

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
September 8, 2015

**In Attendance:** Anne Bouchard, Alex Kentfield, Ann McLaughlin, Frank Muno, David Russell, Jane Shelton, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winqvist, Art Zwemke, Carol Berger, Art Zwemke, Barb Braulick,

**Absent:** Valeri Baldwin, Chip Braulick, Debra Galloway, Kathleen Sullivan Kaska, Bob Kaska,

Moderator Alex Kentfield began the meeting at 7:13 pm. Pastor David Russell gave an opening reading and prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

**Approval of Minutes:** Carol Berger's name was added to the attendance list of the August minutes. Jane moved to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Frank Muno. Minutes approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor David submitted the following report for September 2015

- Missing the last Council meeting I was able to have a Wisconsin vacation the best part of which was to spend quality one-on-one time with our two youngest grandsons Jack 2 and 9 months and Henry 9 months.
- Wasn't this last weekend of the Shrimp Boil and the worship with Pastor Dickey amazing? Larry and the choir really pulled out all the stops on that one. I am so grateful for the way everyone pitched in and for the Men's Group which is growing in strength and service. What blessing to have all of you here at LHC!
- Tomorrow I will have arthroscopic outpatient surgery on my shoulder. I trust all will go well and I will see you in church Sunday 9/6. I do welcome your prayers tomorrow at 11am Wednesday 9/2.
- Our small group ministry team of facilitators is getting ready to launch three small groups in October with a special kick off Sunday 9/27. We are calling this '*Connections*' as we are getting ready to sign up participants who will connect with one another, grow spiritually and share in fellowship. This ministry can be very helpful to deepening the involvement and commitment to God and LHC for the participants as well as potentially grow the church numerically.
- **Please remember that all of you as Council members will be commissioned as lay leaders at our September 20<sup>th</sup> worship service. Hope you can make it!**
- Looking forward to the Outdoor service September 13 with our triple win program of: A. Worship with Rev. Bryan Sirchio, UCC songwriter and worship leader; B. Blessing of the motorcycles; C. Picnic. Again, everyone is pitching in to make this a success.

*At council, David mentioned the following:*

*On Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, we are invited to attend a worship service and a teaching seminar at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (Mosque) in Glen Ellyn and then be treated to a meal.*

*On October 25th, members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (Mosque) of Glen Ellyn will attend our worship service and then be provided with additional information about our church and religion from members of our congregation. Our members will meet with the Muslims in small group after fellowship time to share ideas. The day will conclude with a potluck or catered lunch. Further Information for the upcoming event will be prepared and shared in the coming weeks.*

*Pastor David also has been meeting with a group of church members who volunteered to lead small groups from our congregation at various homes. The purpose of the small group gatherings is for people to get to know each other better outside of church. Each group would consist of approximately eight or nine people and will start in November.*

*Pastor David also suggested that members attend a workshop entitled “Building Small Congregations,” being held in Granville, IL*

*David also encouraged the council to be present on September 20 to be installed as council members.*

**Treasurer’s Report:** The following is the cover notes from the August Treasurer’s report by Art Zwemke. A complete report is available from the office.

Treasurer’s Report  
August 31, 2015

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD of \$130,187 is 53.14% of Total Receipts Budget for 2015 of \$245,000 versus 62.91% three (3) year average. Total pledges received of \$113,247 are 66.62% of Total Pledges Budget of \$170,000 versus 68.98% of three (3) year average. Overall Receipts are well behind historical trend, mostly due to lagging Identified Contributors. Pledges starting to fall behind.

**B – 1 - B - 6** YTD Net Income (Loss) of (\$30,689) in 2015 compared to prior year Net Income (Loss) of (\$42,245) in 2014 and Net Income (Loss) Budget of (\$9,797). The variance is influenced by the Identified Contributors that totals only \$5,807 YTD received compared to \$38,000 budgeted through 08/31/2015. The budget for the year is \$57,000 meaning that another \$19,000 would need to be collected to be no further behind, potentially. a \$50,000 +/- deficit, all things being equal.

**C – 1 – C - 2** Comparative Balance Sheets. Overall financial position of \$232,239 at 08/31/2015 compared to \$268,478 at 12/31/2014 and \$232,128 at 07/31/2014 that reflects the closing of the Dixon property.

Art brought to the attention of the council that the fiscal calendar differs from the council election calendar. In other words, budgets that are prepared for January’s approval are often ‘inherited’ in June by council chairs that would not have a say in it. Discussion followed. Each ministry handles their budget and passage of knowledge differently and council felt the system presently works. They also felt it would be unfair for a new council member to be expected to prepare a budget when they first start.

Susi moved to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Ann M and amended by Art. Report approved.

**Moderator's Report:** Alex sent the following report to Council for his August activity.

**Moderator's Report and Comments, August activity - September 8, 2015**

In late August, I had my third monthly meeting with Pastor David. We discussed the upcoming "Outdoor Worship Services" to be held at Pratt's Wayne Woods, and the "Blessing of the Hogs", both on September 13<sup>th</sup>. I updated David, in general terms, about the progress of the Search and Call Committee, of which I am a member. Susi Winquist, who is an ex-officio member of the team, is staying in close contact with the process and the team. David informed me that he has church work (sermon outlines, etc.) planned through Sept., and I assured him that we would not (without direct Divine intervention) have a new pastor in place before then, so he'll get to use all of his prepared material. Obviously, we need to discuss another extension of David's contract.

Pastor David and I also discussed the upcoming "New Beginnings" program to be presented to the congregation on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope to also have a formal presentation of the Church Council to the congregation. Given the importance of the council to the church, and the hard work done by them for the church, this "installation ceremony / acknowledgement", should probably be part of our regular church event calendar.

We also discussed some "push back" from a few members concerning our interfaith dialogue efforts, particularly with the Muslim community. David informed me that he has spoken to a few concerned members (who are not in favor of this effort) about this issue, and I agreed to send an email to those most concerned explaining the Council's position and resolution on the matter.

**Moderator Elect:** Kathleen submitted the following report of her actions regarding the church's communications activities. She was unable to attend the council meeting.

**Communications Report  
Completed...**

- **August BTW Newsletter:** Sent June 30, 2015 — (190 sent; 105 opened; 55.9% open rate)
- **Web site**—Monthly updates on homepage; Sunday schedule; Flowers & fellowship; Events; and Book Club pages
- **Email messaging:**
  - September BTW Reminder — Sent August 10 (20 sent; 12 opened; 60% open rate)
  - Church Garden Ministry — Sent August 18 ( 176 sent; 102 opened; 57% open rate)
  - Shrimp Boil — Sent August 18 (176 sent; 91 opened; 52.3% open rate)
  - Shrimp Boil Reminder — Sent August 25 (176 sent; 98 opened; 56.3% open rate)
  - **Facebook page**—Up to 132 "Likes"—([click](#))
- **Visitor cards**—Updated existing artwork and printed Qty. 250
- **Event Listing flyer**—8.5x11" flyer artwork updated for Fall 2015; quantity will be LHC published for Wayne Day, September 13, and distributed in Parish Hall
- **Blessing of the Hounds postcard**—Updated existing artwork and printed Qty. 500; will be distributed at Wayne Day booth; Parish Hall; Blessing of the Hounds event

- **LHC Drink cups**—Produced Qty. 48, 16 oz. acrylic tumblers to promote the church; will be sold for \$6.00 to cover production cost at Wayne Day booth and Parish Hall/Office

### **To Be Completed...**

- **New Beginnings summary brochure**—8 pg. 8.5x11 piece in final edit; will be LHC published for September 20, New Beginnings Sunday
- **Wedding brochure/package**—In writing/layout design stage
- **Endowment Fund brochure/presentation materials**—Work w/Janet Figge to create content; layout design for review
- **Annual Appeal**—Form committee to build on last year's efforts and begin outlining a communication piece to send out in early November

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

**Christian Education:** Lori Hazeltine has agreed to teach “one room school” style for any children attending Sunday School. However, it was mentioned that there needs to be two people present the Sunday School for safety reasons.

**Congregational Life:** The Shrimp Boil was a huge success. \$2160 was taken in for the Shrimp Boil. Expenses were approximately \$455. (A net of \$1705) Half of the profits will go the Back Bay Mission and the other half will go the Men's of the LHC group to help offset their expenses on projects.

**Evangelism:** Anne McLaughin provided the following report for July and August.

- Worked with Carol Berger on the transition from her to me; reviewed list of persons/visitors who have been attending with an interest in LHC.
- Met with Pastor David to review approach to new membership class and select three weekends. With the switch in the dates for Blessing of the Hounds, the membership classes are now scheduled for the following Sundays: October 4, 11, and 18 which is Membership Sunday.
- Met with Carol Berger and Karen Kaluzsa to discuss Evangelism. Karen is a new member and interested in reaching out to folks in the Wayne community. Karen will join Carol at the Little Home Church table at Wayne Days.
- Working with Lori to get the names and addresses of all persons who fill out visitor cards to follow up directly.
- Plans for this month include direct outreach to possible new members.

**Facilities:** Anne submitted the following report.

### Completed:

- Filed preliminary building permit with Village of Wayne (re: power assist door, concrete repair, GH steps)
- Wasp infiltration in roof of nursery

- Replacement of outdoor spigot near kitchen
- Temporary repair of 3 windows in nursery
- Salt in water softener in sanctuary basement

Working on:

- Coordination of door manufacturer, power equipment manufacturer, and electrician.
- Repair of railings and stairs of GH
- Repair of exterior wall, soffit, fascia between nursery and bathroom in GH addition
- Working with Gardening Angels to clean up landscaping at Tammy's Trace
- Bids for concrete repair to plaza in front of sanctuary, and several spots on the sidewalks
- Bids for repairs to the stone wall under the handicap access ramp in front of the church
- Bids for roof between sanctuary and Guild House
- Maintenance contract for Exit light bulbs and batteries
- Building contents inventory for insurance
- Cost assessment for all repairs needed on all buildings

To Do:

- Take down tree in front of GH
- Re-hang the blinds in the nursery
- Install air conditioner in Bride's Room in Guild House (*Art offered to help*)
- Repair locking mechanism on north door in Parish Hall
- Replace glass circle on one chandelier in PH
- Repair/replace vent for stovetop in kitchen
- Repair roof and additional exterior wood on the box bay on the southeast corner of the Guild House
- Create specs for repair/replacement of fire escape door on second floor of Guild House

*Anne acknowledged Rik Alex for all of the work that he does around here to keep our facility in repair, which is a lot.*

**Outreach:** Valeri submitted the following report.

Community Crisis Center - No new activity to report.

- Feeding Northwest DuPage – 8/23 Tom Horton, Exec. Dir. FND, spoke to the congregation about their mission. He also left a display in Fellowship Hall that illustrates the type of food they distribute.
- Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice - No new activity to report.
- Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans:
- MSHV is searching for a new Executive Director. They are heads down focused on that and have been unable to return email & phone calls for the past 4-6 weeks
- Renz Addiction Counseling Center - No new activity to report.
- Transitional Housing – Spoke with Mark Milligan, Exec. Dir., about providing a Mission Moment. He committed to 9/20, but ended up with a conflict. John Hayner, CEO, will be speaking instead.
- Bible & Hymnal Bookmark – Pew bibles and hymnals bookmarks project is on hold until a new pastor is on board.

- **NEW MISSION\*\*\***We all know one of LHC's challenges is the lack of families with young children. Outreach is pleased to announce "Playdate" as the newest mission to fill this gap in an effort to introduce new mothers and families to LHC. Nancy Alex has been spearheading the project and the idea was culminated by her and several others. The target audience is moms or caretakers of children who are not yet in school. Playdate is an opportunity for moms & caregivers to have a place outside their own home to bring their children and for the kids (moms & caregivers too) to make new friends. A flyer was designed by Nancy's granddaughter (see attached) and has been distributed around the community. The first Play date is Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM. In preparation, the rocking chair cushions were replaced, the window treatments have been laundered and a first aid kit was purchased specifically for the nursery. Please feel free to print the flyer and help spread the word about this wonderful offering for new mothers and their children.

*Council discussed the plan for the Play date as a very "do-able" thing.*

*Anne B. suggested that congregation members be encouraged to make a small cash donation instead of a physical contribution (such as a can of beans) whenever we collect for the food pantry. Ann will discuss this further with Valeri.*

**Stewardship:** Bob was absent at the meeting but had forwarded his report as follows:

As Stewardship Ministry Chair, I am pleased to report that our pledges for 2015 are a record for both number of pledges (70); and total pledge income of \$170,000.00. However, we still face a deficit for the year and are making special efforts to close this gap. Letters have been sent to non-pledging members asking for their financial support; and soon a new initiative will be undertaken to challenge the Congregation to provide additional support to Little Home Church. The members of our Church are blessed with resources and have proven to be very generous...I ask that this generosity continues when called to participate in the efforts of the Stewardship Ministry.

Additional detail... a letter will go out soon to a group of twelve "leading pledgers" asking for an incremental pledge that can be used as a challenge to the balance of the congregation; this was done a few years ago and was quite successful. The goal is to raise \$15,000.00 from the lead pledges and match this amount from the Congregation for a total of \$30,000.00. This is an aggressive goal but I believe that it is achievable (and needed) to reduce the projected deficit.

*This plan was reviewed and discussed during the meeting.*

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Jane Shelton submitted the following report to council for August.

- Ushers and PAs are scheduled but some empty slots appear. I have a greater empathy for Sandy Antonelli's frustration with securing U/PA slots.
- Have reached out to members to participate – mostly positive response but some "no shows" as well.
- Taking a look at our bulletin – perhaps the Postlude protocol needs some attention. People are unsure what to do. With the visitor in mind – could we clarify? (*Discussed at council- see below*)

- At David’s request a small portion of WSG budget is going to Pastor Dickey and the hired Pastor for the Outdoor worship to help with travel expenses etc.
- I’m trying to stay on top of the schedule and thank those who have stepped in to help when asked. Kathi Abell, in particular, was helpful with the Figurski boys who had a bit of ‘baptism by fire’ when ushering for the first time on Communion Sunday. I should have seen that one coming – but perhaps memories were created for those boys.

*Council discussed what instructions could be added to the bulletin to clarify what they should do at the end of the service so they are comfortable David will talk to Larry to determine what needs to be added to the bulletin.*

*Jane presented a new notebook full of pictures of all of our events that she is preparing. The main purpose of this book is to provide documentation of how events at the church are set up to be used as reference by members. However, the photo album could be used to show others how our church has used its space for events as well as for weddings etc. Carol would like to share the book with people at Wayne Days next weekend.*

**Members at Large/ Communications:** Susi Winquist submitted the following report for September for Members-at-Large.

Some push back continues in relation to the Interfaith Dialogue with a Muslim congregation scheduled for later this month and next. Some other members who may have been open to this interaction now “straddle the fence” thinking we should not do anything that may “lose us” members.

We have faced similar push back on other issues and will continue to face concerns in the future. Any organization faces the risk of members “moving on” when the “fit” may no longer be right for them. Folks have been noticeably absent during our interim period for various and personal reasons. Some folks may not support the mission as identified by the re-visioning process. And when a settled Pastor is called not everyone will agree with the choice whether that person is male or female, senior or young, newly ordained or experienced, or based on their sexual orientation.

As Leaders in this faith community I pray we will remain with open minds and welcome opportunities to study new things and alternate points of view. For to do so fosters new levels of understanding and acceptance.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Various Old Business topics were discussed in committee reports.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominating Committee:**

There are two vacancies on the Endowment committee. Carol has decided to step down from the committee. Bob Kaska has expressed an interest and has been nominated to replace her. Colleen Odegaard has been unable to fulfill her obligation for sitting on the Personnel Relations committee so Kathy Haben has been nominated to replace her.

Susi moved to accept Bob Kaska for the endowment committee and Kathy Haben for the Personnel Relations committee. Anne B. seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Anne Bouchard moved to extend David's contract, Carol seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Pastor David noted that the church will receive approx. \$1400 in wedding fees through October. 12

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

Move to adjourn by Anne and seconded by Frank.

Pastor David gave the closing prayer at 9:14 p.m.:

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk