

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
November 10, 2016

In Attendance: Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Chip Braulick, Karen Kaluzsa, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton,

Absent: Barb Braulick, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Susi Winkvist, Art Zwemke

Moderator elect Anne Bouchard began the meeting at 7:21 pm. Anne shared a prayer. Pastor Richard led the council with some thoughts regarding the way people are feeling following the election, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

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

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

Since I was absent from the last Council meeting, observing Yom Kippur I would like to thank the Council for your understanding and flexibility so that I could attend High Holiday services.

Since then we had a wonderful Men's Retreat, which I feared might not come to pass. I have already received the contract from Tower Hill to reserve space for next year's retreat. The Men's Group will discuss how we will move forward for next year when we meet for breakfast Saturday.

Thanks to Karen Kaluzsa's leadership and planning, we had a wonderful field trip to the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette. Though I already had knowledge of and exposure to the Baha'i faith, I learned a great deal more. The spiritually open and theologically expansive nature of Baha'i theology doctrine made it a surprisingly inspirational experience for many of us as Christians.

Serendipitously, I met Brian Floriani at the Temple. He is the Executive director of Bernie's Book Bank. The Book Bank is a Chicago-based charity that works to get books in the hands of underserved, at-risk children from pre-school through elementary age children. They use WIC rolls as a means to identify the children they seek to serve. Bernie's Book Bank has an operation center in St Charles that I hope to tour sometime soon. It may be a way for Little Home Church to serve the wider community. Since 2009, they have distributed over 5.7 million books.

In both October and November I have been attending meetings of the U-46 Clergy Advisory Council. I have been learning about issues at play in the public schools around us, and ways that faith communities may be of service. I have also been getting involved in the Saint Charles Public Library. There seems to be a brewing crisis of confidence in the elected Board of Trustees, and I wish to explore if my involvement in the Friends of the Library might be a useful/helpful avenue of engagement for us. "In the beginning was the Word..." (John 1:1a).

At our Monday meetings, Larry, Lori and I have begun planning for Advent and Christmas. We intend to add a Blue Christmas Service at 7 p.m. on December 21. This is an innovative service that has emerged in recent years. It seeks to ritually address the reality that many people feel emotionally and spiritually out of synch with the festivity of the season. Often this is because the season will be celebrated without a loved one due to military service, a relationship's end or death. Often seasonal affective disorder or other sorts of depression are the cause. In any event, I have seen this gentle time of music, prayer and lighting candles soothe what can be a difficult time for many

In closing, I am happy to note that we have added two new members to our rolls on November 6: Thelma Kaluzsa and Jane Malmberg.

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. Art was not at the meeting.

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$210,386 is 84.83% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 77.50%, 3-year average. Total Pledges received of \$150,507 are 79.21% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016 compared to 83.00%, 3-year average. October's total receipts were \$37,268, highest of the year, due to Wayne Walk. Pledges are lagging 3 year average. (Will reconcile all fund raisers next month, got distracted by the World Champion Cubs, including attendance at game 7 in Cleveland).

B – 1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$8,688) in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$42,264) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$6,020). Note that Investment Income for 2016 is \$19,268 compared to a loss of (\$6,783) in 2015. This is almost a \$26,000 favorable swing from 2015 to 2016.

C – 1 - C – 2 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$233,086 at 10/31/2016 compared to \$235,059 at 09/31/2016 and \$219,815 at 10/31/2015.

D - 1 Consolidated Fund Activity – Note Historic Preservation Fund is in the red by (\$3,995).

E – 1 - E – 2 2017 Operating Budget – Due tonight!

At council, Anne reviewed the treasurer's notes. Stewardship Sunday was discussed. It was suggested that the people's giving statement needs to be sent out prior to Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 20th. The statement will serve as a reminder for individuals to fulfill their 2016 pledge.

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

Anne distributed the budget forms to each ministry chair to be complete for the next meeting.

Moderator's Report:

Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month.

Wayne Walk

—Finalizing expenses/reimbursements; provided thank you gifts to homeowners; and recovering...!

LHC Restoration Project

—Joined day-long meeting w/Sharp Architects, Anne Bouchard, Rev. Richard, and Rik Alex on Oct. 27 to review LHC property assessment: set of building/property drawings; historical points, roof repair project; civil and design issues; architectural report and design issues; and general issues. We will each be ranking priority of each project needed on a database listing.

November BTW; email marketing; web site; social media

—Helped compile, edit and produce online LHC newsletter

—Produced logo and email blast for Women's Interfaith event

Stewardship

—Created concept icon for Stewardship campaign, 'The Generous Host;' helped produce letter/pledge cards for mailing dropped on Nov. 7; help provide lunch for Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 20

TO DO

—Connect with Congregational Life/WSG/Outreach ministries to work on organization of the **Women's Advent Tea**, Saturday, Dec. 3 and **Christmas Pageant**, Sunday, Dec. 11

—Work with Rev. Richard and Susi Winquist to re-activate the **New Beginnings team** for a meeting in December

—Work with Personnel Committee to finalize the **Human Resource Policies** and share with Council

—Convene meeting of the **Budget Committee** in December to work on 2017 LHC Budget

Moderator Elect: Anne conducted the November council meeting and gave an update on the 'Restoration Project.'

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Karen Kaluzsa requested assistance with the pageant. Also, the October 29th trip to the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette was a success with 15 people enjoying the experience.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick was not able to be at the meeting this evening. She had notified council through an email that she was finalizing the menu for the Women's Advent Tea which will be held on Dec. 3 and had nothing else new to report.

Evangelism: Ann McLaughlin had nothing new to report. Thelma Kaluzsa and Jane Malmberg became new members of the church on November 6.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard reported that bids have gone out for the roof repair.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report.

Bridge Communities/Transitional Housing Ministry

Bob Walgren, Co-Found Bridge Communities, passed away recently from pancreatic cancer. There were several crosses pinned up in his memory on All Saints Day. On October 17, I met with Mark Milligan, Co-Founder of Bridge Communities and he explained some information about Bridge that I was unaware of.

Bridge Communities & Transitional Housing are two completely different organizations, with different mission statements, and Profit and Loss's. We have not given them support monetarily since 2006 when we gave them \$900.

The Bridge Communities organization is 28 years old and is located in Glen Ellyn. When Mark and Bob retired, they were looking for a way to help the homeless. In 1988, they rented an apartment and gave two homeless families shelter. By 1995, they were providing 35 families with apartments. Today they are a 501(3)(c), partner with 15 churches, and have 22 buildings. Over time they have added a dozen ancillary services. They rely on volunteers to be the front line with their families. They partner with Faith Communities in DuPage, Wayne parish, Resurrection Church, St. John's in Winfield, St. Mathews in Wheaton just to name a few. They also run a PADS program and partner with LG homeless agency which operates a get meal & bed for the night. There are several churches participating in this program including First Congregational Church.

Community Crisis Center (CCC)

- On October 26th, I met with Melissa Owens, Volunteer Coordinator to learn more about her role and how else we might help their cause. The homeless shelter houses 30-40 women with children. They provide counseling services for domestic violence and sexual assault. Case Managers work with these women on a day to day basis. They are also looking for volunteers to go to CCC and bake cookies, provide arts & crafts, or help clean the kid's room. They have an annual fund raiser in March and receive some state and federal funds.

CCC also has a few critical volunteer needs. If you have a couple of hours to volunteer in any of these positions listed below, please contact Melissa Owens, Volunteer Coordinator, 847-742-4088 x152, mowens@crisiscenter.org ASAP.

#1 - Food rescue (picking up food donations at nearby restaurants/businesses):
11/15, 11/18, 11/22

#2 - Coat Giveaway Assistance: On 11/12, looking for a couple additional volunteers to help with clearing the coat room after the normal giveaway session, starting at 11:30am. Ongoing Saturdays through January (excluding November 26th and December 24th) we are looking for two additional volunteers each Saturday to help with intake of coat clients in the lobby. Case managers are on duty and will provide support and assistance.

#3 – Dinner Preparation: CCC is looking for a church or other organization that can provide a complete dinner (already prepared, catered, or can be cooked in their kitchen).

Porche – Porche received a crib from St. Mary Depaul and grateful for that. Her living conditions are horrible. She and her two boys sleep on blow up beds. Porche’s bed had a blow out while I was in Dallas. But, Pastor Richard came to the rescue loaning a bed. (Thank you, Richard). Since the crib arrived, the two boys share a bed. There is no room for a chair, a couch or a kitchen table. The twins are on her bed when they eat and the boys sit on the floor. Since I’m still unemployed, I’ve continued to help out a couple of days a week. Monday, Darnell (her four year old boy with autism), had an appointment at the school. We went, Porche got all the paperwork submitted and he will begin school Monday. After the school appointment, I took the kids to the park, I helped do laundry at the Laundromat, and did her grocery shopping. She is suffering from depression and is having suicidal thoughts. She has reached out to Safe Haven for assistance. We are waiting for their response.

Fox Valley Hands of Hope (formerly Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice) – no news to report.

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans - Participated in Wayne Walk by setting up a display in Fellowship Hall.

Neighborhood Food Pantry (formerly Feeding Northwest DuPage)

- Kathy dropped off the Thanksgiving Dinner sign-up sheet.
- I’ve been signing up people for donation the past two Sundays.
- All the dinners are spoken for except 1 and I hope to get that slot filled tonight.

Play Date

- The kids enjoyed Halloween and Nancy is preparing lots of activities approaching Thanksgiving. Sarah, one of the moms, suggested corn music shakers made with empty water bottles or other small containers with dried corn in them. Other corn art project is to use the tops of Legos, paint them and use to stamp corn-shaped construction paper. In addition, they’re decorating leaves and browsing the web for thanksgiving songs.

- **Renx Addiction Counseling Center** - no news to report

At council, Valeri reported that she visited the ‘Sharing Connections’ warehouse in Downers Grove. The warehouse provides furniture, clothing and home goods to those in need. People who need the items must be referred to the warehouse by an agent. Valeri is now an agent.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska was absent but reported through an email that the second letter went out this week with “Generous Host” pledge cards for both a financial and “host” pledge. Everything is set for Stewardship Sunday 11/20.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane reported the following.

Pastor Richard is adding a “Blue Christmas” service on Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 pm. The service is focused on providing spiritual support for those people who find themselves not as happy as the season. Choir practice will follow the service at 8:00 pm.

Hanging of the greens and potluck is scheduled for Sunday, November 27th.

The time and method of prayer concerns was discussed. It was decided that there be a message in the next bulletin asking people to be sensitive of and to limit the information regarding the person for whom the prayer request is for. Consideration for the person’s privacy should be given.

OLD BUSINESS:

Restoration Update: Anne met with the architects. Building use surveys were printed and will be distributed to the congregation at Sunday’s service.

Schramm will be hired to be our construction manager for the renovation project.

Phase 2 will be completed at the end of Dec. and then Phase 3, the budgeting phase, will begin.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorial Gifts: Carol mentioned that the memorial book in the fellowship hall needs to be updated. She has offered to help.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane and seconded by Valeri. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk