

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
March 8, 2016

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Frank Muno, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Alex Kentfield, David Russell, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Anne Bouchard,, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton

Moderator Alex Kentfield began the meeting at 7:12 pm. Pastor David led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the February minutes. Bob Kaska moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Frank. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David submitted the following report for the past month.

PASTOR'S REPORT

March. 2016

- Although we only had two takers at *Ashes to Go*, it was good to see our church in the Daily Herald! Thanks to Alex for helping me deal with the cold day! Suggestions have been made for LHC to do it again in 2017 but on Army Trail with more signage.
- **Theology on Tap 2/28** had a successful start with 17 participants and excellent discussion. The club was gracious, service good as was the brunch buffet. We have our 2nd one this Sunday 3/13.
- Our 1st **Lenten supper** on 2/24 went well with food, learning and mini worship. Our last supper with Henri Nouwen video is this Wednesday at 6:30pm.
- A fellow clergy shared this contact information re: **church growth** that you might find helpful
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs158/1102793001755/archive/1123709252083.html>
- The **Men's group** will be meeting this Saturday at the Colonial and having breakfast with the men from the Ahmadiyya mosque. The men are also planning a big Saturday May 14 with a Community Breakfast, Blessing of the Bicycles and Blessing of the motorcycles (at the Harley Dealer).
- We had plans for starting a **small group for young couples** (with children) but I'm not getting much interest. Will try again on Sunday April 3. I'm disappointed, especially that reaching out to 10 couples I initially heard back from only two.
- Met with the **new pastor at Congregational UCC in Campton Hills (St. Charles)**, David Pattee and welcomed him to the neighborhood. He used to work at Chicago Theological Seminary so he is familiar with the general area. We talked of some ways our churches might collaborate.
- **Fox Valley Assn Spring Gathering** is 4/23 in Algonquin with keynote topic on helping churches deal with the digital world.
- I am planning on taking **vacation days** right after Easter March 28 and 29 and then a full week May 2-8.
- **Please see the Holy Week schedule on the next page.**

At Council, David reminded the council about holy week and distributed a schedule. David asked for volunteers for the Thursday Seder evening meal/service.

Also, he reminded the council that involving new members in the church through activities and volunteer opportunities, helps incorporate new members into the congregation. That suggestion and other information is discussed through reports found on the website, www.faithcommunitiestoday.org.

David also suggested that the church elects delegates to attend the annual conference meetings instead of continually asking for volunteers. There are currently three conferences per year. The next conference will be April 23 of the Fox Valley conference. Susi made a suggestion that a delegate could be selected from the congregation at large.

It was also noted that the executive director, Jonathan Knight, of the Illinois Conference has resigned. He has been our main contact regarding the Search process for the new pastor.

Pastor David is still in the process of talking to young families and hopes to bring them 'as a group' into the church this Spring.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Art Zwemke submitted the treasurer's report for the past month. The cover of that report which highlights and comments on each section of the report is copied below. A complete copy of the report is available from the office.

Treasurer's Report
February 29, 2016

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$47,745 is 19.25% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 21.23%, 3 year average. Total Pledges received of \$35,658 are 24.03% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016 compared to 22.25%, 3 year average. Received \$21,100 in prepaid pledges in 2015 toward 2016, recorded in January 2016.

B – 1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$2,942 in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$3,966) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of \$6,516. Estimated \$2,500 pledges for 02/28/16 collections, will true up in March.

C – 1 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$245,104 at 02/29/2016 compared to \$242,707 at 12/31/2015 and \$260,197 at 02/28/15.

D - 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

At Council, Art mentioned that we are in a good financial position.

Bob Kaska moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Susi W. All were in favor. Report approved.

Moderator's Report: Alex submitted the following report for the past month.

On March first, Pastor David and I met to discuss continuing plans for the upcoming Lenten Season and Holy Week, and other activities in the not-too-distant future: Blessing of the Bikes, Men of LHC breakfast with Men of the Mosque, church fix-up date, etc. We also discussed the possibility of a young couples' small group. We both agreed that we need a person (probably someone already on council) to be designated as the LHC "delegate" to attend denominational events. It was thought that a council "member at large" could do this as they have no other specified tasks.

There will be an installation of a UCC pastor in Naperville on April 3rd (Lucas Grobe), and David encouraged members of the Search and Call Committee to attend so they could see one, and hopefully become even more inspired 😊 .

Pastor David will be on vacation on Mother's Day and will arrange a service to be conducted by Lay Leaders. Unfortunately I will not be able to participate as my wife and I will be on vacation in Florida playing with our little granddaughter that week.

I advised Pastor David that the council will once again address the issue of staff salaries.

Finally we discussed the success of our first "Theology on Tap" meeting.

Moderator Elect: Kathleen Sullivan Kaska submitted the following report for the past month.

Endowment Fund Brochure: Designed and presented brochure draft for review by Pastor David, Susi W. and Janet Figge. Also shared with Art Z. and received a good suggestion for adding a 'call-to-action' devise and a number of overall endowment program ideas. (Design layout attached)

Chili Cook-Off: Helped Congregational Life Ministry with communications, promotion, and event set-up of this event. Big 'thank you's' are due to Barb Braulick and Lori Prang for all their good work on this event.

Wayne Walk: Created logo for the event and placed info item in March BTW. Attended Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley's dinner at DWRC honoring stewards of three neglected sites. Met the executive director and other board members to network for this project and research for a Little Home Church Preservation initiative. Developing an event prospectus to share with community partners, and a project committee list to solicit chairmanships.

Wedding Planner: Designed and presented draft of brochure and folder insert sheets for review by fellow committee members Lori Prang, Janet Figge and Anne Bouchard. We are meeting on March 23 to collect additional content for the planner so it can be finalized and printed by April 15.

Communications: Outreach Ministry Display Board created to highlight \$\$ donated to six service agencies and UCC. Created and updated the 4" x 8.5" LHC handout for sending to

visitors and placement in the case attached to the cabinet sign in front of church. Created an updated flyer and poster for the Play Date program.

Email blasts: Chili Cook-Off 2016; Easter Flower Sale; March BTW; and two 'THIS Week at LHC'

Social Media: Multiple Facebook postings; 153 'Likes' to date

It was suggested that another meeting of the endowment committee be organized to proceed in the establishment of the fund. The committee members are Wendell Clancy, Andrea Ferguson, Tom Atkins, Bob Kaska, and Janet Figge. Hopefully, these trustees/committee members will be able to finalize the details and launch the endowment fund by the June annual meeting. It was discussed whether some of the trustees will need to be re-confirmed at the next meeting.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Frank Muno reported that there was a good turn-out and response to the last Lenten Supper. Approx. 20 people have signed up to attend tomorrow night's event. Frank asked the council if there was an interest in an "end of life" discussion. Discussion followed.

Alex mentioned the "paper route" idea again to distribute flyers.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick provided the following report.

The Chili Cook Off, held March 27, raised approximately \$650 with about 45 people attending.

The Thurs. March 24th, Maundy Thursday Dinner/event is being planned with David. Volunteers need to set up clean up and to make food for the special menu.

Also, it was discussed whether there would be an interest in getting a group together to attend a Ladysmith Black Mambazo concert at Ravinia on July 11th. The committee would like to promote the trip.

Evangelism: In Ann McLaughlin's absence, David reported.

We are planning on a 'new members' class with new membership on May 1st. Letters will be going out to 15-20 prospective members (families) with classes on April 17 and April 24. Carol Berger is hosting a dinner for the prospective members on April 3. It was suggested that members that have we have not seen for awhile, that have young children, be contacted as well.

Facilities: Chip Braulick reported.

A company has been employed to install the new power assisted doors.

A Men's Work Day along with the Gardening Angels has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9th. One project will be repairing the Guild House water damage. Chip asked the council to let him know if there is anything that would need to be done.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report for the past month.

Easter Holiday Dinners

- In February Kathy McKinley, site coordinator, stepped down from her role at Resurrection Pantry. She will be staying on to train her successor and volunteer at the pantry when she can. We will all miss her passion, compassion, friendliness, kindness, and organizational skills. She's making the change so she can spend more time with grandkids.
- The Easter Holiday dinner sign-up sheet was delivered and I have been making announcements during church and signing up people during fellowship
- We have 23 meals that still need to be donated
- Kathleen mentioned that she and Lori would work on sending out an email blast
- The dinners are to be dropped at the food pantry on Saturday, 3/19, 7:30-9:00. The other options are during the food pantry's normal business hours Mon & Thurs 10-1 or Tues 1-4:30.

Mission Moments (MM)

- I emailed Pastor David and requested 2016 dates for MM and he replied with 3/13, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/29
- I sent emails and made follow up calls to all the Outreach ministries to invite them to participate. Following is the status of this effort:
 - Bridge Communities (aka Transitional Housing) - Mark's mom passed away, response is delayed.
 - Community Crisis Center – Gretchen referred me to Ruth and she has conflicts on Sundays because she teaches Sunday school. Awaiting response.
 - Neighborhood Food Pantry (formerly known as Feeding Northwest DuPage) – Tom Norton, Executive Director, has committed to a MM on March 13th.
 - Fox Valley Hands of Hope (formerly known as Volunteer Hospice) – Greg Weider, Executive Director, has committed to a MM on April 10th
 - Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans – Lynn Rowe, Development Coordinator, has committed to do a MM, but sometime in June.
 - Renz Addiction Counseling Center – Deb Howe, Director Marketing & Development has committed to April 17th.
- We will need more MM dates beyond May to accommodate Bridge Communities and the Community Crisis Center.

Play Date

- Nancy and Rik have continued to be the grass roots effort promoting and growing this most important mission to LHC
- In February Karen, Wayne Art League, did face painting with the kids. Turns out, Kate O'Rourke and Nathan Ewald are also wonderful artists. To see pictures of the horses, elephants, hearts, flowers, etc. go to <http://littlehomechurch.org/eventsactivities/playdate.html>.
- In February, it was suggested that Play Date change the time to 10:00 - 12:00. Therefore, beginning on Wednesday, March 2nd the group is meeting 10:00 - 12:00.

- When the weather is cold, the kids will be inside and when the temps are above 55, then everyone will be outside. Chalk drawings is a popular activity. Watch for them to appear in the courtyard.
- On Wednesday, March 23rd, the kids will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt.
- In the future I would like to have a musician bring their instrument and do a mini concert for us.
- Posters have been made and are available if anyone is interested in putting them up in your neighborhood.
- Please share the new time/days with your friends.

Stewardship: Bob and Kathleen Kaska shared information regarding the Wayne Walk. The walk will be on Saturday, October 8, 2016. Volunteers are being sought for committee chairs, ticket sales, traffic, and more.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Susi Winqvist submitted the following report for Jane.

- We are in need of childcare for the following dates: Easter Sunday; April 3; May 1; May 8. Perhaps a teen could be found to take on these dates.
- We need one more Usher for this Sunday. I have a full slate of folks then through April 3rd.
- I have been out sick for the past two weeks and have not checked the Fellowship or Flower sign ups. I will do so tonight at the meeting.
- Order forms and an email blast have gone out for Easter Flowers.
- Please promote the Lenten activities with family and friends. Each scheduled event has been and will be spiritually rewarding.

Members at Large: Carol Berger commented that the recent email which allows people to respond with a click was very attractive and nicely done.

Communications:

Kathleen reminded everyone to submit their news for the newsletter on time.

Search & Call:

Alex asked if there is money available to move a new pastor. Discussion followed. Per Art, if there is any money left over in the budget after a “package” is offered a new pastor, those funds could be used. Also, there may money in a fund that could be used for this as well. It cannot be paid for from the operating fund. Alex reported that there are 6-7 people that are being considered presently. A couple of candidates have had a second interview. One candidate is having their references checked. Alex gave a detailed explanation of the way in which the search is being handled.

Carol moved that the personnel committee will take over from the Search and Call committee at the time when the “package” is offered to a candidate. Kathleen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Re-Visioning: Susi Winqvist sent council the following report.

The Re-visioning Team is in the process of conducting community agency interviews in order to collect data about the services they provide and what each agency feels their community needs are.

The Team is working well within the timeline for completion of the various tasks i.e. interview completion by mid to late April.

The Re-visioning Team also received a \$1000 grant from LEAP, which is awarded to churches who try to revitalize themselves.

Personnel Committee: Susi Winqvist sent council the following report.

The current PC membership: Andrea Ferguson; Kathy Haben; Alex Kentfield; Susi Winqvist.

Paul Figge has an extensive background in Human Resources, policy writing, and the creation of job descriptions. He has agreed to assist the PC on a “consultant” basis in order to review current job descriptions and policies then provide the PC with recommendations for updates. Once job descriptions have been updated to reflect the duties and responsibilities of our staff, reviews will be conducted.

This is a monumental task and Paul’s expertise in this matter is greatly appreciated. At this point, a timeframe for completion has not been established.

Discussion was given to the employees’ wages for the 2016 year. It was felt that some research needs to be done prior to making a decision due to the fact the budget has already be approved by the congregation and this would constitute a change in the budget. It was recommended that if the change can be made, a three percent ‘cost of living’ raise should be given for all of the employees excluding David because he is contracted.

It was also discussed, as Susi’s report mentioned, that any future increase in job compensation, including a ‘cost of living’ raise as well as a performance raise, be determined after job descriptions are determined by the PC committee. A final decision on the pending wage increase will be determined at the next council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Already reported.

NEW BUSINESS: None

A motion to adjourn was made by Susi and seconded by Chip. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned. The next council meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

Alex gave the closing prayer at 9:34 p.m.:

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk