

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
May 12, 2015

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Susi Winqvist, David Russell, Carol Berger, Kristen Thornton, Jane Shelton, Alex Kentfield, Susannah Lesswing, Sandy Antonelli, Maureen O'Donnell, Valeri Baldwin,

Absent: Jan Marchese, Bob Kaska, Art Zwemke

Moderator Susi Winqvist began the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor David Russell gave an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A few corrections were made to the minutes. Anne moved to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Susannah. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David forwarded the following report to council. (*Comments mentioned at the council meeting are in italics*)

Pastor's Report May 2015

- **Rev. Dr. Bobbie McKay** was a hit when she preached on April 19 based on the feedback I received. She too was blessed by the response and presence of God's Spirit here at LHC.
- Alex and I attended the **Fox Valley Assn. meeting** in West Dundee on April 25. It was one of the most inspiring and informative meetings I have attended. On that note, I really hope we will have someone attending the statewide Illinois Conference celebration/meeting with me on June 5-6 in East Peoria.
- Our **three new members** are "gifted" people and I will share the results of their spiritual gifts inventory with those of you in whose ministry areas they are interested. Then it's up to you to follow up, inviting them to join you.
- We have an exciting **Pilgrimage-Mission trip** planned for late June and are in the process of possibly changing the starting date to Monday, June 22 so we would only be gone one Sunday. It is an opportunity to "do" mission and also to learn about the underground railroad/abolition movement and finally visit the biennial national UCC meeting for one day. Spread the word!

David mentioned that cost would be \$550 per person. Art reminded council that there is a mission fund available to cover some of the cost. David asked the council for a motion to spend \$250 per person from the mission fund for the June Mission trip. Anne moved. Carol seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- The **Confirmation** retreat went well with the help of our adult mentors. Our four boys Jake and Luke Figurski and Alex and Charlie Karwowski are looking to be confirmed on Sunday May 24. *Cake will be ordered for the confirmands.*

- There is a big LHC **wedding** this weekend, May 15-16, with Megan Figge and James Mijares. That's the third wedding this year with three more scheduled.
- I will be taking a **week off** from Monday May 25 through Sunday May 31. A Christian layman and colleague of mine, Gary Shunk, will preach May 31..
- **Rev. Eric Dickey of 1st Missionary Baptist Church in Biloxi, MS** has accepted my invitation to preach here on Sunday 8/30. I have asked the folks who went on the mission trip to help me with a **shrimp boil on 8/29**. I would like to invite the wider community and also see if we could raise a little money for Back Bay Mission.

David asked the council which two weekends would be best to meet with the Mosque to learn about their faith and alike.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke forwarded the April financial report to the council. He was not able to attend the meeting. The following is a copy of his report's cover sheet.

Treasurer's Report
April 30, 2015

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$78,127 is 31.89% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000 versus 37.38% three (3) year average. Total pledges received of \$68,014 are 40.01% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000 versus 42.65% of three (3) year average. As noted last month, we are close to plan on pledges, but lag in non pledge income, primarily Identified Contributors.

B – 1 - B - 6 YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$9,828) in 2015 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of (\$15,116) in 2014 and Net Income (Loss) Budget of \$2,196.

C – 1 – C - 2 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$248,464 at 04/30/2015 compared to \$213,703 at 04/30/2014 and \$263,666 at 12/31/2014.

D- 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

E – 1 Outreach Tracking – Adjusted for Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets

F – 1 – F – 3 Copier Lease

Susi reported in Art's absence. She expressed concern that our income is lagging behind our budget. The council discussed the problem that identified contributors have not contributed and how they need to be approached. At this point, the financial secretary, Ann McLaughlin would have access to those names.

Council discussed the financial aspect of the Church's profile that was forwarded to UCC. Maureen felt that our financial situation may not be presented to prospective candidates as honest as it is. It was discussed that our financial situation is based on membership development.

Susannah mentioned that "new faces" can bring "new ideas" which may give new life to the church.

Alex moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Sandy. Report approved.

Moderator's Report:

Susi sent her report to council.

MODERATOR'S MAY REPORT

- As the ex-officio member, I met with the Search & Call Committee and Pastor David. David shared his observations and thoughts about LHC which may prove helpful to the group.
- I have dedicated a great deal of time to the New Beginnings (NB) program this past month reviewing the assessment and leadership materials then preparing for the sessions. I facilitated NB Sessions on April 26th and May 3rd then submitted a summary of the information gathered to the leadership team. The next Sunday session is scheduled for May 17th.
- The Thursday (NB) sessions were facilitated by Kathleen and Bob Kaska and the next sessions are scheduled for May 14th and 21st.
- The New Beginnings sessions have been well received by those in attendance. There has been a great deal of good conversation at each gathering. To date, we have had 30 folks attend the sessions plus the six facilitators. The NB leadership team will meet after all sessions have been completed to review the information discussed. The collective thoughts of the attendees and any "possibilities for the future" that may have emerged from our conversations will be shared with the congregation. Next steps will then be determined based on that information.

Susi added that this Sunday and Thursday are the last week for the New Beginnings Meetings. The meetings are attracting a mix of members, from younger members to Senior citizens and we have met our recommended number of participants. The leadership team will meet and discuss the comments made at the meetings and prepare a plan of action.

- I have been in contact with the various Ministry chairs to determine who wishes to continue to serve on the 2015/2016 Council and where there may be vacancies. Alex and I are scheduled to meet May 12th to discuss the leadership team.

Susi and Alex will be working on ministries chair replacements. Please forward ideas to Alex or Susi.

Junual Reports are due on May 18th.

- Met with David for our monthly meeting.

Moderator Elect: Alex reported that representatives from the Search and Call Committee met with David Knight from UCC to review the profile report which will be used in the National Ministry Opportunities Listing for our new Pastor. Some corrections have been made and Rev. Knight has approved the documents. Unless there are any important corrections that need to be made, Alex is asking council to approve the report tonight or as soon as possible so that the posting for the Pastor position can be made. Alex mentioned that now is the best time to attract candidates because if the church would wait much longer, those ministers with families may not be interested in changing positions during a school year and may not apply. Once the listing is posted, interested candidates will be reviewed by the Search and Call Committee and acted upon.

Susi will be asking for a vote electronically to approve the National Ministry Opportunities Listing by the end of the week.

Comments need to be made to Anne Bouchard for the committee with in the week.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Maureen forwarded the following report.

- Sunday school numbers are still poor.
- Movie Night is going well. If we keep having one or two more movie nights each month, this will prove to be a good offering for LHC. June's movie is *The Magic of Belle Isle* with Morgan Freeman. I am previewing other movies for July and August. Any favorites should be forwarded to Maureen.
- Upcoming forums:
For **Mental Health** - I am working with ScottyTurner Community Education Director of NAMI in Wheaton for a program/speaker.

For **End of Life** - I have contacted the National Institute on Aging, The Fox Valley Regional Office of the American Cancer Society, and the DuPage County Senior Services for possible speakers.

If you have ideas for speakers, please share them with me. I need to set up dates.

- After reviewing the Tower Hill Retreats perhaps we could work to get a group together for the adult retreat in October 2015.

Maureen added that there is one student for the VBS and one volunteer (Will Lesswing) for the VBS.

Maureen asked the council for possible dates for the Mental Health and the End of Life forums. Council suggested Sundays; July 12 or 19 and October 18 or 25 after service.

Congregational Life:

Susannah reported that we have currently raised \$4,340 in pledges for the new chairs and are continuing to raise awareness through the BTW.

Evangelism:

Carol reported that we had three new members joining this month: Karen Kaluska, Debra and Glen Galloway.

Ann McLaughlin and Greg Hege have agreed to be the Galloway's buddies, and I am Karen's buddy. If anyone has someone who is interested in our church that I should be in touch with, please let me know.

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

Facilities Report – May 2015

Completed:

Plant Sale was held on May 8 – 9 and raised about \$750. Work day was also held on May 9 and many cleaning and yard tasks were completed. Need to schedule another date for painting and installation of a window air conditioner in the Bride's Room in the Guild House. There is also additional yard work to be done.

Working on:

- Encouraging a co-chair for next year
- Replacement of one speaker in the sanctuary, assessment of sanctuary mics
- Quotes for the power-assist door
- Review of maintenance list: summer projects
- Building contents inventory for insurance

To Do:

- Repair/replace vent for stove top in Parish Hall kitchen
- Repair roof on the box bay on the southeast corner of the Guild House
- Create specs for repair/replacement of east window in Nursery
- Create specs for repair/replacement of fire escape door on second floor of Guild House

Outreach:

Outreach Ministry Report – May 11, 2015

Community Crisis Center:

- People continue to donate toiletries and as they accumulate, Richard and I run them over to the shelter
- Gretchen Vapnar, executive director, has agreed to do a Mission Moment on May 17th

Feeding Northwest Dupage:

- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice:

- I have reached out to Gregg Weider, executive director, about providing a Mission Moment
- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans:

- MSHV is the new addition to LHC's Outreach Ministry.
- MSHV has lots of options for male veterans, but they are just breaking new ground on Tammy's Trace which is housing specifically for woman.
- There is an immediate need for a female room set up. That set up would include:
 - \$170, night table
 - \$450, bureau
 - \$340, single bed
 - \$960 total
- We have the funds in the Outreach Ministry Miscellaneous category and I'd like to recommend we go ahead and make this our initial donation.
- I have reached out to Pam KostECKI to make arrangements for Bob Adams and/or Dirk Enger (founders) to participate with a Mission Moment.

Valeri asked the council to approve and agree to her purchasing the furniture and financially supporting the transitional housing for the veterans.

Council gave Valeri positive feedback regarding the purchase of the female room set up and their approval. However, no motion was needed to appropriate the funds. Funding for Outreach had been previously approved at the annual meeting.

Renz Addiction Counseling Center:

- Deb How attended worship on April 12th for a Mission Moment and left some brochures for the Center in Fellowship Hall
- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

Transitional Housing:

- I have reached out to Mark Milligan, executive director, about providing a Mission Moment
- LHC makes a monetary donation once per quarter
- No other activity to report

Stewardship: No Report

Worship and Spiritual Growth:

The open dates for fellowship and flowers needed for the church services was reviewed and discussed.

Members at Large/ Communications: Kathleen sent the following report to council.

Completed...

May BTW Newsletter - Sent April 30, 2015

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

Email messaging:

- A new beginning...(New Beginnings meetings) —Sent April 14
- BTW News Reminder-May —Sent April 16
- Starting this Sunday...(New Beginnings meetings reminder) —Sent April 21
- Kane County Cougars Reminder —Sent April 23
- Plant Sale & Work Day —Sent May 6
- Final chance...(New Beginnings Thursday series reminder) —Sent May 7

Facebook page—Up to 122 “Likes”—

Wedding brochure (Program templates)—Worked with Lori P. to format a wedding program in one of the new design templates for a wedding scheduled for May 16.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

David forwarded interested new members names to facilities, Worship and Spirit, and Outreach, and Spiritual Life.

Anne moved that we approve the lease for a new copier which would be provided by the Gordon Flesch Company Inc. that Art had put in his report. The new contract will be an approximate savings of \$164 a month for the next 60 months. Kathleen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn by Alex and seconded by Carol.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk