

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
March 14, 2017

**In Attendance:** Anne Bouchard, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke, Monica Thornton (guest)

**Absent:** Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Karen Kaluzsa, Bob Kaska, Ann McLaughlin

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, who hosted tonight's meeting at her home, began the meeting at 7:14 pm. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared. There was no quorum.

Monica Thornton was a guest at the meeting. She gave the council an overview of her upcoming summer mission trip to Zimbabwe. She, along with a group of eight other Iowa State students will be traveling to Africa through the Navigators, a college Christian organization, which Monica has been active in since she has been at college. Two other organizations, Life-to-Life Africa, and Habitat of Hope missions are also facilitating the trip. While in Zimbabwe, she will be doing mission work during the first month, and then assisting local people with agricultural projects as well as assisting the food service and care of orphans at an orphanage as part of an internship during the second month of her stay. Due to the expense of the trip, she welcomes any financial assistance that the church or anyone can provide.

**Approval of Minutes:** The February council minutes were reviewed and corrections were suggested. Kristen will make the corrections before they are approved at the next meeting.

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

Pastor's Report to Council: March 2017

The month started on Ash Wednesday, but since the council last met, we have had a full month finishing out the season after Epiphany. The Last Sunday before Lent borrowed on traditional Christian practice of Carnival, best known in the United States by New Orleans Mardi Gras. Little Home Church did it our way, with Fat Sunday worship of Holy Humor over a pancake breakfast. Larry led the kids in a parade, booked a band and the whole thing seemed to be well received. Even though we had a few logistical glitches, the choir stepped up admirably to storm the breach, and the Men's Group did a fabulous job of keeping us fed. Many thanks to all who helped make this service a success. I think it is a keeper. It was well attended and seemed to be well received.

The Ash Wednesday service went well as did the first two Sundays in Lent. We are planning to receive new members in April or early May. I have planned a lunch and class on April 9, Palm Sunday. Three couples are planning to join, and there is a baptism planned for April 30. It is great to see young families with kids showing up and coming back. The next step is to get a lineup of Sunday School teachers so that we can keep them. I would also remind everyone to remain vigilant to visitors, and make sure that when you see them in coffee hour, they are not standing alone.

In an effort to connect with members who seem to have gone missing, I have mailed two dozen note cards, covering 35 members.

The experiment of Wednesday night dinners seems to have some legs. We are coming up on our second dinner in March. I have very much enjoyed leading the classes. Participation seems to fluctuate, but I think we should keep it going through the spring and take a break for the summer. We can look at whether we want to go every week, or cut back to one or two Wednesdays a month. We should also think about whether or not to offer childcare, as no one has used it yet. Perhaps we should use it through the end of March and then drop off until there is a need.

At the last Men's Breakfast, we roughed out events for spring and summer. The Blessing of the Bikes will be held May 6, with a Cougars Game in July and a possible revival of the shrimp boil in August. The thought is to look into a good source for shrimp locally, hold the event again, and see how much we can raise.

Two weeks ago, we held our third Adult Education Field Trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie. The trip was deeply moving and well attended. Many in the group gathered afterwards for lunch before parting. Many thanks to Karen Kaluzsa for organizing the trip. It was an excellent addition to our Lenten meditations.

At council, Richard shared a request for volunteer mentors for the U-46 school district. The school district had sent him the letter asking for help.

He also mentioned the two political forums being held at the church tonight and another on Friday. He mentioned that there might be added security at Friday's forum because of the contested election of School Board members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Art Zwemke submitted the treasurer's report for the past month. The cover of that report appears on the next page. A complete copy of the report is available from the office.

At council, Art reviewed the report. He commented on the way the church software is used to enter in the different anticipated income from the fundraisers.

Art also reviewed the value of our property that is currently not stated in our treasurer's report. He asked council to consider adding the value to the treasurer's report in order to make the value available the public. He explained that the estimated value is based on the replacement cost of the property, not its market value. Information from the church's insurance policy was used to figure the value. He also added that the value should be re-evaluated as the renovation work is being done.

Treasurer's Report  
February 28, 2017

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD – Total Receipts of \$47,519 is 19.32% of \$246,000 goal, a bit behind the 3-year average of 22.59% Total Pledges of \$36,696 is 21.50% of \$180,000 goal, a bit further behind the 3-year average of 26.71%. We going to press I noted that the 2016 numbers for Total Receipts was copied incorrectly, will correct next month.

**B – 1 - B - 6** Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$11,827 in 2017 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$2,942 in 2016 and budgeted Net Income (Loss) of \$14,497. Susi has helped distribute the budget line items that are either straight line, seasonal or specific.

**C - 1** Consolidated Fund Activity –

**D – 1 - D – 2** Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$216,897 at 02/28/2017 compared to \$215,616 at 01/31/2017 and \$271,761 at 02/29/16. The sharp decrease from 12 months ago, is primarily the result of our 2016 Operating (Loss) of (\$21,040), Parish Hall Roof Repair of \$30,279 and the start-up costs for the Historic Preservation Project of \$26,658.

**E – 1 – E -5** Pro Forma Balance Sheet

1. Cover memo
2. Spreadsheet
3. Insurance Coverage
4. Pro Forma Balance Sheet as of 02/28/2017

**Moderator's Report:**

Kathleen presented new personnel binders that were developed by the Personnel Committee. The binders include job descriptions and information on annual job reviews. The process of reviewing employee performance on an annual basis will incorporate the use of review forms. The forms will be distributed to council, once completed each year. She asked if there were any questions, concerns, and comments. A specific binder has been prepared for each employee and his or her position.

**Moderator Elect:** Anne Bouchard submitted the report for facilities this month.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

**Christian Education:** Karen Kaluzsa sent the council the following report. She was not able to attend tonight's meeting because she was appearing at the election forum, which was being held at the church. She is currently running for a trustee position on the St. Charles Library Board.

We had a well-attended field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum on Saturday, March 4th with 21 participants (23 signed up with two last-minute cancellations) and 11 people went to lunch together after the tour. Feedback I received was uniformly positive.

The next field trip will be scheduled for the second quarter and probably will be to the nearby BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple on Route 59. Future destinations are the Midwest Buddhist Temple in the Old Town neighborhood of Chicago (tours are only given Monday - Friday, but their Ginza Holiday festival is Aug 11-13, 2017 and includes temple tours,) and Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple in Oak Park (currently closed for renovations but will reopen for tours in July 2017 -- since we are undergoing our own renovations, it will be especially interesting to learn about the just-completed renovations at Unity Temple.)

Richard and I met with a small team (Jane Shelton, Kate O'Rourke and Nancy Schatzeder) to discuss reintroducing Children's Sunday School since so many families with small children are joining the church. Preliminary plans are to have the kids lead us in a Palm Sunday processional, order a new curriculum, and solicit volunteers to teach Sunday School.

**Congregational Life:** Barb Braulick was not able to attend tonight's meeting. She notified the council by e-mail that she will be having a planning meeting for a June event, "Pig-nic," at the Arcidium coffee shop in the near future.

**Evangelism:** Ann McLaughlin was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

**Facilities:** Anne Bouchard submitted the following report.

We have an ongoing problem with the power flush toilet in the larger bathroom near the kitchen and have had to have the plumber out twice in the last couple of months to unclog it.

I would like to let everyone know that Mark Lesswing does a lot of behind the scenes work with our sound system. Please thank him sometime.

**Outreach:** Valeri Baldwin was not able to attend council. She forwarded council the schedule of upcoming Mission Moments.

3/19/17, Deb Howe, Renz Addiction Center  
3/26/17, Lynne Rowe, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans  
4/23/17, Greg Weider, Fox Valley Hands of Hope  
5/21/17, Tom Norton, Neighborhood Food Pantry

**Stewardship:** Bob Kaska was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Jane Shelton reminded everyone that Odie Perry was being honored for her 20 years of dedicated service as our custodian at church next Sunday, March 19.

Jane also mentioned that the Friends of the Fox River are having a Trivia Bee literacy fundraiser on Saturday, March 25. She is emcee this year and asked if anyone would like to participate. The cost is \$400 per table of four. Council felt that the church would be able to provide a team, financed by private donation.

**Members at Large:** Susi Winquist submitted the following report, which was discussed at council.

Member-at-Large Report  
March 2017

- 1) Kathy Haben is suggesting LHC organize an overnight camp out at Pratt Wayne Woods the weekend of the Outdoor Service. This could be either one or two nights of camping culminating with the morning Worship Service. Kathy is seeking Council support.
- 2) Kathy Haben would like to organize a LHC trip to Pilgrim Park in April/May to pull garlic mustard. This plant harmful and invasive, hindering growth of saplings and other natural plants. The outing could be either a day trip, Friday to Saturday overnight, or a weekend trip. Lodging is available for a cost. The Park will have a cook on hand for a group of 14 or more. Kathy is seeking Council support.
- 3) FVA Spring meeting is April 29, 2017 at St. John UCC in Waukegan. Please add to the calendar.
- 4) IL Conference Annual celebration June 9-10, 2017 at Elmhurst College. Please add to the calendar.
- 5) FVA Justice and Witness Call for Action: finance climate change, not fossil fuel subsidies. The FVA J&W team is proposing a resolution at the FVA Spring and IL Conference Annual meetings for "Fossil Fuel Divestment and end Fossil Fuel Subsidies". They are asking all churches to read, discuss, and endorse the resolution. (Council will discuss this at the next council meeting)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Plant Sale will be held on May 20.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer at 9:45 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk