

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
May 8, 2012

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Marilyn Poole, Bob Kaska, Ron Purser, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Ann McLaughlin, Kathy Haben, Nancy Doerr, Carol Berger, Karen Ashe. **Absent:** Art Zwemke, Peter Gatsch, Jane Shelton.

Prayer concerns were offered. Suzanne announced that the visitation for Eddie Sullivan will be on Friday, May 11, at Yurs Funeral Home in St. Charles, from 4-9pm. Memorial service will be at the church on Saturday, May 19, 11 am.

Ron opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:27 pm.

Approval of minutes. The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and Bob moved that they be accepted. Wally seconded. Minutes approved.

Pastor's report. Ron reported that he and Gary Estes have looked at the Peterson house to see about water in the basement after the rains. They hope to paint the basement walls if they dry out. Carol suggested perma seal. Wally said a gutter system could be installed at the floor level, on the inside, but it is expensive. Karen wondered if it should be shown as is, and noted that Gary told her that it could be a \$6-8000 repair for the basement. A credit might be able to be offered at closing. Karen also asked for the new lot measurements. We don't have this from the surveyor yet. There seems to be some confusion about the lot lines. Discussion ensued about how to handle the repair costs and stains on the carpet. All felt that we should disclose structural problems. Anne said that it is to our benefit to have a buyer give a counter bid for any needed repairs. We need to get a written estimate for the basement repair. Ann said we need to get this on the market ASAP. Karen will follow up with Gary for the survey.

Bob said we have to remember what price we want to get out of the property, based upon what the congregation voted upon. Karen is obligated to present all offers. Bob asked how the process will work once a bid comes in, especially if it is a low offer. Wally said it can be emailed to the Council and if we have to we can have a conference call. Nancy asked about liability of people coming in to the house. Karen said safety issues must be presented. Karen can list as soon as she gets dimensions of the lot, and the breezeway also needs paint.

Ron added that he wants to talk to Mr. Junkerman on the north of the Peterson house to see what he has done to get rid of water in his basement. He knows some of the other neighbors have used the French drain system.

Ron said that he received a letter from the people who live behind the Dixon house. Previous owners wanted to purchase a portion of the lot to square off the lots. This current owner would also like to purchase a portion of the lot for the same reason. Earlier, we didn't entertain this idea because of issues with the Dixon septic field. They did not offer a price. Carol suggested we let them know that the Council is considering the request. This would be a good time to consider the request.

Ron asked for any additional graduating seniors. Graduate (high school, college and graduate school) Recognition Sunday will be the first Sunday in June

Ron has spent much time with the Eddie and the Sullivan family prior to Eddie's death. He is working with them to put the service together.

Ron added that we continue to receive positive comments on the landscaping and the church property. No longer does he hear any complaints about how we are maintaining our property.

Church Action/Focus Items

Perpetual Fund: Carol Berger reported that she got a copy of the Bylaws to see whether a change is needed to flesh out the Perpetual Fund and its guidelines, trustees, etc. 60 day notice would be required for any bylaw change. The committee is not looking to make a bylaws change. Suzanne said that generally, bylaws should be general to accommodate changing times. Carol said that we do need some specifics for guidelines for the Trustees. Carol also added that she has become a Trustee in John (Berger's) place. It was hoped that we could announce the launch of the Perpetual Fund in June, but we are not quite ready for that step. Wally said that if we do need a bylaws change, we need to make sure we have something out to the congregation or at least on the calendar for our October meeting. Wally said we owe it to the congregation to report on our progress. Ann asked if we could get a short summary for the Annual Report. The committee is meeting at the end of May and Carol will be in touch with Lori. Ann also asked if someone from the committee will speak at the Junual meeting.

Bob asked are we in a position to say in general terms that we have "x" number of families who have committed to the Perpetual Fund. Carol said they are planning a survey and she is not sure how many have already committed. Bob said that it shows a beginning level of success to say that we already have some families who have made long range plans to include the church in their wills or trusts.

Open and Affirming: Ann reported that the exploratory committee has met a couple more times since the last Council meeting. We have watched the movie

“For the Bible Tells Me So,” which chronicles the experiences of several families and their gay or lesbian family members, specifically in terms of their religious beliefs. The committee is next going to read a book recommended by Ron, The Moral Teachings of Paul. We are also finishing the reading of a pamphlet called, “ .” Suzanne spoke to two lesbian friends who both said they would be more inclined to go to a church that had the rainbow on the church sign, as opposed to a welcoming sign without.

Nancy S added that she feels we are proceeding in a very measured way and we are trying to study this carefully and not force the issue.

Signage: Bob passed out some examples of what a possible banner would look like to hang on the street light posts. We could install a banner on the historic district sign on the Guild House lawn. Bob feels this would be a temporary sign that could be removed or changed easily. Bob also suggested that we create something similar to be installed in the existing church sign that faces Army Trail. Bob would like to have the historic sign moved. Ron said that it is time to look into replacing the sign. Marilyn said that she knows of a Florida company that worked with her church in Michigan. Ron said there is also a good company in Milwaukee. Anne added that she asked Dan Roach to think about it, but we don’t have anything concrete from him. Ron said we would need to work with the village trustees in terms of a new permanent sign. Kathy likes the banner but would like to have the UCC logo under the name instead of at the bottom. She also suggested trying a mock-up for the sign to see what the size actually looks like on the pole. Discussion ensued and Ann suggested getting a paper or poster board to try the size on Sunday. Carol asked about the “Congregational” aspect of the word on the banner. Ron said that it has to do with identity, and that it is less confusing to people. Many churches kept the word “congregation” in their title once there was the merger to form the UCC. Wally said that it lends a broader appeal. Nancy D said that the current style of writing would include a comma after the word “fellowship” but the rest of us felt that we don’t want the comma so we are going with the text as presented. Bob does not want to be the sign person long term, so it is hoped that between Peter Gatsch and Dan we will move along.

5th Sunday Service: Nancy felt that we are trying to grow and having the 5th Sunday afternoon service is confusing, and could be a problem for new members or visitors who didn’t know about it. Nancy feels we need the consistency of 9:30, even though the afternoon services have been good. Suzanne agrees about consistency but has also noticed when we have the afternoon service outdoors in our community, we have picked up some local neighbors. Wally added it does show that there is life here on Sunday. Nancy added that we are not big enough for two services but the idea of outdoor worship in the summer is appealing and

generates interest. Fellowship could be outside in the summer...it adds visibility. Ron said he has always been bothered by not having a service on a Sunday morning. Marilyn has had that experience when she showed up for rehearsal that had been cancelled. Wally said you could add something special to the 5th Sunday at the 9:30 service. The next one will be in July, so we could do it outside. Ann asked, any strong feelings, or do we let WSG handle this? All agreed to let WSG handle it. Kathy suggested seeing if any visitor cards came in on a 5th Sunday. Ann said she sat with visitors on a 5th Sunday and also brought new people on a 5th Sunday. Nancy S added that it would be nice to use the courtyard for the kick off in the fall as we used to use the forest preserve.

Treasurer's Report: Bob read the report for us in Art's absence noting that we have a deficit of \$1400 compared to a \$22,000 deficit a year ago, resulting from a mix of slightly better revenues and lower expenses. No snow removal!!! WSG expenses have been lower due to Larry's creative recycling of music. Personnel costs are also lower. Motion to accept by Suzanne and seconded by Nancy S. Report approved.

Moderator's Report: Ann felt that everyone had a little bit of interest in their ministries. Nancy S and Suzanne both got some new names for their ministries.

Lori gave Ann last year's Annual Report. She would like all ministry reports in by Tuesday, May 29.

Wally will be getting his Moderator Elect lined up and Suzanne asked if all other positions are filled. Ann will be replacing Suzanne on Stewardship. Nancy D will be stepping down from Christian Education; she had spoken briefly to Lori Hazeltine. Bob K, Marilyn, Nancy S, and Peter G will stay on. Ann said that Wally will ask Art to confirm his ongoing service as Treasurer. Carol and Kathy are staying on as At Large Members. We need to know if the Marchese ladies will be staying on as Youth Member and Clerk.

At the blood drive yesterday, we had 23 pints donated and 4 people were deferred. 3 donors donated double pints (extra red blood cells).

Ann also shared that she received a letter back from Donna Voigtmann in which she pointed out that she sometimes has hearing issues. Ann made an effort to speak clearly and deliberately as the pulpit associate last Sunday when she noticed Donna in the congregation. Donna commented that she could hear every word Ann said! We need to be conscious of making announcements, reading from the pulpit, etc. Carol agreed and noted that we have a lot of members who have trouble hearing. Marilyn added that her church in Michigan has the hearing loop. Anne will keep working on getting information and prices for the

system in the sanctuary. Carol will be in charge of raising the needed funds. Bob asked that we have a budgetary number for the next meeting.

Moderator Elect's Report: Wally has no report, other than to add that he Googled "Hearing Loop" and found that it could cost \$2-8,000.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: The second Thursday night Bible study will now be the third Thursday night; the next one will be May 17. They are studying Acts.

Congregational Life: We had the talent show in April with much talent and fun. We are already talking about next year. Anne also reported that Cong. Life is working on updating the lists of members wanting to participate in various capacities, like sending cards, making meals, and transportation.

Evangelism: Bob is still looking for new members. As of today we have a new facebook page. We have a LHC website and a facebook page. Plant sale is this weekend offering additional visibility in the community. Peter G is bringing a portable sunroom which will be a featured attraction.

Facilities: No report, but Nancy S said there is a problem with the lock on the eastern door of the parish hall. Nancy spoke to Jen who will share it with Peter. Ron added that Anne should pursue the handicapped accessible door.

Outreach: No report, but got four new names and someone to help with Crop Walk.

Stewardship: Suzanne also got a new name for the ministry.

Members-at-large: Kathy agreed that there is a need to improve the hearing capability in the sanctuary. Carol suggested that we list birthdays in the BTW.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: No report.

Other business: Ann stated that the Junual meeting is set for June 10, which would be before the next council meeting. Ann reviewed the general agenda. Bob said it would be an appropriate time to announce new long range plan goals. Ann said that we can expect to update our goals at the Junual meeting, since we are still working on the long range goals from the last two years.

Wally moved to adjourn the meeting. Nancy S seconded. Ron led the council in the mitzvah benediction at 9:14: "May the Lord watch over me and thee, while we are absent, one from the other." Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Bouchard (for Jan Marchese)

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2012