

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
May 9, 2017

**In Attendance:**, Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, , Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

**Absent:** Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Karen Kaluzsa, Jane Shelton

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:12 pm. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion, joys and concerns.

**Special Guest:** Jim Hickey, representing the Northern Illinois Council of the PFLAG organization, attended tonight's meeting to explain to council what the PFLAG organization is and how a chapter is formed. PFLAG is an organization that provides support, education, and advocacy for the friends and family of the LBGT community. The different PFLAG chapters hold monthly meetings at various locations, often at churches. If the organization establishes another chapter, they hope that our church would provide the meeting space.

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

#### **REVISIONING PRESENTATION**

Susi reviewed the Revisioning Proposal 2017. A letter will be sent to the congregation to advise the congregation and it will be presented at the Junual meeting upon approval of the church council.

When the revisioning process started, the congregation was asked about their talents and vision. After the congregation was surveyed, the committee interviewed the community as to their needs. As a result of those surveys, it was determined that the needs of our community, our neighbors should be our church focus.

Susi presented the new vision and mission statements to the council. The proposal also includes an action plan for Outreach, our facilities (Guild House) and fiscal responsibility. Fiscal responsibility, which had been identified during the New Beginnings process, is an essential to the survival of our church. A task force composing of the stewardship chair, endowment committee member, treasurer, moderator-elect, long range planning (revisioning) committee member, renovation/anniversary team member, two expert congregation members, and the pastor would be established.

Council complimented the committee for all of their hard work toward completing the proposal, especially Susi, for shepherding the efforts.

Anne B. moved that the council accepts, endorses and embraces the re-visioning proposal 2017 for presentation and approval by the congregation at the Junual meeting. All were in favor. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Susi Winqvist 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, 2017

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD – Total Receipts of \$109,317 is 44.44% of \$246,000 goal, well ahead of the 3-year average of 37.54%. Total Pledges of \$80,429 is 44.68% of \$180,000 goal, a bit ahead the 3-year average of 41.81%.

**B – 1 - B - 6** Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$22,888 in 2017 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of \$8,758 in 2016 and budgeted Net Income (Loss) of \$7,613. So far so good!

**C – 1 - C – 3** Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$250,632 at 04/30/2017 compared to \$212,618 at 12/31/2016 and \$277,262 at 04/30/2016. Note comparison columns.

**D - 1** Consolidated Fund Activity – Higher than beginning of year!

**E – 1 - E – 2** Buildings and Grounds – Presented this concept a couple of months ago to account for existing Buildings and Grounds that assumed that land was 20% of the value of the replacement cost of the buildings. Revised to 10% on next spreadsheet as a value of \$649,060 for the land seemed too high. Why should we care? I would like to show the congregation that we have insured buildings whose replacement costs are estimated by Church Mutual Insurance at \$3,245,300 on land that is worth about \$324,530 and that we are starting to improve our existing facilities with a new roof and door for the Parish Hall that has added another \$42,000 to the buildings. I think that this will be very helpful when we move forward with the fund-raising aspect for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary so that prospective donors recognize the context of a major restoration and improvement program. Please ponder this for a month and we can resolve at our June meeting as I am out of town for our May 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting

At council, Susi reported that the church was in a good position. Susi reminded the council that the value of our properties was added to the treasurer's monthly report.

Anne B. moved to approve the treasurer's report. Valeri seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Richard reported the following at the meeting.

The Blessing of the Bikes went well, increasing numbers from last year.

Pastor held his first 'Chat with the Pastor' at the Starbucks in front of Charlestown Mall last Thursday. He met Charles and they put together the crosses for the Blessing of the Bikes. He reminded the council that he will be available to congregation members for a chat every Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 at this Starbucks.

He reminded everyone that he will be gone during the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>. Don Heinrich will be preaching in his absence on May 21<sup>st</sup>. He will return to the office on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Moderator's Report:**

Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month.

**May BTW; email marketing; web site; social media**

—Email blasts: Blessing of the Bikes; THIS Sunday - April 30; LHC Plant Sale 2017; Spring Blood Drive 2017; REMINDER - Blessing of the Bikes; THIS Sunday - May 7; REMINDER - Plant Sale 2017; REMINDER Spring Blood Drive 2017

**Personnel Relations Committee**

—Review Forms distributed for reviews: Office Manager May 16, and Music Director May 12

**Re-Visioning Team**

—Group met on Sunday, April 30 to finalize plan proposal for council approval

**Promotional material for events/ministries**

—Produced 'Blessing of the Bikes' banner  
—Produced pennant, table signs and sign-up sheets for Ministry Fair  
—Produced poster for campaign, 'The Joy of Giving Challenge Pledge'

**Plant Sale**

—Met with Mary Roach to finalize plant selection of annuals  
—Cultivated advance orders after worship service the last two Sundays

**Moderator Elect:** Anne Bouchard's report is under the Facilities Ministry.

**MINISTRY REPORTS**

**Christian Education:** Karen Kaluzsa was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to work conflicts. She forwarded the council the following update on the past month's activity.

For Christian Ed, Richard and I discussed possible upcoming field trips and decided the next one will be during the summer after Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple reopens for tours.

**Congregational Life:** Barb Braulick was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to a death in her family. She advised by email that she had nothing new to report.

**Evangelism:** Ann McLaughlin submitted the following report.

Evangelism celebrated the membership of several families and individuals in April. The following people have joined our church.

Ruth Lishamer

Rev. Ron Purser, joining Maggie who joined earlier

Gary and Kelly Shelton, and baby Shelby

Scott and Jessica Burkoth and their four children

Richard really carried the weight with this new class of members. Thanks to Richard!

We continue to receive Visitor cards, and the church sends a follow up letter to each person.

A chair for the next year has been lined up. And, thanks to Carol, two people signed up to help with Evangelism yesterday.

**Facilities:** Anne Bouchard reported the following

The Karwowski boys are starting their Eagle projects. Anne suggested that the boys may be able to do something in the pews, such as a pen holder etc. She will check with the boys to see if they still need a project. Alex has started to make Bat Houses for mosquito control for his project.

Anne has invited a Holocaust survivor to speak on July 23<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon.

**Outreach:** Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report.

We had a very successful Ministry Fair and Outreach received six volunteers. I emailed the "Outreach Brigade" and asked if anyone had a particular interest. I will gather that information and then present three different opportunities by Sunday, May 14.

We have two Mission Moments coming up and they are;

- May 21st, Tom Norton, Neighborhood Food Pantry
- June 18<sup>th</sup>, Mark Milligan, Bridge Communities

A gala/retirement party was held for Bob Adams, founder and executive director, for Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Art sent me a copy of the April 29<sup>th</sup> Daily Herald and Bob's life-long dedication and story about his motivation to start the organization made the front page, above the fold!!! We are all sad to see him go, but it is a well-deserved retirement. I am waiting on news about who will be his successor

Note: The food pantry hours have changed. Tuesday they are open 1:00-4:00 vs. 4:30.

**Following are volunteering opportunities:**

**Bridge Communities**

- **GIVING PARTY** - to benefit the client families, be a part of the **GIVING PARTY** birthday. Party guests will participate in activities from What's It Like to Be Homeless? Educational Curriculum and receive Bridge Communities token gifts for a party 'goodie bag'. In lieu of (or in addition to) traditional birthday gifts, your guests will bring a gift for a family or child. Gift suggestions include:
  - Roll of quarters – the leased apartment building has laundry facilities and a roll of quarters is a way to help the family clean their clothes.

- Gift cards - provide that extra bit of help with gift cards to food stores and retailers (Wal-Mart, Target, Kohl's).
- Gasoline cards - every client family must work or attend school so extra help paying for gasoline is much appreciated.
- New Books & Games - both of these make great **GIVING PARTY** gifts to share with Bridge kids for their own birthdays or other special occasions.
- Family fun certificates - every family wants to create special memories spending time together, but many family-fun activities can be too expensive for Bridge families. A day at a local amusement park, zoo, movies or museum make great gifts the whole Bridge family can enjoy

#### **Community Crisis Center**

- **Food rescue** - picking up food donations at nearby restaurants/businesses.
- **Group Activity** - Bingo, board game, movie, arts & crafts, or cookie baking night (see attached).
- **Shelter Dinner** – Bring in a meal, having it catered, prepare meal onsite (see attached).

#### **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans**

- **Yard work** at Tammy's Trace (mulch, annual flower planting in May).
- **Spring cleaning** for Veteran houses.

**Neighborhood Food Pantry** (Monday and Thursday 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, Tuesday 1 – 4:00  
Saturday 8:00-11:00)

- **Volunteer hours**
  - Stock shelves
  - Organize donations
  - Help guests collect their groceries

**Stewardship:** Bob Kaska reminded everyone that the 'kick off' for the Spring Campaign was on Sunday. A letter is being written and being sent out later this week. Already, \$12,500 has been raised toward the \$10,000 matching goal, required to match the \$10,000 donation that has been offered, to encourage a total giving total of \$20,000 to be used for Outreach ministries.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Jane Shelton was not able to attend tonight's council meeting due to work conflicts. She sent the following report.

The Ministry Fair was quite fruitful for WSG today, so thank you **Anne, Valeri** and **Kathleen** for your efforts in getting the word out and the tables up. I would like **WSG** and **Congregational Life** to combine efforts on what was formerly known as the Dorcas Circle but I think it's been rebranded - I just don't know the new name. **Barb**, perhaps we can work on this when you are back.

WSG picked up some new members with Kathi Abell strong-arming people. Usher/PA schedule looks pretty good through June with only a few holes.

Holy Week and Easter were well attended and beautiful.

Performance Review for Larry is this Friday, May 12th.

**Members at Large:** Carol Berger submitted the following report.

Members have approached me with regards to the length of the worship services. Sometimes they run over an hour and some members would like our services to be only a hour.

We had three sign up for the Evangelism Committee on Sunday!! I'm excited! I thought the Ministry Fair went really well and engaged a lot of people. It was a lot of fun!

Thank you everyone who made it a big success!

**Members at Large:** Susi Winquist submitted a similar message to Council regarding the length of the worship service.

“Several members have verbalized that Sunday Service is running too long. It was stated that on special Sundays a longer Service is understandable but of late Worship has run over consistently. With the summer months coming soon a concern was mentioned that perhaps lengthy Service might be a deterrent for attendance.”

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The collection of the Neighborhood Pantry money by the buckets during the church service was discussed. Ann McLaughlin brought up the fact that the buckets have not been used during the past four services and suggested that a decision be made regarding their use and shared with the congregation. Bob proposed that the buckets be passed around once a month. Alternatively, Pastor Richard suggested that the use of the buckets will continue but its use may be determined by the nature of or length of the service. Much discussion followed.

Bob also suggested that we add envelopes at the pews so that people can add more than just money such as prayers or kind gestures into the basket.

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 2017

A motion to adjourn was made by Valeri and seconded by Susi. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk