

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
March 11, 2014

In Attendance: Kathy Haben, Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Susi Winqvist, Sandy Antonelli, Ann McLaughlin, Carol Berger, Kathleen Kaska, Ron Purser and Anne Haben

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Art Zwemke, Jan Marchese, Louise Aughnay, Jane Shelton, Susannah Lesswing

Moderator Kathy Haben called the meeting to order at 7:11p.m.

Bible Passage Reading done by Kathy Haben

Prayer Requests were made and Ron led us in opening prayer.

Approval of January and February 2014 Council Minutes motion made by Ann M to approve with suggested edits and seconded by Lori. Approved.

Pastor's Report: the actual total plan for the sound system is \$30,000 not 3-4,000 to get a new sound system because ours is dying out and the wiring is wrong. We have a couple other quotes coming in to assess the sound system. The main thing we need is new speakers. We should also consider having speakers for outdoor use. Something needs to be done but in the meantime Ron is trying to find outside funding.

There was a UCC meeting over the new Illinois concealment law. Churches may prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons in the church and if so we would need to get a legal sign close to the front doors. Ann M made a motion to put a sign up to prohibit concealed weapons Sandy seconded the motion. Ann amended the motion to include all main entrances to our buildings Sandy seconded. Motion was voted on, one person abstained it still passed with 7 votes.

Treasurer Report: Art was absent but sent in his forms to be discussed. Snow removal cost and Nicor bills hit us hard the past few months with how bad this winter has been. Overall it needs to be explained by Art during next month's meeting. Ann M is in charge of creating a deficit budget group (fund raising) to help our churches financial situation. We are down 4% in income compared to where we were last year.

Peterson House – We accepted \$165,000 on the house. \$18,000 was held back until we figure out if the septic field is on their property or not. We also compensated the buyers \$3,800 for them to fix their septic line and to secure the sale due to the many delays the church made. After taxes and realtor fees we have received \$124,651. The realtor agreed to donate some of her commission back (\$1,000) to the church as long as it goes to something specific to fix (i.e. the Guild House window). The couple that moved in is from Wheaton and they are moving to be closer to their church.

We deferred the acceptance of the report because there are so many questions that need to be answered by Art.

Moderator Report: Peterson house is sold. The other house (Dixon) is on hold for now – we believe there may be septic location issues with this property also.

Moderator listened to the New Beginnings webinar and typed it up for the council to read.

Encouraging for involvement with the Fox Valley Association. There is a spring meeting coming up April 26th. It is in Geneva.

There is a retired pastor (whom Sandy knows) that wrote a book, What Church Leaders Really Need to Know, and will be in town the first week of May. He offered to do a free presentation for us.

Moderator Elect Report: Currently reading a book. Jane took over taking care of the phone tree.

Christian Ed: Fermi lab visit might be moved back a week. The VBS material has arrived, plan on being held early July. Feed the Starving Children in May trying to team up with another churches Youth Group to get more people involved.

Congregational Life: Pancake breakfast will be starting up again April 13th and the funds raised will go to the chair fund.

Thinking of other fundraisers to help out the church.

Kohl's Associate in Action was suggested; Kohl's employees volunteer at the church for 3 hours and donate a \$500 grant to benefit the kids.

Evangelism: Top 3 priorities; new members, new beginnings and, thank you notes to visitors. New Beginnings is a new program. The process is a fee of 2,800 it is more beneficial to join with other churches in our conference. The process takes about 6 to 8 months. New Beginnings is basically a church consulting group, "changing the attitude and understanding of how we do church". Based on our church standing it is recommended to go through this process with our interim pastor. Past month accomplishments have a list of past visitors. Getting to know us dinner Sunday April 13th flyers will be going out soon. New member week is planned March 23rd.

Facilities: Still prioritizing the list. They had a meeting before the Ash Wednesday pot luck. They added 3 new members to the committee. Trying to get a work day on the calendar. Renting office space to get more funds? We have added things to the list that needs to be fixed. Some of the doors have been fixed so they close properly. Nancy Alex found an auction site that is selling chairs, something to look into. Reached out to Donna Voitman, Tom Atkins is looking in on her periodically, she is happy we are looking into the sound system.

Outreach: Easter dinner baskets are coming up we have committed to 45 baskets. The baskets are due April 12th. There was a flyer in last week's bulletin to get volunteers for the food pantry.

Stewardship: Priorities are a special collection at the end of this month, Our Great Hour of Sharing. Creating a budget deficit sup-group (fund raising.) Catching up on financial input. Want to resurrect the Time and Talent Survey.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Trying to get more people for ushers and pulpit associate. We need to raise awareness that anyone can do participate in this. Create a By the Way article as a reminder.

Members at Large: Lori has been getting more computer training. They (Lori & Kathleen Sullivan Kaska) updated the church flyer. Getting responses on identifying who still wants to receive a hard copy of The By the Way in the mail. Updating the church website. Hoping to collect more pictures of the church for the website. Getting started on the new wedding brochure. Proposal for the plant sale to get more participation; possibly host a garden party around the beginning of June as a fund raiser.

Old Business:

New Chairs- creating a fund so we can get quality chairs.

Sexton Position/on-sight troubleshooting person – need to look into it, get quotes and figure out ways to fund. Ron will make a list of all the things that he does that go unseen so that they still get done when we have an interim.

Decided to make a “parking lot list” of old business and where we are with each thing so they aren’t forgotten.

New Business:

Ron will be meeting with the attorney for legal issues with the Dixon house about changing property lines and meeting with village compliance.

Kathy brought up Karen Ashe and should we provide her with something for originally taking on the Peterson House sale. We need to show her that we care and appreciate the work that she did (500 & flowers). Motion made and approved.

Kathy also brought up should we give something to Larry for helping out in December when Ron was sick (200). Motion made and approved.

Ron is trying to get a guest speakers to participate in the worship services (Wensel). Don H. will be doing the Mother’s Day service. Put something in the By the Way to promote these guest speakers.

Put our flyers up in the post office.

Blood drive is May 19th.

Carol volunteered to read her favorite bible passage at next month’s meeting.

We Noticed:

Next meeting is April 8th.

Ann moved that we adjourn seconded by Susi and Ron ended the meeting with the benediction at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Haben