

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
November 12, 2017

In Attendance:, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Judy Hopkins, Bob Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Chuck Sbarbaro, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist

Absent: Louise Aughnay, Valeri Baldwin, Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Lori Haseltine, Jane Shelton

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: No corrections were made to the October minutes. They will be approved at the December meeting because of a lack of a quorum.

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

November is off to a busy start, and October was pretty action-packed as well.

World Communion Sunday & Blessing of the Hounds - Both events make for a raucous morning and a chance to welcome strangers to the church

500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation

Trunk or Treat - Great to see the sanctuary packed for Larry's Concert.

Thanks to all who helped out Men's Retreat to Tower Hill – We stretched the retreat to two days, which made it more relaxing. I led all the worship and discussions rather than paying a facilitator, so it was cheaper and longer.

The Men's Group has been steadily attended for almost the whole time I have been here. I am hoping that we will be able to get a Women's Group started.

All Saints Sunday went well. We resumed the posting of paper crosses. In staff meeting we talked about ringing a bell after each name is read during the communion service as had been done in the past.

Had my first meeting with Pastoral Relations since arriving on 7/1/16. My hope is that we will meet once a month so that results in regular communication rather than crisis-driven. As Alex Kentfield sits on Personnel, we will need to find a third member.

We have purchased curricula for Sunday School and intend to initiate the program in January '18. We plan a brief meeting with parents 11/19.

At the council meeting, Richard added that he met with Larry to discuss an epiphany event where we would take down the greens.

The Sunday school curriculum has arrived and will be shared with families this Sunday.

Barb Braulick had forwarded the book, 'The Wesley Challenge,' to Richard for his consideration in developing a spiritual program for the congregation.

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. The letters represent the various sections of the report. A complete copy of the report is available from the office. The report will be approved next month when council has a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: October 2017 Financials

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD: **\$211,259.58 is 85.88% of \$246,000 Budget** which is **ahead** of the 3-year average **79.80%**. *3rd quarter investment income \$4,652. Again, we can attribute these results to the great fundraising efforts and the Spring Campaign/Challenge Match.*

A – 1 Total Pledge Receipts YTD: **\$142,010 is 78.89% of \$180,000 Budget.** Though we had a great month for pledge receipts (\$15,044), we continue to trend **behind** the 3-year average 83.36%.

B - 1 – 6 Operating Report. Current 2017 YTD Net Income of **\$13,087**. Compare to budgeted Net Income (loss) of (\$21,257). In 2016 the Net Income (loss) thru October was (\$8,407).

C – 1– 4 Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$240,502 on 10/31/2017.
Compared to \$230,896 at 09/30/2017.
Compared to \$259,743 at 10/31/2016.

D – 1 - 2 Consolidated Fund Activity. Higher than beginning 2017 balance: \$212,618→\$240,502.

E – 1 – 2 Fundraising totals to date: \$32,952. The Women's Advent Tea and Christmas Poinsettia sales are scheduled for December.

Food Pantry donations are a separate line item. Collections YTD \$1,872. \$1,300 has been disbursed and current collections are at 88% towards the next \$650 gift.

Additional Information: *The last month for rental income from Tai Chi was October. They will no longer be using our Facility.*

Our temporary Custodian has completed her service hours. Discussions are underway to determine how to ensure housekeeping tasks are completed each week and obtaining permanent staff for the position.

Humbly offered,

Susan F. Winqvist
Treasurer

At council, Susi reiterated that the pledge income has increased but the total for the year still lags behind as a result of not being able to collect 2016 pledges. The budgeted income from miscellaneous income and from identified contributors is also behind. However, there are several things that should be considered for 2018.(see her notes) The Tai Chi group is no longer renting our parish hall.

Susi noted that the Neighbors in Need- UCC campaign netted \$191.

Anne reminded everyone to complete their budgets by the end of the month. If you need assistance, please ask for help.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: Judy Hopkins sent the following report to council.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

November 7, 2017

Judy Hopkins

A program on Islamic law will be presented at LHC on November 19, 2PM. The presenter is Rabab Gomaa, MS in Islamic Studies. Her MS dissertation focused on Islamic rulings regarding women and is in the process of being published. She has a special interest in comparative religious studies, Islamic law, religious history and women's studies. Her lecture of approximately 50 minutes length will be followed by Q & A.

After the formal presentation and audience questions, we will have refreshments and an opportunity for informal interaction between audience and speaker.

Ms. Gomaa will be introduced by her fellow faculty member at Northwest Suburban College, Diane Gallentine. Ms. Gallentine has been the source of identifying and arranging for this speaker, as well as future scheduling of a panel discussion on a woman Muslim's decision to wear (or not to wear) a hijab. She will tell us a little about NWSC, located in Rolling Meadows IL.

At council, Judy wanted to know how many council members would be attending the Rabab Gomaa program and donating cookies. She also asked if a parking spot could be reserved for Ms. Gomaa as well. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Evangelism: Carol Berger forward the following report to council.

Evangelism distributed the "Trunk n Treat" flyers in the Village of Wayne this month. Also, we set up a church table at Wayne Day and handed out church brochures and a list of the church activities. Because there was a huge down pour on Wayne Day, the attendance was minimal compared to most years. Richard, Karen Kaluza, Nancy Alex, and I all were there to represent the church.

My Welcome Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 19. I sent out around 15 invitations, and we hope to get 6-10 interested and "potential" persons to attend. If you know of anyone that would like to learn more about who we are and the LHC, please forward to me their contact information, and I will follow up and send out an invite.

I'm still in the process of connecting with the Wayne Welcome Wagon. The church is now listed on their list of "organizations" distributed to new Wayne residents.

We hope to have membership classes soon

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following information regarding our Outreach Ministries.

Community Crisis Center

As toiletries pile up in the donation bin, I take the collection to the Center.

Neighborhood Food Pantry

Sign up for Thanksgiving food basket began November 5th and all but TWO meals have been accounted for! If anyone is unable to drop their meal off on November 18th, following are the FP business hours - Monday & Thursday 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, Tuesday 1:00-4:00, and Saturday 8:00-11:00.

For some reason, our signup sheet only included 31 numbers when typically we get 45. I sent an email inquiring if the need this year has been reduced or was there a mixup. No answer back yet

Open Door Health Center

Jacob Harshbarger, coordinator, attended a council meeting over the summer. He has dates to provide a MM in January.

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 1:00-4:00, Saturday 8:00-11:00)· Volunteers are needed to Stock Shelves, Organize donations, help guests collect their groceries

Stewardship: Bob Kaska submitted the following report.

Stewardship Ministry – Report to Council

November 2017

2017 Stewardship Campaign

Our “Journey of Generosity” Stewardship Campaign started on October 19th with our first letter to the Congregation, followed by a second letter and pledge card mailed on November 1st. Our Stewardship Sunday event occurred on November 12th with a Portillio's brunch hosted by the Ministry.

We have had a good start with a 1st week record of 42 pledges for a total of \$119,330. Of the pledges received: 21 are up; 3 are down; 13 are the same; 3 are new; and 2 are renewed. This is also good news, with 62% of pledges providing “incremental” gifts.

Financial Responsibility Task Force

We have started regular meetings of this important group; Anne Bouchard; Chip Braulick; Greg Hege; Bob Kaska; Susannah Lesswing; Susi Winqvist; and Art Zwemke. We will determine specific goals for the next five years and define the relationship between the Operating Budget, Capital Campaign, and Endowment to achieve a stable Today...Tomorrow...and Future for Little Home Church.

5/15/17 - Initial meeting regarding Stewardship structure; Operating, Endowment, Capital

7/12/17 - Kick-off meeting; assignment of leadership positions; discussion of long term goals.

9/12/17 - Council meeting establishes 125/2.5/35 goals for “three legged stool” of Stewardship

9/22/17 - Letter from Moderator announcing 125/2.5/35 Congregation Meeting 10/8/17

10/1/17 - Call with UCC regarding fundraising

10/4/17 - Call with CCS regarding fundraising

10/6/17- Coordination meeting for 10/8 presentation

10/8/17- Presentation of Long Term Stewardship Goals to Congregation: 125/2.5/35

11/13/17- Meeting to define specific action steps for Janual meeting

Peace be with you,
Robert E. Kaska- Stewardship Ministry Chair

Moderator's Comments:

Anne informed council that the Financial Responsibility Task force committee will be hiring a financial consultant by the end of the year.

Also, plans are being made for a brainstorming session about 'growing membership' in January which will be open to the congregation.

It was suggested that a brochure/flyer be developed that can be handed to a person.

It was decided to have a Sunday committed to Evangelism. The date will be Sunday, February 4th if all calendars align. Evangelism would be the theme of the service with a possible meeting afterwards.

Richard shared an article about growing membership, "Spotlight: Church Shouldn't Be Static" written by a friend of Richard's who was able to develop and grow his congregation.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton was not able to attend this evening. However, the following upcoming events were mentioned.

- Advent Tea - Plans are being made for the December 2 event.
- Blue Christmas - Will be held Wednesday, December 20 at 7 pm.
- The Christmas midnight service is being changed to 10:30 instead of 11:00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Richard mentioned that there was interest in re-establishing the Women's fellowship and to develop a women's retreat for 2018.

Judy Hopkins brought up the idea of displaying a local artists' work somewhere in our church. Council will give the idea consideration. The artist is Eugene McCormick.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm and Susi Winquist's birthday was celebrated with cake baked by Anne. (Thank you Anne)

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk