

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
October 11, 2016

In Attendance: Valeri Baldwin, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Karen Kaluzsa, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska, Ann McLaughlin, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winquist, Art Zwemke

Absent: Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Richard Malmberg

Moderator Kathleen Sullivan Kaska began the meeting at 7:15 pm. Kathleen shared devotion in Pastor Richard's absence. Prayers and concerns were shared.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the September minutes. Anne B. 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. He was not at this month's council meeting in order to attend services at the Congregation Beth Shalom in Naperville in observance of Yom Kippur.

Since our last Council Meeting, there has been a great deal going on around Little Home Church, not the least of which was the wildly successful Wayne Walk. So many worked to make the event a success from opening their homes, guiding tours, coordinating transportation, promotions and more. I am so grateful to all of you. I would be remiss if I did not offer special thanks to Kathleen and Bob Kaska for their steadfast and faithful leadership. Many wondered if we could pull off such an ambitious project and Bob and Kathleen helped us discover how much we are capable of.

As Larry and I hosted Wayne Walkers at the church we both took delight in telling our guests about the ministries their contributions would support, that all the funds would go out the door to help people in need. That said, stewardship season is soon upon us. Bob and I have had initial meetings to plan this year's campaign. I know we will all stretch to give until it feels good, to realize the vision of new beginnings to serve God in and around Wayne and beyond.

On October 2nd, we had a big day, starting with World Communion Sunday and then Blessing of the Hounds. Both were delightful opportunities to worship joyfully and celebrate the Spirit moving through Wayne. The Blessing of the Hounds is a unique opportunity to bring our ministry out to the street. We should take and create ever more opportunities to do so.

I have been trying to get out and meet as many people in the community as possible. Carol Berger and Kathleen Kaska, staffed a Little Home Church table at Wayne Day, and Carol took me around to meet folks at the horse show.

I want to thank everyone who came and everyone who helped make the Installation such a great time. I was so proud (our Puritan forebears would frown at my brazen use of the word) yes, proud to be installed as your pastor. I was so pleased by the welcome you all provided our guests from the Fox Valley Association and elsewhere. I was glad you got to

hear from my old friend Dr. Jonathan Lee, and he got to meet some of you. I think much of what went well that afternoon were things nobody could have planned. God's Spirit was in the house!

As of Columbus Day morning, we did not have our minimum number of commitments for the Men's Retreat this coming weekend. Our initial goal was twelve men. We set a fallback minimum of eight. By Monday morning we only had six. By afternoon we had seven commitments, so it looks like a go. I spoke with the facilitator Pastor David engaged last year and he is happy to go ahead with it.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Baha'i Temple tour this month as a Christian Education Field Trip. Also, I have been inspired by Jonathan's installation sermon and a conversation with one of our members. For many years I have considered teaching a kind of Confirmation Class for adults to brush up on Christian basics of theology, Bible and church history. If that would interest you, please let me know;

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.

Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2016

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$173,118 is 69.81% of Total Receipts Budget for 2016 of \$248,000 compared to 71.24%, 3-year average. Total Pledges received of \$134,109 are 70.58% of Total Pledges Budget of \$190,000 in 2016 compared to 76.42%, 3-year average. First time in 2016 that both Total Receipts and Pledges are behind 3-year trend line.

B – 1 - B - 6 Current YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$20,154) in 2016 compared to Prior YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$37,478) in 2015 and Budgeted YTD Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$14,122). These numbers do not include the Wayne Walk, but include about \$6,000 from Rummage Sale.

C – 1 - C – 2 Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$235,059 at 09/30/2016 compared to \$224,857 at 09/30/2015 and \$247,305 at 08/31/2016.

D - 1 Consolidated Fund Activity – Note Historic Preservation Fund.

E – 1 Outreach Tracking

F – 1 - F – 2 2017 Operating Budget

At council, Art reviewed the report. The money that has been donated to the preservation of the church was placed last month in a fund titled “Parish Hall Renovation.” Since last month, the fund has been renamed to properly reflect its use as the “Historic Preservation Fund.”

The final amount of the Pastor’s moving expenses has not been received yet. Some money from the Memorial Fund was used to cover the moving expenses. The Memorial Fund committee did meet and approve the use of this money.

The rummage sale revenue of \$6200 is reported on page B1 under ‘Challenge Match.’ Donation checks have been prepared for some of the charities.

Ann M. moved to approve the treasurer’s report from August and September. The motion was seconded by Anne B. All were in favor. Reports were approved.

Moderator’s Report:

Kathleen submitted the following report for the past month.

Wayne Walk

- Worked a table with Carol Berger at Sept. 17 Wayne Day/Horse Show to promote event
- Posted event info on various news sites
- Installed promotional sign at Castle property
- September 22, held evening meeting at LHC to update core ‘doers’ on reservation status and goals
- Met with Kathy Haben to plan/finalize transportation schedule and details
- Met with DWRC Events Director to finalize menu and arrangements
- Promoted event and sold reservations at Blessing of the Hounds

Blessing of the Hounds

- Cleaned up existing LHC Football beanbag game, along with kid table and chairs from Guild House for kid activities at the event
- Worked as hospitality person distributing commemorative postcards, blessing programs, and inviting guests to the refreshment table

Pastor Installation

- Worked with Rev. Richard and Lori to design and produced printed invitations; helped with mailing; produced email blast invitation as well
- Participated in Installation Service as LHC Moderator

LHC Restoration Project

- Joined meeting w/Sharp Architects, various engineering/contractor resources, along with Anne B. and facilities committee on Sept. 21 to review LHC property needs

October BTW; email marketing; web site; social media

- Helped compile, edit and produce online LHC newsletter
- Produced email blast notices and reminders of events and ‘Work Day’

Weekly Meetings

- Met weekly with Rev. Richard and Office Manager Lori to discuss church needs, make plans, and get-to-know

At council, Kathleen distributed a report on the Wayne Walk. The event attracted 95 reservations which surpassed its target of 80. The Silent Auction which was added late raised an additional \$1720. The total raised to date is \$9277.

The target income for the Wayne Walk was lowered when the ticket price was reduced and more realistic goals were established. The original goal was \$15,000 but it was lowered to \$10,000. The project promoted a lot of “good will” within the community. Kathleen reported that two thirds of the reservations were from non church members.

Of the \$30,000 set as the 2016 fundraising goal, the church has currently raised approximately \$18,000 for Outreach charities. There is still the Women’s Advent Tea and the Poinsettia Flower Sale to add to the funds that have been raised.

Moderator Elect: Anne Bouchard submitted a report for facilities. See that ministry report.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Christian Education: At council, Karen Kaluzsa reviewed her submitted report and wanted council to be aware of a Christian adult education class for the congregation that Richard wants to begin.

The Christian Education Ministry is organizing the field trip to the Baha’i Temple on Saturday, October 29th. There is a sign-up sheet in parish hall, and we will organize carpools next week. Our tour is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and should last about an hour and a half. We will meet at Little Home Church at 12 noon for the drive there.

On Sunday Jean Muno asked me if the Christian Education Ministry would approve a community education session for drug awareness later this month. Jean is organizing the event and helping to publicize it, and she will let me know if she needs any funding from the Christian Education budget. It is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, October 25th.

Lastly, Lori told me that the Christmas Pageant falls under Christian Education and needs to be organized. Other than attending the pageant for the first time last year, I am blissfully unaware of what organizing the pageant entails, and it is way outside my comfort zone. So I request the help of Council in finding someone with more experience to take on organizing the pageant.

Congregational Life: Barb Braulick provided the following report.

First and foremost, I thank and appreciate everyone who helped with the Blessing of the Hounds and Pastor Malmberg's installation. I received wonderful, positive feedback.

No rest for the weary as we are already gearing into planning mode for the Women's Advent Tea.

Evangelism: Nothing new to report.

Facilities: Anne Bouchard submitted and reviewed the following report.

At council, Anne asked the council's reaction to the possible installation of a flood reaction/emergency notification system. No decision was made. She also mentioned to Council that the furnace may need to be replaced due to its age. And, the old keys stick in lock so the new door is not used.

Facilities Update

Working on:

- Punch list items for the power assist door, as well as the Final Report for the Retirement Research Foundation (grantor). The power assist door is operational.
- Follow up with repair person regarding generators.
- PH/GH Roofs: Working with Sharp Architects on specs. Fred Schramm will solicit 3 bids.
- Scheduling electrician to replace dimmer switch in narthex.

Completed:

- Tai Chi classes have resumed (after rummage sale).
- Pest Control Company came out to deal with the ant infestation.
- Sanctuary furnace blower motor replaced.
- Work Day: Painting touch ups in Parish Hall and sanctuary, Parish Hall emergency roof repair, outside weeding and tree trimming, light bulbs replaced in PH to lower electrical impact on dimmer switches, other miscellaneous interior work.
- Scheduled appointment with Black Gold to locate septic fields.

Outreach: Valeri Baldwin submitted the following report. At council, Valeri reiterated the need for furniture for the homeless women and kids when they leave the shelter.

Bridge Communities/Transitional Housing Ministry

- Participated in Wayne Walk by setting up a display in Fellowship Hall.
- Mark Milligan introduced to Tom Thiltgen in an effort to fill a gap I discovered when mothers with their families leave the CCC homeless shelter and move into their new apartment. See details bullet #1 below CCC.

Community Crisis Center

- When mothers with their families leave the CCC homeless shelter and move into their new apartment, it could be a day or several days before they receive any furnishings. The gap was discovered when I was helping Madlyne 3 weeks ago when she got her apartment. She reached out to me about her and her two children having to sleep on the floor. I brought her a blow up bed I had in my closet.
- A more permanent, long-term stop gap measure is distributing blow up beds (queen for mothers, twin for children, travel bed set with surround frame for infants & toddlers). The intent is to circulate these items among the CCC community families.
- I stopped by the CCC last Sunday to drop off our toiletries donation and heard some stories that concerned me. Three mothers were coming out of the shelter so I introduced myself, asked them their names and we talked a bit about their situations. I asked them if they had been given any of these personal items and they said "only if they feel like walking downstairs". I wanted to hear more so I ended up walking to the park with them and their children and asked about their overall experience at the homeless shelter. I also spoke to Madlyne about her experience in an attempt to corroborate their stories. First thing she said was, when she realized LHC was associated with the homeless shelter she

was shocked. She talked about how she met women at our Rummage Sale and everyone was so nice, caring, and considerate. People at the homeless shelter were not. She said the administrative side of the house is fine, but “there’s no presence of the Lord on the homeless shelter side”. She gave me several examples and I plan to bring discuss this with Gretchen Vapnar, the Executive Director. I will report my findings.

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 McKinley has retired and her successor is Cheryl Creining. Kathy has agreed to coordinate the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with her this year since she hasn't experienced the dinner distribution. They will be working together and Cheryl will be learning how works. They are in the beginning stages of planning for the food pantry holiday dinner distributions for 2016 coming up on November 19 and December 17. NFP plans to feed ~350 families for both holidays. Last year’s donations were:
- Corpus Christi: 100+ for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Little Home Church: 45 for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Living Lord: 40 for Thanksgiving
- Good Shepherd: 25 for Thanksgiving
- Resurrection: approx. 200 each for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- LHC has made a commitment for 45 dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thanksgiving paperwork will be dropped off the week of October 24, which will give us three weekends for sign-ups.

Playdate - No news to report.

Renz Addiction Counseling Center - Participated in Wayne Walk by setting up a display in Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship: Bob Kaska submitted the following report.

Pastor Richard and I have met and established the theme of the “Generous Host” for the Stewardship Campaign this year. As we solicit pledges from our congregation we will confirm the responsibility and joy of being a “host”...to the Community; to Christ; and to each other. In addition to a financial pledge; we will ask for a hosting pledge to serve as an usher or pulpit associate; provide flowers or fellowship; join the choir or other group activities.

The success of our recent hosting events: Rummage Sale; Blessing of the Hounds; and Wayne Walk have established a positive tone that we can build on. Richard said it well...”the door is open, the lights are on...we are here to welcome God and our neighbors as a Generous Host”.

Dates:

10/13 First Letter

11/7 Second Letter

11/13 Stewardship Sermon

11/20 Stewardship Sunday – Presentation of Pledges – Celebration Brunch

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Jane Shelton asked council for usher and pulpit associate assistance.

Members at Large: Carol Berger submitted the following report.

Wayne Day:

I hosted the LHC table with Kathleen Kaska and introduced Richard to community residents at Wayne Day and at the horse show. Everyone seemed so pleased to meet the new pastor at the LHC and it was a great way to spread our good news. Also, most horse show attendees were aware of the “new pastor” coming to town and seemed complimentary of the church.

Blessing of the Hounds and Installation Sunday:

Assisted with distributing the postcards and BTW news to the crowd, and assisted Barb and Anne with the reception and set up on Saturday. A big thanks to Anne and Barb for organizing a wonderful reception, and we received many compliments for the hi-tops. Perhaps we could be on the lookout for some used hi-tops, or cheap ones to have and use during our fellowship hour.

Wayne Walk:

I gave tours at the Club and received more compliments about the church, too.

Recent Members:

It was my intention to arrange with Richard and Ann M. a meeting to review our recent members and find ways to engage them. And because September and early October was filled with multiple events, that goal was postponed. I hope to report at our next meeting that all new members who joined during the past 5 years who have been inactive will have been contacted.

Memorial Gifts:

Memorial Committee is on the agenda for next month. Memorial gifts be addressed under new business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Women's Interfaith Event: Update from Anne...

Plans are underway for the event on November 20. There was a discussion regarding the overlap of activities regarding the event and the Stewardship Sunday congregation luncheon which would be after church. It was decided that both events can be coordinated on the same day.

Anne B. is working with Nancy Schatzeder, and Nadia Qazi (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community) to plan event. She has also spoken with Cindy Michelassi (song leader among other things at Temple Etz Chaim in Lombard) to assist as well.

150th Anniversary Renovation plans: (Update submitted by Anne Bouchard)

We have received our first tangible feedback/report from Sharp Architects, in the form of display boards. One board covers the initial findings of the team (electrical, mechanical, structural, etc.). Other shows the dimensions of the buildings and layout. The third presents a narrative about the project. I am working with the architects to create a survey

to determine congregational (and outside groups', possibly) interest in building usage and wishful ideas for future use. I am also working with Andrea Ferguson to communicate progress to major donors. Anne reviewed the activity during council. Copies of the show boards will be put on the website.

Pet Policy:

Susi Winquist reported for the personnel committee regarding the establishment of a pet policy and whether a dog or any other pet be allowed in the church. Presently, during office hours when a dog is present, there is a sign posted on the office door which asks people to knock prior to entering so the the dog can be put in another room. After much discussion, it was suggested that the church accepts a permissive policy, allowing a dog to be present along as its owner who would take responsibility of controlling the dog with the committee reviewing the situation in three months.

Anne B. moved to adopt the permissive pet policy as the personnel committee sees fit. Ann M. seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Men's Group: The men's group plans to host a Monday night football night on Monday, October 31st (Halloween).

Halloween: Carol suggested that the church be open to pass out treats to trick-or-treaters on October 31st. Carol will coordinate.

Thank you: Kathleen thanked Carol Berger and her family for the gifts of furniture in the courtyard.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next Meeting: CHANGED TO Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m. because of the election.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susi and seconded by Jane. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Kathleen gave the closing prayer at 9:24 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk