

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
March 12, 2018

In Attendance:, Louise Aughnay, Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Chip Braulick, Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Chuck Sbarbaro, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winqvist

Absent: Barb Braulick, Judy Hopkins, Bob Kaska

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

Approval of Minutes: There were a couple minor changes to the February minutes. Jane moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Valeri. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

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

March 2018 - Pastor's Report

We are midway through Lent. The study series and dinners have gone well, though not exceptionally well attended, there was good fellowship, good food good study. Our new weekly meditation group continues to chug along and the weekly Bible Study is almost through 1 Samuel. I am also pleased to note that the Sunday School is forging ahead as well, though as of this 3/8, we were only covered through 3/11.

As you may know, one of the benevolences we support through our outreach budget is Open Door, an Elgin based Open Door which is in their 40th year. They are a regional, patient-centered health care organization that provides services including education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to those who have or are at risk for Sexually Transmitted Infections, including HIV/AIDS, and in addition to the greater LGBTQ community. In observance of the 29th annual National Week of Prayer for Healing for HIV/AIDS, Open Door held a luncheon in our Parish Hall. I was asked to offer a blessing on the meal and a closing prayer. During lunch we were treated to testimonials by staff and board members that bore witness to lives resurrected. It made me so pleased that we support their healing work. Perhaps we can get involved in more hands-on.

With Alex Kentfield, I serve on the Fox Valley Association Committee on Ministry, and at the March meeting we discussed the impending retirement of our IL Conference Minister, Jorge Morales. I bring it up because the upcoming Conference Annual Meeting will likely elect his successor. We should make every effort to be well represented at the Annual Meeting in June.

We are planning to receive new members on April 15, with a New Member Class on April 8. I am guessing that we will have at least 5 new members, with others who have expressed interest, but are not ready to make the commitment. At the moment I am most absorbed getting ready for Holy Week and Easter.

On a personal note, my brother-in-law, Walter Duncan seems to be reaching a crisis in his long battle with brain cancer. He is now mostly wheelchair bound. Their son Tom, is the officer recent deployed to Afghanistan, father of 3 young boys. They have installed a ramp to their home in Texas and are considering hospice care.

Faithfully submitted,
Richard Malmberg

At council, Pastor Richard remarked on the positive impact that ‘Open and Affirming’ has had on our church, its visitors and potential new members. He has been contacted by members of other Non-Open and Affirming congregations for his advice and/or assistance. He also commented on the luncheon which was held last week by the Open Door Health Organization and feels that they are a worthy cause for our church to support, as mentioned in his report.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Susi Winquist submitted and reviewed the treasurer’s report for the past month. The cover of that report is as follows. A complete copy of the report is available from the office. A review of her A-1 section of the report needed clarification and a correction was made to the Total Operating Receipts. The amounts were corrected in her cover sheet below.

Treasurer’s Report: February 2018 Financials

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD: **\$58,087 is 23% of the \$252,500 Budget.** I understand we are only two months into the year but as seen in the previous year, Identified and Cash contributions are slow.

A – 1 Total Pledge Receipts YTD: **\$54,820 is 30.71% of the \$178,500 Budget.** We received two substantial pledges this month and \$300 toward the 2017 pledges for a YTD total of \$325 of the \$500 budgeted.

B - 1 – 6 Operating Report: Current 2018 YTD Net Income (loss) of **\$21,711.** Compare to the projected Net Income (loss) of \$1,313. *In February we received more than we spent (income \$37,288 minus total monthly expenses of \$13,641).* Compare to 2017 Actual Net Income (loss) thru February of \$11,827.

C – 1– 2 Balance Sheet: Overall financial position of \$311,780 on 2/28/2018. The February \$1,682 Tax Liabilities were paid on 3/2/18 therefor they appear on this report. Compared to last month \$247,033 at 1/31/2018. Compared to last year at this time \$216,897 at 2/28/2017.

D – 1 Consolidated Fund Activity: Fund balance as of 2/28/18 is \$310,097. Marked increase attributed to the large pledges received into the Operating Fund and two gifts for the 150th Restoration Fund totaling \$40,000.

E – 1 – 2 February Food Pantry donations of \$148 added to the \$512 puts collections to date at \$660. A check has been distributed for the next \$650 gift. \$750 of the \$1,800 goal was collected for the Chili Cook-Off. Easter Flower Campaign is underway. Get your orders in by March 18th.

Additional Matters:

A check was distributed to Sherry Rodgers for \$900. We received \$400 in congregational gifts and \$500 was disbursed from the Schless Anniversary Fund. 2) Our new Custodian, Geraldine Fields officially joined our staff 3/7/18. A 2018 budget line item for the position had been approved by the congregation. 3) 19 College Care Boxes were sent out in February. The Brent Alex Memorial Fund covered the cost of \$191.

Charles moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Jane seconded the motion. All were in favor. Report was approved.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education:

Lori Haseltine inquired about the plans for Vacation Bible School. Pastor Richard will work with Lori to work out the details.

Evangelism: Carol Berger submitted the following report for the past month.

Dinner at my house was super fun on February 18 and we were able to acquaint potential members to LHC. And hopefully, we will have new members join on April 15. Couples who are interested in LHC are below. I thought it might be helpful to introduce you to all of them, so you can make a special effort on Sundays if you see faces that you may not know. Please make a special effort to greet them when they come to church. Thank you everyone for always making our visitors feel so welcome.

A list of visitors was shared with the council.

Facilities: The next 'Work Day' will be April 7 from 8-12. Please direct any suggestion of work that needs to be done to Chuck.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report.

Bridge Communities (BC)

- Bridge says "thank you" for helping us supply 139 homes for families in 2017! They accomplished 99,809 nights of shelter to 154 adults and 263 children. Click this blue URL to view their Annual Report and watch the video. [Read the 2017 Annual Report](#) & [View the 2017 Annual Report Video](#)

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Join Bridge on Friday, April 27th, for their [8th Annual Spring Luncheon](#) to celebrate **Women, Transforming Lives!** Hosted at the beautiful Danada House, we will celebrate women and philanthropy in DuPage County. Follow this URL to [Buy tickets to Celebrating Women, Transforming Lives](#) [Learn more about the event](#) and [Sponsorship information for Celebrating Women, Transforming Lives](#)

Community Crisis Center (CCC)

- Chuck donated 14 models and I dropped them off along with 10 lbs of toiletries on Sunday, 3/11.

Fox Valley Hands of Hope (FVH)

Join FVHH on Friday, May 25th, for their **2018 GARDEN PARTY Fund Raiser** at the Q Center in St. Charles. Follow this URL for tickets (on sale 4/18) and more information. [Tickets on sale April 18; sponsorships available now!](#)

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Saturday, September 15th, save the date for **A WALK TO REMEMBER**, Batavia

Mission Moments (MM) - Confirmed MM dates are as follows:

March 3/11, Greg Weider, Fox Valley Hands of Hope (FVHH)
April, 4/8, Melissa Owens, Community Crisis Center (CCC)
April, 4/15, Deb Howe, Renz Addition Center (Renz)

Mid-west Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV)

- New Staff: Yvonne MacDonald-Hames, Director of Development
- Former Staff: Jane Tyschenko-Mysliwicz, Director of Programs

Neighborhood Food Pantry (NFP)

- One of the ways LHC celebrates Easter is to donate 45 meals to the NFP.
- All but 9 meals have been accounted for and I am actively working to fulfill our commitment.
- I shopped for/dropped off 8 meals at the Pantry today.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fox Valley Literacy Council: The church has a team for the **trivia fundraising event** being held for the Fox Valley Literacy Council. At this point, donations to sponsor a Little Home Church team for the event surpass the amount needed. Council decided that the extra money should be given to the Literacy Council this year. However, Pastor Richard suggested that in the

future, *any overage of funds raised for a specific cause be given to the general Outreach fund.* Discussion followed and the council approved Pastor Richard's suggestion for future events. It was suggested that the congregation be notified at the June Annual meeting of this. Anne will add it to the meeting's agenda.

Financial Responsibility Team: Anne reported that the contract with CCS has been signed. A list of people is being prepared for CCS to interview. In addition to the names, we are providing them other information and data that they need in order for them to complete the feasibility and planning study.

Fundraising Committee: Council selected October 20 as the date for LHC to host a major fund raising event in order to raise the needed funds for the Outreach Ministries. *Anne will be putting together a fundraising committee* to proceed with ideas and plans. Some ideas that were suggested were a Trivia Contest, a concert, or a dance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ministry Fair – A time and talent and interest survey will be distributed prior to the ministry fair which is scheduled for April 22. Anne distributed copies of the ministries section of the bylaws and asked each ministry chair to review their ministry's page on the website. She would like the pages reviewed by April 9.

Church Service DVD: Lori Prang inquired to the necessity of having the DVDs made that no-one has used for a long time. However, it was discussed and the council felt that the DVDs were made to serve those church members who would not be able to attend church but would enjoy hearing the service. Since many may not be aware of the DVDs, it was suggested that the availability of the DVD s be publicized in the newsletter, bulletin, and website. Also, storing the recordings 'in a cloud' for people to watch could reduce the need to store the disks was discussed.

Plant sale: Council decided to hold the plant sale on May 19. Anne is working out the details with volunteers. It was also suggested to add a "Garden Party" this year that would include a lunch and/or a small craft or garden fair. It was noted that this event would be on the same date as the **Blessing of the Bikes**. Therefore, the fellowship hall would be used by the men to prepare a pancake breakfast for those who would like to stop by and have their bicycles or motorcycles blessed for the upcoming season. It was discussed that both events could somehow be joined to produce a bigger springtime event.

OTHER:

Men's Fellowship: Chuck reported the on the upcoming events.

- May 19 – Blessing of the bikes (pancake breakfast for riders)
- June 23 - Fishing Tournament at Wayne Woods
- July 22 - Cougars Baseball Game
- August 25 - Shrimp Boil

Attendance records: Anne distributed attendance records of the church services for 2017 and the beginning of this year. The information was well accepted as a good way to see trends and growth of our church. It was suggested that this kind of data be kept on the Sunday School, bible study groups, and other groups that function at our church.

Anne reported on the recent **Fox Valley Assoc. Meeting** that she attended recently. She was able to bring back ideas on possible speakers and church activities. One activity that she will promote for our youth is the “clean up buckets” that are put together and given to the Church World Disaster relief. Members can contribute towards the purchase of items that fill the buckets. Anne will put information in the next newsletter about the project.

Upcoming meetings: Richard urged council members to attend the UCC Illinois Conference Ministry meeting on June 7-9. He hopes two delegates to attend with him. He is also looking for representatives for the Fox Valley Assn. Annual Meeting in St. Charles on April 28th. Chip volunteered to go. Pastor Richard will be at a conference in Florida at that time.

Veterans Day Special Service: Since Veterans Day is on Sunday this year, Anne suggested that we do something special for the Veterans at church on that day. It could be a special breakfast/luncheon and special mention at church. Stewardship Sunday which is often that Sunday will be postponed until November 18.

Easter: Lori H. will get supplies needed to fill the Easter eggs for the egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 1. Other services that will be held that week will be the Good Friday Service at the LaFox/St. Charles UCC Church. The Maundy Thursday service will be at 6:30 with a potluck proceeding at our church.

New Employees: Charles Karwowski is currently our Sunday morning babysitter. Geraldine Fields is our new custodian and started this week.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 9 at 7:00 pm.

Other dates: New Member class, Sunday April 8
New Member Sunday, April 15
Ministry Fair Sunday, April 22
Fox Valley UCC Conf. Meeting, April 29, Congregational UCC – Campton Hills

A motion to adjourn was made by Charles and seconded by Ann M. The motion passed.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk