

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
October 9, 2012

In Attendance: Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Peter Gatsch, Karen Hansen, Lori Haseltine, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Wally Setlock, Jane Shelton. Guest: Karen Ashe, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska

Absent: Kathy Haben, Gianna Marchese, Nancy Schatzeder, Art Zwemke

Wally Setlock began the meeting at 7:11 p.m. and asked for prayer requests. Ron then gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Wally asked if there were any changes or corrections to the September minutes. Ann M. moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Anne B. The minutes were approved with all ayes.

Pastor's Report: Ron's explained that he's looking into changing electric companies to get more competitive rates. Anne will ask Mary Roach to talk to Ron regarding the rates in Wayne. Wally said Peter has had someone look at the chimney; Ron said it is more involved than we had anticipated, and the piping inside the chimney may need to be replaced. Wayne Days is October 13 and Carol Berger is setting up the table at 3:00 with Ann M. and Ron & Maggie. Blessing of the Hounds went very well on September 30 with possibly 400 people. The Rummage Sale was also a great success. Karen reported over \$4,000 was made in sales. The tenant in the Dixon has is up to date on the rent. Ron is talking to Fox Valley Association Minister Jonathan Knight as we need a speaker for Stewardship Sunday, November 11. Don Heinrich will speak on Reformation Sunday, October 28. Ron is also working with Larry on the Fall and Christmas season activities. We all congratulated Ron on the birth of his new granddaughter Aria Madeline Purser.

Petersen House Update: Karen Ashe reported that the activity on the house has picked up in the last month. There has been an average of one showing a week, with about 15 showings to date. One client has viewed the house 3 times now and Karen has answered a long list of questions for her. Karen reported the price has been dropped \$2,500 per the Council request. Thank you, Karen!

Treasurer's Report: Ann M. reported in Art's absence. Our September collections were strong. The UCC OCWM is requesting \$22,000 and we have budgeted \$15,600. The YTD deficit is (\$22,377) compared to our budgeted deficit of (\$27,164) at this time. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jane, seconded by Anne B. The September report was approved with all ayes. Ann explained the budget sheets for the ministries which were included in the packets and asked the ministry chairs to email questions to Art or ask him at the November meeting. The budgets are due at the December meeting which will be on Friday, December 7 at the Setlock's home.

Open and Affirming (ONA) Update: Anne said the next ONA congregational meeting will be Sunday after service and the group will be showing a video of Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson speaking at Elmhurst College with lots of good information regarding ONA. We are hoping to start at 10:45 and anticipate an hour long meeting. Wally suggested possibly breaking the video into thirds so there is plenty of time for discussion afterwards. Anne will follow up and see if that is possible. Marilyn suggested another video that was viewed by the committee and Anne will look into that by Lewis Smedes. Wally said there has been a request to have some information in the BTW regarding ONA and Anne will submit information for the newsletter.

Moderator's Report (and Moderator-Elect): Wally mentioned that we need to be more strategic as a group and also in each of our ministries. What types of things might we be doing that are forward looking? Our ministries are supposed to include 7 people on committees and we need to anticipate Committee Chairs for June. While we are reviewing the budgets we need to look into what we should be including. Carol suggested the Council might consider a retreat to spend some time reviewing future goals and strategic targets. Another topic to discuss would be: What does the Council need to do to strengthen the Council?

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Lori reported that the curriculum is done. We need to attract more children to the Sunday School. Anne suggested having a regular acolyte schedule and possibly a youth reading during the service. We need to recruit children for the Christmas pageant on December 9th, and Jane mentioned we need all ages. Karen will post an announcement in the post office. There will most likely be only one pageant this year at 5:00 with the lasagna dinner following.

Congregational Life: Anne said the response to the Advent Tea date was good. The date selected is Saturday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a planning meeting during the 3rd week in October. Sunday, October 21st will be the college package assembling.

Evangelism: Kathleen reported that the sign insert out in front has been completed. She discussed the promotion for the Blessing of the Hounds event on September 30 (which was a great success). A bulk mailing of 750 postcards was mailed to homes within a 6-mile radius of the church. It was a great way to make the community aware of the happenings at the church. There was a hospitality station at the blessing of the hounds with refreshments and 'souvenir postcards' and notices of the upcoming rummage sale. The hunt provided yellow mums and red ribbons for the church steps. We had 350 bulletins printed and next year we should have more with some general information about the church. There are two more postcard mailings scheduled for this year promoting the Christmas season with the Women's Worship and Advent Tea, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Pageant, Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve Services. Kathleen is meeting again with Lori regarding the Church Windows software and she will be working with Kristen Thornton to update the website.

Facilities: Abbott hasn't gotten back to Ron yet on the tree removal. Ron has another idea on the audio for the outside, too. The second set of speakers is on hold right now as everyone thinks the new microphones are working great. Wally has sent the legal information to Doug Hancock regarding the lot line changes. Peter has two bids on the chimney, the flue needs to be repaired in addition to the brick work and he will get additional bids. Council has agreed to have Ron, Wally and Peter approve the bid to get the work done before the bad weather.

Outreach: Crop Walk hasn't contacted Rich Doerr with the information this year. We have just received the forms and walkers need to be recruited for October 21st. Lori will send out a special email to announce the event for walkers and contributions. Marilyn will get the information for the Giving Tree.

Stewardship: Ann M. reported that the Stewardship Sunday information will be ordered and she will ask the Council to complete their pledges early.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Ron suggested that we have the Hanging of the Greens the Sunday after Thanksgiving on November 25th and possibly take them down on December 30th so the Sanctuary will be decorated for the Advent Tea. The Council agreed to have the Hanging of the Greens on November 25th.

Members at Large: Carol suggested that we have a church handout at Wayne Days on October 13th and have something to promote our bell choir at the church information table. She also reported that Wendell Clancy has agreed to be a trustee.

Old Business: The church received a call regarding the ringing of the bell on September 11th.

New Business: Kathleen reported that the by the By-The-Way newsletter gets emailed to 130 addresses and mailed through the post office to 60 addresses. The dollars we save in postage would enable us to send out our By The Way in color. The Council agreed to have the BTW printed in color.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne B. and seconded by Carol. All ayes. Meeting adjourned. Pastor Ron led the closing prayer at 9:07 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk