

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
May 10, 2016

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Barb Braulick, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Ann McLaughlin, David Russell, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Judy Hopkins (guest)

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Alex Kentfield, Chip Braulick, Jane Shelton, Frank Muno, Art Zwemke

Moderator Elect, Kathleen began the meeting in Alex's absence at 7:07 pm. Anne B. introduced guests, Mr. and Patti Polachek, who spoke to council on behalf of the Taoist Tai Chi Society, who would like to rent our fellowship hall to hold Thai Chi classes. See New Business for notes on this.

Following the Taoist Tai Chi Society, Pastor David led the council with devotion on discipleship, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Discipleship discussion:

The discussion which David led focused on what we could do to improve our discipleship and the communities' awareness of our church .

Suggestions for church growth "for" evangelism:

- Have gathering for folks 25-35 years
- Utilize events to connect with new folks e.g. plant sale, chili cook-off, shrimp boil
- Share building space e.g. Tai Chi
- Children's events for local area
- Utilize relationships to invite people outside the church
- "market" our beliefs and Practices e.g. welcoming and inclusive
- Reach out through social media

David urged the council to continue a discussion on discipleship with Rev. Mahlberg.

Report on the Fox Valley UCC Association Meeting.

Judy Hopkins reported on her attendance at the recent association meeting which was held on April 23, 2016. She, Maureen O'Donnell, and Karen Kaluska have volunteered to be the church's delegates and plan to attend the meetings. Some of the items discussed at the conference were about mission work, new church openings and new communication technology. The message that Judy relayed back to the council, was that 'mission work' as discussed at the conference, should be the church's highest priority. Also, there will be a new UCC church that will be opening soon that will be located in Addison on Army Trail Road. It will attract mostly members whose native roots are in India. She reviewed some other highpoints of the day and was impressed by the 'community' feel of the day.

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

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

- The Fox Valley association spring meeting in Algonquin went well with all three of our delegates attending. The state Illinois Conference meeting is 6/17-18 in E. Peoria.

- I attended the farewell worship-reception or Jonathan Knight's retirement on 4/28.
- This Thursday I will be officiating at a baptism by immersion for Ellison Smith at the Blosser's pool. I look forward for this sacred and special time for Ellison and her family.
- Sunday we will have ten folks joining LHC: Randy, Melissa, Madeline and Ellison Smith; Trevor DaRin and Kate O'Rourke; Todd and Michelle Blosser; Chuck McDonough; and Alex Park. God be praised! Hopefully with your and other members, LHC will help these folks become involved and connected to the church. Plus we are baptizing Madelein and Brooks DaRin!
- This Saturday will be a big day for LHC with the men hosting our community pancake breakfast and bicycle blessing. The men look for your support!
- I participated in one of the classes for the Boy Scout God and Church award because Alex Karwowski is one of the scouts getting this award. Hopefully we will be able to do so in a brief ceremony at one of the up and coming Sundays.
- If any of you are interested and available, I will be tuning in to a webinar (2pm May 18) on mental health and churches. Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged i.e. **WISE** congregations for mental health is a new initiative from the national UCC.

At Council, David added at council that Ellison Smith will be baptized by immersion at a nearby swimming pool. It was suggested for Ellison will become a member of the church once she has been finished confirmation but she will be standing with her family when they join on Sunday.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Art Zwemke submitted 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

Treasurer's Report
April 30, 2016

A - 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$90,602 is 36.53% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 36.97%, 3 year average. Total Pledges received of \$74,334 are 39.12% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016 compared to 39.12%, 3 year average. Recorded \$8,750 of Investment Income from 1st quarter.

B - 1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$8,081 in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$9,828) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$4,862). Without Investment Income, operations just slightly below break even after 4 months of 2016.

C - 1 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$250,605 at 04/30/2016 compared to \$242,707 at 12/31/2015 and \$248,464 at 04/30/2016.

D - 1 Consolidated Fund Activity

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

Kathleen announced the retirement of Art as treasurer, effective June 30, 2017. Hopefully, with this advance notice, there will be ample opportunity for the church to find a replacement and for Art to train his successor.

Moderator's Report:

Alex submitted the following report for the past month.

April activities

On April 27th, Pastor David and I met for dinner and discussed among many matters, the candidating sermon of our newly called pastor, Richard Malmberg, and the congregation's reaction to his candidacy. We also talked about how Richard's background and experience relate to the direction that the church's Revisioning process seems to be leading us.

We also covered some of the matters that Richard and David need to work out as part of a smooth transfer as David prepares to leave. In particular we noted the efforts of David to reach out and connect with many less-than-active members of the congregation, and members of the surrounding community, many of whom may be potential candidates for membership.

Richard has again indicated a July 01 probable start date.

At council, there was a discussion on when Richard would actually be able to start and David's last day.

Since Alex was not at the meeting, any decisions that needed council's approval, will need to be postponed to a later date until more information is available. Alex signed the contract with Rev. Malmberg as his main contact for the church.

There was a discussion on if there should be an overlap and if there is an overlap, how much time between the two pastors should there be. David had offered to stay and brief Richard on such items as pastoral care items, files, local contacts, and church activities. Not all of the council was in support of an overlap. However, the council felt Alex will need to coordinate this between the two pastors as they feel is appropriate and a final decision can be made next month. Kathleen will let Alex know.

Pastor David's exit interview was discussed. It was suggested that he meet with a group of individuals from various committees that he has had to work with, such as someone from the Interim, the Personnel Committee, Search/Call and from Council. Pastor David will compile a list of people who he could meet with prior to his departure.

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

New Beginnings panelist

Bob and I served as representatives from Little Home Church on a panel discussion this past Saturday morning at the annual spring meeting of local UCC churches. Two other churches who participated in the New Beginnings program were also participants.

Wayne Walk

Hunt/Bella House has been secured for the tour. Leadership team met on Saturday, April 30. Details to be shared at Council Meeting.

LHC Plant Sale

Organized and promoted event for advanced sale of annuals and digging perennials to be sold on May 20 & 21.

LHC Historic Preservation

—Working with Lori P. to scan and organize historical LHC documents/photos on loan from Wayne Historical Preservation Society (Karen Armbrust)

—Connected w/Art Z. about historic fund designation

—Designed draft logo

—Researching information about National Register of Historic Places

LHC Office

Worked with Lori Prang to complete the Office Manager job description (4 pages long). We've also started the job description for Church Custodian.

2016/17 Council

Connecting with prospects for Moderator Elect.

Communications

Signs created: Bicycle Blessing & Breakfast, May 14

Email blasts: 'Candidating' Sermon - April 19

LHC Plant Sale - April 19

Spring Blood Drive 2016 - April 26

May BTW - May 1

Last Chance to Order Annuals - May 2

Social Media: Multiple Twitter and Facebook postings; **157 'Likes'** to date

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Frank Munro absent. No report.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick reported (by email) that Sunday June 26 will be the same date as the Junual meeting. There will also be a reception for David in the Parish Hall to say thank you .

Evangelism: Ann McLaughlin submitted the following report.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard submitted the following report for April.

- **Facilities use for weddings.** Lori has been working with a couple who are planning to have their wedding in the courtyard in August. They subsequently wanted to have a food truck and a reception, which started small and then started growing. Lori is of the opinion that we should not offer the PH for receptions for non-members. Pending council's consideration, she will contact the bride on Wednesday, May 11.

At Council, it was decided to support Lori's recommendation to not offer the Parish Hall for receptions without a member present. Therefore, this couple will need to find another location for their reception.

- **Work day:** Interior repair needed: Paint - touch ups
- Consider the shutters on the outside of the church. They are in need of repair. Dan Roach says they are not historically accurate. Perhaps we will remove them and see what we think
- **Grant:** Power assist door has been ordered!
- **PH Roof:** I We filed an insurance claim for roof damage on the PH, following two storms on March 16 and April 2. The adjuster has come out and will be in touch.
- A memorial tree has been installed in front of the GH in memory of Phil Aughnay, a gift of Louise Aughnay

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report.

Last month's Mission Moments were Hands of Hope (aka neighborhood food pantry) & Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets.

Results of the Blood Drive, May 2 - Thanks to Lori Prang for coordinating event!

17 through the door (our goal was 20)

3 were deferred

3 double donations!!!

Total units donated - 16

The team leader that day was pleased...especially so given we had three double donations. We had a total of six attempts for the double donation, but only three passed the iron test.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska. Nothing new to report.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton – absent.

Members at Large: Nothing new to report

Communications: See Kathleen's moderator elect report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Blessing of the Bicycles. May 14.

Kathleen had prepared signs for the event to be placed near the bike path and in yards. Presently, David has ten men who will be cooking and serving on Saturday. At least two cycling groups from the Fox Valley Bike and Ski club, plan to be in attendance thanks to Chris Thornton's efforts.

Wayne Walk. October 8.

Kathleen gave an update on the event. Another home was added to the list to make a total of three homes that are being considered in Wayne. One home, the Bella/Hunt home, has agreed to participate in the walk. There will be several sites in the community to tour as well as the homes. Committees are developing to handle the various details. Reception will be held at the club.

People will be bused between around the town. Information will be distributed at the Flag and Wayne days.

NEW BUSINESS:

Use of Church Facilities by fitness group:

The Taoist Tai Chi Society would like to rent our facility on an hourly base. Currently they are holding their classes at the Charlestown mall and are renting space there. However, they would like to move their classes into more community locations and leave the Mall. Churches have been a good location for the group to meet.

The hours that they are currently offer classes at the Mall are as follows and they intend to continue with this schedule.. On the average, they have about eight – twelve people at each class.

Monday 6:30 - 8 pm

Tuesday 10 - 11:30 am; 6:30 - 8 pm

Thursday 10 - 11:30 am; 6:30 - 8 pm

Saturday 9 - 10:00 am; 10:15:11:15 am

The group did want to know if the church would be interested in installing a temporary wood floor (24' x 45') which they currently purchases for their Charlestown Mall location.

The guests were excused from the meeting and further discussion continued later in the meeting.

After discussion, Susi W moved to offer the Taoist Tai Chi Society the use of our facility for \$500 per month based approx. 36 hours of use of the facility (the existing schedule.) The motion was seconded by Bob. We will not be using their floor. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Junual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 26 along with a thank you celebration for Pastor David. *Committee reports for the Junual meeting are due by the next council meeting.*

Kathleen introduced the idea of the having a endowment luncheon for those start the fund.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susi and seconded by Ann M. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:23 p.m.:

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk