

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
May 8, 2018

In Attendance: Louise Aughnay, Carol Berger, Chip Braulick, Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Judy Hopkins, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Chuck Sbarbaro, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist. Kathleen Sullivan Kaska (substituting for Bob Kaska)

Absent: Valeri Baldwin, Barb Braulick, Bob Kaska,

Moderator Anne Bouchard began the meeting at 7:10 pm. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Approval of Minutes: After corrections were noted of the April minutes, Jane moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Louise. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Richard submitted the following report for the past month. He reviewed the report at the council meeting. His impression of the Credo conference which he attended in April was shared.

Pastor's Report: May 2018

Buds are popping and blossoms are perfuming our courtyard. It took a while to feel like spring, but now it does. We already had an all-church workday to do some sprucing up, and the Men's Fellowship plans to do some more on May 12th.

April was a busy Month, beginning with Easter. On the 15th we welcomed seven new members to our congregation; a blessing and a delight. From April 24-30 I attended the CREDO Seminar sponsored and subsidized by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, which is designed for mid-career clergy and their long term vitality in ministry.

I spent a full week with twenty-eight other UCC Clergy from around the all over the United States, all accomplished and experienced colleagues. We spent the week focusing on our spiritual, mental, vocational and financial health. The seven faculty were top notch. Worship was wonderfully inspiring and nourishing as was instruction in meditation and spiritual practice.

I am in the midst of annual reviews, which should be wrapped up by the end of this month.

May 20, Pentecost Sunday is also Confirmation Sunday. Eleanor Karwowski will be confirmed. Mary Jean Schless has been serving as her mentor. There is something of a tradition in this, as Mary Jean was Katherine's Confirmation teacher.

A few months back, Lori Prang, Anne Bouchard and Kathleen Kaska have already done some work on our wedding policy which requires some updating. My hope is that we can have it revised and finalized by next month's council meeting. Having policies in writing go a long way to avert problems and misunderstandings.

Faithfully submitted,
Richard Malmberg

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Susi Winqvist 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. The letters and numbers represent sections of the report.

Treasurer's Report: April 2018 Financials

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD: **\$98,346 is 38.95% of the \$252,500 Budget.** Compared to the 37.29% 3-year average. The Special Easter Offering totaled \$762. As stated at last month's meeting, the \$316 income from Easter Flowers was transferred to the 401.1340 account.

A – 1 Total Pledge Receipts YTD: **\$81,460 is 45.64% of the \$178,500 Budget.** Compared to the 41.45% 3-year average. ****Upon review of numbers, note that in February \$300 of 2017 pledge payments was added into 2018 total pledge receipts. The numbers have been corrected to read \$34,750 pledges collected, the subsequent numbers and percentages for February and March were adjusted.*

B - 1 – 6 Operating Report: Current 2018 YTD Net Income (loss) of **\$9,097.** Compare to the projected Net Income (loss) of (\$3,403). (April Income \$20,027 minus Expenses \$16,861) ****Note the (\$1,076) Investment Income loss for the 1st quarter.*
Compare to 2017 Actual YTD Net Income (loss) thru April of \$22,888.

C – 1– 2 Balance Sheet: Overall financial position of \$299,307 on 4/30/2018 includes Liabilities of \$1,755 for April Payroll Taxes to be paid in May.
Compared to last month \$296,045 on 3/31/2018.
Compared to last year at this time \$250,632 on 4/30/2017.

D – 1 Consolidated Fund Activity: Fund balance as of 4/30/18 is \$297,551. \$200 was received in memory of Ardis Redmond. ****A gift of \$250 received in March in memory of Ardis Redmond has been transferred to the 150th Building/Historic Preservation Fund per donor request. ***Note the 1st quarter (\$445) Investment Income loss in the Brent Alex Fund maintained in the Edward Jones account.*

E – 1 – 3 April Food Pantry donations were \$243. We are at 68% toward our next \$650 gift. To date, we have collected \$1,135 (\$195 in February; \$895 in March; \$45 in April) for Easter Flowers minus \$579 cost for an Outreach profit of \$556.
A \$1,000 gift was received and specified for the Outreach budget.
An additional \$100 gift was received for One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for an adjusted total of \$930.

Louise moved to approve the treasurer's report. Lori seconded the motion. All were in favor. Report approved.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Judy Hopkins submitted the following report.

We hosted a presentation by Ms. Huda Husseini on April 22, entitled *What a Hijabi Wants You to Know—A Personal Reflection.* It was attended by ca. 30 people, by one audience member's estimate. Attendees included a few people from distant locations. Refreshments were generously provided by LHC members. The speaker was very favorably impressed with LHC's hospitality and her reception. Interestingly, she has accepted the invitation to deliver the sermon at Geneva's Unitarian Church on July 29.

I am exploring the possibility of other lectures, probably also to be offered on Sunday afternoons. Further information will be presented to the Council when it is available.

Additionally, we may plan a visit to other houses of worship of other faith groups. More on this after we have consulted the calendar and appropriate LHC staff.

At council, Lori reported that she had been in touch with our Sunday School families and they will not be able to attend our **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** this Summer. Therefore, VBS will not be held this summer.

Richard suggested a fun family experience where families collect water over the summer to bring to church during 'back to Sunday School' time to water the garden or use for baptisms etc. Families can also send post cards to the church of their travels and take picture of where the water is taken from.

The church schedule hopes to be finalized within the month.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick submitted the following report.

Cards were sent to Kay Brynelson, Kathy Abell and Ruth Lishamer.

My apologies to you all. Trying to lead and bring energy and volunteers to this committee simply has not been my priority due to work and family.

That being said, there seems to be a lack of procedure established for Congregational Life to be responsible for these type of communications in general. It is done haphazardly. As a result, I often find out it's already been taken care of or perhaps not and fell through the cracks so to speak.

Reaffirming with the congregation, Richard and Lori that Congregational Life is responsible for this will help to renew our presence as a functioning committee, not just for social events but also for spiritual connection as well.

Facilities: Chuck Sbarbaro submitted the following report for facilities

Facilities Report 2018

- **Church**
 - Basement has been partially cleaned.
 - Some rubbish has been removed.
 - Lower shutters on Church have been removed due to damage and rot.
 - At a later date these may be replaced, if it is determined that shutters are historically accurate.
- **Parrish Hall**
 - Replaced the ballast in two fluorescent fixtures.
 - Incandescent fixtures were cleaned and bulbs replaced as needed.
 - One fixture has a broken lens. A new will be ordered.
 - Attic was cleaned and organized.
- **Guild House**
 - Basement was cleaned and organized.
 - Doors stored in one room on first floor were moved to the basement.
 - Scrap metal has been neatly piled in basement and will be taken for recycling.
 - Any cash for the metal will be returned to LHC.
- **Grounds**
 - Winter plowing of parking lot caused the gravel to be piled on the periphery. Gravel was redistributed and leveled.
 - Bushes were trimmed in many places to keep them from growing against the side of buildings.
 - Courtyard was trimmed and cleaned.
- **Work in General**
 - Most of the work completed during April was done by volunteers.

- Men's Group to meet May 12th and will paint upper shutters and windows sills & frames as needed on the Church & Guild House.
- The outer back wall of the Parish Hall needs to be painted. A possible joint project for the Men's & Women's Group?
-

At council, Charles reported that he needs about six people who can assist him in painting the eaves and the upper shutters. The lower shutters have been removed. It was also reported that there was dampness and wet carpeting in the northeast corner of the fellowship hall earlier this week from an undetermined source.

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 and June 18th, Mark Milligan, Bridge Communities

Bob Adams, founder and executive director, for Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans gala/retirement party was April 30th. Art sent me a copy of the April 29th 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 (Mon and Thurs 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Tues 1:00-4:00, Sat 8:00-11:00)

Volunteer hours

- Stock shelves
- Organize donations
- Help guests collect their groceries

OLD BUSINESS:

Financial/Renovation campaign:

The committee met last night to review the report that CCS had prepared. Details of the report will be shared with the council and the congregation after further discussion within the committee. Tentatively, the Kick off of the renovation campaign would be in August at the Shrimp Boil.

At Flag Day: It was suggested to have a 50/50 raffle at the Flag Day event to raise money for the church. However, a raffle license is required and will need to be requested. In addition to the raffle, a food truck was suggested. The aforementioned ideas will need to be run past the Wayne Community Association which orchestrates the event.

Illinois is also celebrating its Bicentennial. Other organizations may be present at Flag Day.

Rummage Sale: It was noted that there is a limit on the amount of goods that can be stored safely at the Guild House because of the weight. At this time, the limit is nearly reached. Kathleen will help with the sale this fall. It was discussed whether spring would be a better time for a rummage sale.

NEW BUSINESS:

June Planning Meeting: After the staff finalizes the calendar, the June council meeting will be focused on planning this year's calendar.

Succession positions: Anne encouraged everyone to add two new people to their ministry. New ministry chairs should be invited at the June meeting.

Retirement of Rev. Jorge Morales: The conference minister for Illinois is retiring. Carol Berger moved to send \$500 to him as a gift for his retirement. Louise seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. Council suggested that the funds be taken from the 'Specified Funds' account.

Upcoming events:

- July 5 - A nationwide UCC Youth Event (details available from Anne)
- October 14 – Crop Walk

Sister's in Spirit: Crafting was done after church last Sunday. About eight people attended to work. At the next meeting, Susannah will introduce "hands of hope". Supplies will be collected and stored for upcoming projects.

Choir: Larry's title was discussed. Per his preference, he remains known as "director of music" even though he is helping the church in additional ways. June 3 will be the last Sunday that the choir will sing.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday**, June 12 at 7 pm

A motion to adjourn was made by Anne and seconded by Charles. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk