

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
November 11, 2014

**In Attendance:** Anne Bouchard, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Susi Winqvist, David Russell, Carol Berger, Kristen Thornton, Maureen O'Donnell, Lori Haseltine, Jane Shelton, Sandy Antonelli, Art Zwemke, Susannah Lesswing,

**Absent:** Valeri Baldwin, Jan Marchese, Alex Kentfield

Moderator Susi Winqvist began the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor David Russell then gave the opening prayer and scripture reading.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minor corrections were made to the October 14, 2014 minutes. Anne B. moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Susannah. Minutes approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor David provided the council with a written report stating his actions for the past month. In addition to his report, he shared with council the expectation that the confirmation class had prepared among themselves and spoke about the **mission trip to Biloxi Mississippi**. The mission/pilgrimage trip will be available for up to ten people to join Pastor David, January 17-25, to drive to Biloxi and assist in re-building homes, working in the food pantry or helping in a homeless shelter in the Afro-American/Low income area. Participants will be housed in a retreat center sponsored by the Back Bay Mission, who organizes the activity.

In his emailed report, David reported that the **first Men's breakfast** on November 1<sup>st</sup> attracted approximately 20-25 people along with guests from the Grayslake UCC church. The men enjoyed fellowship and discussed the Men's ministry here at LHC. David also complimented the Kaskas on the fantastic job with the **stewardship campaign**. Approximately 40 people attended the **stewardship coffees**. David, Susi, Kathy and Alex attended the **Fall Association meeting** in Chicago on Saturday, October 18, which David helped to plan as a representative of the Fox Valley Association. The **New Beginnings** program got off to a wonderful start with the visit of Doug Pfeiffer, Assessor, visiting us on October 30. David and Susi went out to dinner with him and Jonathan Knight, our Association minister. The meeting that followed dinner at 7pm was attended by nearly 30 members of our church and consisted of excellent probing conversation which was productive in seeking a new vision for LHC. Nine **new members** will join the church on Sunday. The Figges will be returning members. The other members are: Chip and Barb Braulick; Brianna Milam and Ken Johnston (getting married); Sandy Harper; Charles and Dawn Sbarbaro (whose wedding David officiated here in August).

**Treasurer's Report:**

October numbers were soft. The church is ahead of plan for Pledged Receipts, but behind in total receipts. The YTD operating receipts of \$182,541 is 77.68% of the budgeted plan of \$235,000. (81.11% is the three year average.) The total pledges received are \$138,673 which are 84.04% of the Total Pledges Budget. ( 83.66%, the three year average.)

YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$50,848) in 2014 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of (\$35,553). The shortfall of net income of the church (identified contributors) has been offset by slight under spending of budgeted expenses.

When comparing the balance sheet, the overall financial position of \$255, 590 at 10/31/2014 was compared to \$77,003 at 10/31/2013 and compared to \$265, 977 at 09/30/2014. Net increase is due to Petersen and Dixon closings.

An article of *Church Finances Today-How Churches Spend their Money* was included in the treasurer's report to be read by council.

At the January meeting, Art plans to request the congregation to approve the transfer of funds from the Peterson and Dixon account to the operating fund to offset the deficit. As of date, the church has spend \$50,848 more this year than we have taken in. If the trend continues, our deficit could be approximately \$60,000 at the end of 2014.

There was a discussion regarding how to approach and get contributions from past identified contributors.

Art reminded council that all the 2015 Operating Budget Forms are due at the next council meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. (E1, 2, 3, worksheets) Council was reminded to read the article mentioned earlier and use the information wisely in preparing the budget.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Anne B. and seconded by Sandy Antonelli. Motion passed.

#### **Deficit Planning Discussion:**

A plan to reduce the deficit spending was discussed by council. At the October 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting it was decided that a half hour be spent in devising a plan to solve this problem.

Some of the items that were discussed were:

- Based on the average pledged amount, it was determined that the church needs about 40 new pledges for next year. The pledges would come from new members, indetified past contributors, and members of the church which do not pledge but do give. Art warned the council to anticipate some members may leave the church once a new pastor has been hired and to consider that when planning a solution to the deficit. Pastor David's response was not necessarily so.
- Weddings ministry could be promoted more. More weddings would increase the potential pool of new members and increase the church's visibility. It can also add much needed revenue to the church.
- A capital campaign to the community (such as raising money for new paint) could be a fundraiser. Such fundraisers could be historic walks of Wayne in the summer which would start from the church.
- An appeal to the community asking for money to preserve "their" community church. This could be an annual appeal, sent out in early December.

After discussion, it was decided to proceed on the following;

First, the church will send **an appeal letter to the community** in early December asking for money. Anne B. and David will put together the letter. It will be sent to residents of Wayne and will include an invitation to all of the seasonal activities that will be going on at our church. At

the next council meeting, council members will be asked to bring their cell phones to make follow up calls to follow up on the letter as well as a dish to pass for a pot luck dinner.

The second item to plan is an **annual Wayne Walk and evening Garden party**, similar to the party that was held last summer, for next summer. This fundraiser would ask for money to be contributed toward capital improvements or maintenance of the church.

The monies raised from these events may assist in reducing the deficit and also increase awareness of the church within the community. That awareness could increase new membership which in turn would add to the needed new pledges and sustain the operations of the church.

The following figures were studied. (Approximate numbers)

Year ending	*Annual amount of income needed to cover annual budget and pay off deficit	Expenses	Surplus Deficit	
2014			(\$125,000)	1. See note below
2015	\$230,000	(\$275,000)	(\$45,000)	
2016	\$257,000	(\$282,000)	(\$35,000)	
2017	\$265,000	(\$290,000)	(\$25,000)	
		Subtotal	(\$105,000)	
		Grand Total	(\$230,000)	2. See note below

1. Cumulative Deficit through 12/31/13 @ (\$65,000) plus (\$60,000) estimate for 2014.
2. Equals Balance of Petersen/Dixon fund

\*The above amount needs to be raised by existing and new pledges (members), annual fundraising in the community, and possible increase of revenue to the church from weddings.

**Moderator’s Report:**

Susi sent her report to council. Highlights of that report are as follows:

Susi has continued to meet with Pastor David. She also attended the UCC Associations Fall Meeting with Pastor David, Kathy Haben, and Alex Kentfield.

The next scheduled **Search and Call Committee meeting** is November 13<sup>th</sup>. The first task will be deciding on a chairperson, secretary, computer secretary and a chaplain. Then the work will begin on development of a LHC Church profile which will define who we are to potential candidates for our next settled Pastor. It may take two or three months to complete as there is an abundance of information to be gathered. Once the profile documents are completed, they will be forwarded to Rev. Knight and LHC will be posted on the National Ministry Opportunities website.

**New Beginnings Program: Phase I** is almost complete. An abundance of data has been collected and in the hands of Doug Pfeiffer, our program assessor. On Thursday October 30th several meetings took place between throughout the day and tours of our grounds and community. At 7pm, 28 LHC Council and congregation members gathered for an exciting question and answer time. Again, the goal was to get first hand feedback on very specific topics. **Phase I** culminates in the analysis of the information and development of a comprehensive report for our review. We can expect our report sometime in December. **Phase II** is scheduled for February. We will send 8-10 folks to gather with other lay

leaders from churches who are participating in the program. **Phase III** will be initiated after the training. Six *cottage meetings* will be scheduled for the entire congregation who will take part in a decision making and action taking process.

**Moderator Elect Report:** No Report. Alex was absent.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

**Christian Education:** The committee is considering doing VBS with another area UCC church next summer. A seminar is being planned for September 2015, called "A Conscious Aging." Because of the cost, we could invite other area UCC churches. Another conference on "Forgiveness" is planned for March.

### **Congregational Life:**

Jane and Susannah met with Mary Roach, Kathleen Kaska and Kathy Haben to plan the Advent Tea scheduled for Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Little Home Church. Jane is currently updating the phone tree. Susannah will finalize plans for the purchase of new chairs for the Parish Hall. (Old Business)

**Evangelism:** This Sunday, November 16, is New Membership Sunday. The nine members who will be joining are Barbara and Chip Braulick, Janet and Paul Figge, Sandra Harper, Kennith Johnston, Brianna Milam (engaged to Kennith), Dawn and Charles Sbarbaro. Cake will be served. There are plans to have another membership class next spring.

The signs for LHC are ready to be mounted on Route 59 and the Public Works Department in Wayne has agreed to put them up for the church. Carol passed around a thank you card to be signed and sent to Wayne Police chief, Dan Callahan, who helped us get the signs and arranged to have them paid for by the community.

Carol will do another mailing to our list of visitors inviting them to our holiday events.

Sponsors are being sought for the new members. They will assist the new members in becoming familiar with the church.

**Facilities:** Anne submitted a written report. Items on her report include the following.

The work day was held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Many windows cleaned, sanctuary dusted, kitchen and fridge cleaned, storage closet in Parish hall cleaned and organized, floor vents in Parish Hall vacuumed, carpet in PH spot cleaned, light bulbs changed, light covers washed, fixtures repaired in bathroom, sanctuary basement (first room) fully cleaned, weedy strip between parking lot and Peterson house cleaned up, and more. Approximately 12 people helped.

Other projects completed during the past month included the following. Dave Hochstetter painted the shutters on the front of the sanctuary. The church purchased a new vacuum. Rik Alex adjusted the latch at the top of the west side sanctuary door. (It was not closing properly.) And, repairs were made to the Guild House furnace in the basement.

Facilities contacted the Retirement Research Foundation and learned that the Board will meet in the middle of November and a decision will be made by November 15 regarding our grant application for the power assist door.

**Outreach:** Valerie sent her report to council.

LHC committed to donating 45 Thanksgiving dinner baskets to Feeding Northwest Dupage. At present, we have received 43 donations (2 remaining). Valerie will be shopping for seven dinners and the other two donations will probably come by then. For Christmas, we are also committed to 45 dinner baskets. Those baskets will be dropped off on December 20<sup>th</sup> at Resurrection Church.

Lori Prang researched and met with Juanita from the Wayne Township General Assistance office and choose six households with children for the church to provide gifts for. Lori will create gift tags and the sign-up sheet. Gifts are due wrapped and delivered to LHC by pageant Sunday, Dec. 14. Lori will deliver the gifts before the December 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.

The Community Crisis Center (aka battered women's shelter) has asked for donations of toiletries. Those items include soap, shampoo, lotion, tooth brushes/paste, etc.

**Stewardship:** After last week, the church has received 36 pledges representing \$92,000. Twenty three of those pledges were new or increased pledges. This is quite an increase compared to 2013 when we had 24 pledges representing \$81,000 at this time last year. There were 38 ministries pledges.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** No report.

**Members at Large/ Communications:**

Kathleen reminded everyone that the By the Way due date is Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Lori prints extra copies of the By the Way for anyone to send out.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Susannah brought a sample of another chair to consider purchasing for the parish hall. The council liked the beige/steel chair. The chairs will stack on a caddie which will hold 45 chairs each. The cost of purchasing 90 chairs and two caddies will be \$8100. Each chair costs \$80 and the caddies are \$450 each. Anne B. moved to purchase 90 chairs and two caddies, provided that they fit in the storage room and upon validation of a contributor who will pay for some of the cost of the chairs. The motion passed; 6 yes, 2 no. Susannah was also asked to check on the warranty of the chairs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The following item was on the agenda but will be reviewed at a later date.

- Suggestion to create a Sexton position for sound system and onsite set up/troubleshooting during events

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 6:00 p.m. Potluck and Meeting. Council are to bring phones and a food dish to share.

Move to adjourn by Maureen and seconded by Kathleen.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:35 p.m.:

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk

Approved 12/9/2014