center was because of its focus to help battered children and women.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska's report which was submitted by email is as follows.

To date we have a total of (69) Pledges for \$169,500.00. We have a few "known pledgers" still outstanding and expect to finish this year at (70+) pledges for over \$170,000.00.

We are blessed with a generous Congregation!

Special thanks to Ann McLaughlin for keeping track of all the numbers.

Discussion followed regarding how these numbers compared to past year.

The music pledge for \$15,000 is included in the above pledge totals.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Sandy had indicated to Susi that she will not be continuing on council next year.

Members at Large/ Communications: Kathleen Sullivan Kaska provided the following report:

Web site—Monthly updates on homepage; Sunday schedule; Flowers & fellowship; Events; and Book club pages

Email messaging:
Family Movie Night —Sent February 10

BTW News Reminder —Sent February 12
Ash Wednesday Reminder 2015 —Sent February 12
Northside Brass Spring Concert —Sent March 3
A little Gaelic and God... —Sent March 4
Let's practice forgiveness... —Sent March 9

Facebook page—Up to 113 “Likes”

Wedding brochure—Met with committee members: Lori Prang; Janet Figge; Anne Bouchard; and Susannah Lesswing (Dawn Sbabarro & Pastor David not attending) on **Feb. 19** to plan and discuss many details. New brochure will be produced as an overview, along with a Planning Package of updatable 8.5x11 sheets with more detailed information. Kathleen will develop outline; Anne will create copy; Lori to research cost of producing wedding programs; Janet to organize comparative church fee information in Excel sheet; Susannah to connect with DWRC.

Kathleen added that she has an outline and draft for the Wedding brochure. Anne will further develop the copy. Fee comparison has been done.

N2 Publishing—Joined Pastor David on March 3 for a meeting with Caryl Anderson from N2 Publishing about their neighborhood “newsletter” publications—“Life in the Hills” (Woodland Hills development) specifically. Discussed possible advertisements and event notices from LHC. This is the same publisher of the now dormant “Wayne Life.”

Kathleen added that she met with a representative of the soon to be published “Life in the Hills” magazine that would be sent to Wayne and Woodland Hills. Kathleen shared the possibility of advertising in the magazine for a cost of approx. \$2040 for a year’s subscription of a monthly quarter page ad. However, the council felt that maybe a postcard would be better at this time but was favorable to promoting the church to this neighborhood.

Easter Season Postcard—At Pastor David’s request, researched cost of producing a 6x9” promotional postcard mailing to Woodland Hills development and/or Wayne zip code. Details will be presented at Council meeting for review.

Anne B. moved to send a postcard to the Woodland Hill subdivision to advertize Easter to that community. Alex seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. The cost will be \$462.

Color copier 5-yr. lease renewal—Joining Lori Prang at Gordon Flesch in Geneva, on March 10, for a 2-hr demo on their current color copying equipment and what might be a good fit for LHC going forward. Lori has been very pleased with the service and equipment. *The council felt that due to the cost, a couple of quotes should be given. Council questioned why we would need to pay for a contract that is based on 8000 copies per month when the church uses much less. The current budget for the copier is \$200 per month.*

Kathleen informed the council that she would not be able to coordinate the plant sale. Therefore, a new chair for event is needed. May 8-9

Lori needs *By the Way* news by March 19th.

OLD BUSINESS: Mentioned in committee reports

NEW BUSINESS:

Men of the LHC: In addition to the Treasurer's Report, Art Zwemke sent the council an update on the Men of the LHC which are coordinating two upcoming events.

1. **Kane County Cougars on Sunday, June 7th** at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$9.00 for reserved seats and we hope to attract at least 50 members, families and friends for this outing. More details will come from the monthly breakfast on Saturday, March 14th at 9:00 am at Colonial on Rte 64 regarding logistics, collection of money and distribution of tickets. Please let me know if you plan to attend and how many tickets.

2. **Church Picnic on Sunday, September 13th** at Pratt Wayne Woods

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

A move to adjourn was made by Carol and seconded by Alex. All in favor.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 8:45 p.m.:

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk