

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
October 10, 2017

In Attendance:, Louise Aughnay, Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Judy Hopkins, , Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Chuck Sbarbaro, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winqvist, Jim Winqvist (guest)

Absent: Barb Braulick, Chip Braulick, Bob Kaska, Jane Shelton, Valeri Baldwin

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: One modification was made to the September minutes. Lori H. moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ann M. All were in favor with the modification. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Richard reported at the meeting that the Blessing of the Hounds went well. The Farmer's Market is drawing to a close. A weekly meditation session at the church is being planned for 9:00 am on Thursday mornings.

Recently, Richard spoke with the parents of young families and discussed the possibility of having their young children learn about communion through a learning experience at someone's home. The first host of that activity would be Pastor Richard later this year but other volunteers will hopefully host other nights at their homes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Susi Winqvist submitted and reviewed the treasurer's report for the past month. The cover of that report is attached (last page). A complete copy of the report is available from the office.

At council, Anne suggested that a cover note be sent with the statements letting people know that the receipt of pledges has been lagging for the past five months and that members should be keeping up with their pledges. Also, a reminder that electronic payment of pledges is possible can be added.

Richard mentioned that two stewardship letters will be sent before stewardship Sunday. Perhaps the 'lagging' financial situation could be mentioned in one of those letters.

Discussion continued on the subject of the 'outreach' giving and budget. It was also discussed that the LHC Men's group fundraising be incorporated into the next year's budget.

For the Spring Campaign, Bob asked for donations on behalf of Outreach. Therefore, a decision will need to be made as to what will be done with the excess funds in Outreach. Commitments have been made to all of our Outreach causes. In addition to extra fundraising, money has been sent to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

Anne M. moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Louise seconded the motion. All were in favor. Treasurer's report was approved.

Susi reviewed the budgeting sheets which were distributed to the committee chairs. She reminded the chairs to start to prepare their budgets. Chairs should have budgets drafted by the next council meeting. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact her.

Susi mentioned that the 'neighbors in need' donation request needs to be promoted better next year with more advance notice. Only a couple of donations were given this year.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Moderator's Report: At council, Anne reported that she will be reviewing the usher duties with Jane. And, more Fidget quilts will be made on October 20-21 from 10-12.

College Care boxes will be put together on Sunday, October 22.

The meeting which was held after church regarding the fundraising last Sunday went well. Anne mentioned that she would like to have printed cards that could be given out so that if someone asks about our 'number' cards. Concept drawings for the remodeling are also available.

Blessing of the Hounds went well. Trunk or Treat is coming up. Larry will be recruiting kids for the Christmas pageant at the Trunk or Treat event.

Anne has spoken with three different fundraising consultants. The majority of fundraising will be done in 2018 with construction beginning in 2019.

Crop Walk will be next Sunday.

Christian Education:

Judy wanted to invite two women of the Muslim faith to speak to our church. Discussion followed regarding having these women speak. It was suggested that the women speak on two different dates. One of the women will be invited to speak on Sunday, November 19th in the afternoon. Ann will follow up with Judy regarding publicity.

Congregational Life: Barb submitted the following report and ideas.

- : Blessing of the Hounds - a beautiful day, wonderful volunteer help and such a great way our presence and participation is felt by the surrounding community.
- : Discussed with Anne and Pastor Richard ways to make Congregational Life less of a social planning committee but instead more pastoral and a way to get in better touch with congregants. This would include reaching out to ill or infirmed members who may like a card or an informal visit
- : Would also like to propose the idea that lectures or presentations fall under the umbrella of this committee.

With a few more interesting responsibilities it may better attract volunteers to want to help.

Evangelism: Carol Berger submitted the following report. At council, Carol asked if there were any volunteers to walk 'door to door' to circulate trunk or treat flyers. Judy suggested giving out flowers to those who come to the door.

Evangelism Report, October 10, 2017

I met with Richard two weeks ago regarding our membership plan. We have identified perhaps 15+ visitors in the last year that we are following up on. I will also be hosting a dinner at my house in November for anyone interested in knowing more about LHC. The date is to be determined.

I will also be reaching out to “walkers” for this Saturday morning to distribute the “Trunk for Treats” brochures in the village. We plan to meet at the church at 10:00 Saturday morning. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

I am also thinking about having an Evangelism Sunday sometime this year, and would like input from the Council regarding this idea.

I will continue to write articles from time to time for BTW to increase awareness of our membership activities and the importance for all parishioners to reach out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Anne B. mentioned that Congregational Life, as mentioned in Barb’s submitted report, may focus on a more direct and organized approach to handle the needs of a member or regular attendee to provide help. It may be as simple as a card or note or, meals, or rides could be arranged if needed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00pm.

Blood Drive. November 6

A motion to adjourn was made by Charles and seconded by Lori H. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,
Kristen Thornton
Church Clerk

Treasurer's Report: September 2017 Financials

A – 1 Total Operating Receipts YTD: **\$186,995.58 is 76.01% of \$246,000 Budget** which is **ahead** of the 3-year average 69.40%. We can applaud the hard work and generosity of our members and the friends of LHC for gallant fundraising efforts and results beyond our expectations.

A – 1 Total Pledge Receipts YTD: **\$126,966 is 70.54% of \$180,000 Budget**. Pledge receipts have been lagging for the past five months. We continue trending further **behind** the 3-year average 75.96%.

B - 1-B – 6 Operating Report. Current 2017 YTD Net Income of **\$4,244**. Compare to budgeted Net Income (loss) of (\$11,217). In 2016 the Net Income (loss) thru September was (\$19,873).

C – 1-C – 4 Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$230,896 on 09/30/2017.
Compared to \$241,326 at 08/31/2017.
Compared to \$261,716 at 09/30/2016.

D – 1-D - 2 Consolidated Fund Activity. Higher than beginning 2017 balance: \$212,618→\$230,896.

E – 1 The September Rummage Sale Fundraiser was an extraordinary success. Net proceeds exceeded the \$6,000 goal by 50% with a grand total of \$9,065. Well done LHC!!!!

E – 2 Please note a correction in the 2017 Fundraising Goal. \$27,500 was reported last month in error. The approved Outreach budget was \$21,325.

Fundraising totals to date: \$32,952. Food Pantry donations are a separate line item. Collections YTD \$1,716. \$1,300 has been disbursed and current collections are at **78.46%** towards the next \$650 gift.

Humbly offered,
Susan F. Winquist
Treasurer