

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
October 8, 2013

In Attendance: Sandy Antonelli, Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Kathy Haben, Lori Haseltine, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Louise Aughnay, Susannah Lesswing, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Jane Shelton, Susi Winqvist, Art Zwemke. Guests: Dan Roach, Marilyn Poole

Absent: Anne Bouchard

Moderator Kathy Haben began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and asked Congregational Life to read their favorite Bible passages. Susannah read Jane's, Micah 6:8 and she read hers, Colossians 3:23. Kathy then asked for prayer requests and Pastor Ron gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Kathy asked if there were any changes or corrections to the September minutes. Some minor changes were requested and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Sandy and seconded by Lori. The September minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ron informed the Council that confirmation class will begin on Sunday; there are several children yet to contact. Hospital visits have kept him busy. He is planning to have new members join in the month of October: the Odegards, Lynn Tuttle, Maureen O'Donnell and Mary Fleischman.

Treasurer's Report: Art informed the group that through September 30, we are ahead with total operating receipts of \$179,654 but lagging behind in the pledges. This is a concern as membership pledges have been impacted by the ONA matter. We are at a (\$31,053) deficit in 2013 compared to last year of (\$22,377) and the projected YTD deficit of (\$23,989). Without the castle fundraiser of \$17,000 it would be (\$48,053). Outreach has yet to pay \$9,525 and the Castle fundraiser outreach funds have not been disbursed yet. Valeri will send Art a note as to how much each agency is to receive of the total amount approved by Council. Art explained the budget numbers that were included in the report and asked for questions at the November meeting with the final budgets for 2014 being turned in at the December meeting. He asked members to email him with any questions regarding the budget and what was included in the spending amounts in the past. Art will make a note to set up another fund for the Perpetual Fund on the Balance Sheet. He concluded that we still have a big deficit, we need money but we have big assets we are selling. Ann moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Susi seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Valerie asked to pick a Janual meeting day. Pastor Ron suggested January 26, 2014 and it was agreed.

Peterson House Update: Kathy has asked Karen Ashe to cancel the current contract as the buyer has not yet obtained financing. Karen informed Kathy the Moderator or the Attorney needs to sign the cancellation and Kathy is still waiting for the paperwork to sign. Karen said

some things need to be repaired before it is shown again, and Kathy asked for the list before tonight's meeting, but she hasn't received it yet. There was no open house for the Blessing of the Hounds as Karen explained it was the wrong audience; it will be held as soon as the list is fixed. The house is currently listed at \$185,000 but still shows there is a contract pending. Kathy has asked for the contract in order to get it cancelled, and she will sign the cancellation. The realtor agreement can be cancelled at anytime and maybe we want to list with another broker. We also have another house to list. Kathy asked if we should have a committee working on getting the property listed and moving. Art and Dan will meet with Kathy to get the properties going.

Dixon House Update: The house has not been listed yet and the current renters are 4 months in arrears; however, they intend to pay this week and be caught up by the end of November. Regarding the septic system, Kathy said we need to hire someone to draw up the septic plans, get a permit, get a soil test and get the system installed. Cost is estimated anywhere from \$7,000 to \$14,000. A bid cannot be made until a plan is drawn up. The offer on the Dixon house was \$69,000 and was low, but understood that the property was 'as is'. Art suggested that we list at \$83,000 if we fix the septic and \$69,000 without fixing the septic. Kathy will meet with the renters. Kathy asked about the water softener rental and she will check with the management company.

Moderator's Report: Kathy has been busy working on the houses. She will send out questionnaires to the Council for the personnel reviews. Kathy concluded that the unallocated \$80,000 from the Treasurer's Report will be discussed at a later date. Jan (or Lori) will send Kathleen the minutes in order to complete the posting of the minutes on the website. Lori will catch up the listings on the web site. Kathy will send notices for the meetings in the future.

Moderator Elect Report: Susi will be getting together with Congregational Life on phone tree and email blasts to solidify the communication which has been having glitches.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Lori is suggesting a tour of Fermi lab in February for the congregation. Also in the works is a camp out on April 19 for the youth group and any chaperones at Pratt Wayne Woods. Kathy suggested that she look into getting a permit for camping and Pastor Ron said he has the information. Sunday School is going well so far. Larry is doing the bells with the kids and Lori said they have attendance prizes. The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 15.

Congregational Life: Susannah Lesswing said thank you for the participation in the party on October 5. They are thinking about a trip to Fox Valley Repertory and possibly a caroling night in December which Larry has been discussing with the choir.

Evangelism: Carol thanked Kathleen for the beautiful postcards for the Blessing of the Hounds. Carol said she handed out the 100 postcards that were left over and they were a big hit at the event. Kathleen said they should be sent to the congregation next year. Carol has been following up with the visitor cards in the service. Please let her know of anyone else who needs

a note. Art asked that we send a note to Abbot Tree for doing the lawn service. Pastor Ron said he sends a note, too. We had a lot of visitors during the church service at the Blessing of the Hounds besides all the people that attend outside after the service. Carol also gave a handout of the church activities and the Wayne Day postcard. Carol will focus on who is moving into the community and maybe the kids should take something around to the neighbors from the church for All Saints Day. Kathleen suggested that we put something in the Outpost Little Store about our church and events. Carol will post our activities in the Post office, too. Ann asked that the Blood Drive be listed on the Church Events calendar. We should have the events dates decided by September 1 so we can have handouts for the Blessing of the Hounds next year. Carol will look into contacting new families with information from the church.

Facilities: Dan attended for Anne Bouchard and said we have already discussed the properties and Anne had issued a report. Valeri asked about painting the church which she would like to help fund and has a painter to recommend. Kathy thanked her and said that it is on the 'To Do' list.

Outreach: Valerie said Crop Walk is October 20 and several walkers have already signed up. We need walkers and contributions. The Christmas giving tree will be coordinated again with Wayne School and Valeri will contact Wayne School. It was suggested that we only take 5 families this year. Holiday dinners will happen again with the food pantry for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Stewardship: Ann McLaughlin said Stewardship Sunday is November 17th and Pastor Ron is looking for a guest speaker. Ann will get something in the By The Way newsletter. The Blood Drive will be November 18th. Neighbors in Need was last Sunday.

Worship & Spiritual Growth: Sandy said different individuals will be doing communion on Sundays. She has not had a chance to get together with Pastor Ron and Larry yet. Hanging of the greens will be December 1 this year which is Thanksgiving weekend. Sandy will put something in the By The Way about that Sunday.

Members at Large: Carol Berger thanked Karen Ashe and Sandy for representing the church at the Wayne Day table. Louise Aughnay asked if the Sunday School children can be encouraged to bring a friend and Lori said they get points toward prizes in the current program if they do.

Old Business: Kathy doesn't have the 'To Do' list done this month. Anne has given the new chairs information to Kathy. Page nine of the by-laws has been amended and Lori asked about changing the terminology from Endowment Fund to Perpetual Fund throughout the by-laws, which needs to be done. Ann asked if November 17th can be listed on the church calendar as Stewardship Sunday. Kathy asked about the absence of the Advent Tea event and Jane questioned why we aren't doing it this year. Jane and Susannah will discuss it. Kathy asked about the healing process after the ONA and Kathleen explained that we have a step after the ONA process where we are working on people of different perspectives coming together as a church for common worship in peace and community. Possibly we could invite former members to come to our church again, maybe the ONA committee could contact UCC for ideas and a team could reach out to members with our Pastor Ron participating. She suggested guest speakers and

special books we can read to celebrate the diversity of thought. Dan said that the process has revealed a diversity that we weren't aware of in the past. Kathleen will connect via email with everyone for feedback. The current committee could continue on or, if not, Kathleen will spearhead the effort. It is important that we do this, regardless of the ONA vote outcome. Pastor Ron said the ONA committee needs to meet one more time and assimilate what has happened and then pass on the process to a follow-up group. Pastor Ron can recommend a speaker to come in and talk to the congregation.

New Business: Marilyn attended a presentation from UCC headquarters in Cleveland regarding a new program called 'New Beginnings'. The goal is a new beginning for the church. Marilyn handed out information and explained that there is a cost involved, possibly \$3,800, and we would have professional help with growing our church. Kathy said it is something we could do with the money we need to allocate once we sell the houses. Marilyn suggested that the 'New Beginnings' tie in with the ONA follow-up program.

Open and Affirming: Counting of Ballots

A total of 246 ballots were sent out. Only four were returned as undeliverable and 2 disqualified due to a late mailed date. A total of 158 ballots were returned with 128 yes votes and 30 no votes. The ONA was approved.

Kathy made a motion to adjourn and Jane seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Ron gave the closing prayer at 10:14.

The next meeting is November 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk