

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
September 11, 2012

**In Attendance:** Carol Berger, Anne Bouchard, Peter Gatsch, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Nancy Schatzeder, Wally Setlock, Jane Shelton, Art Zwemke.  
Guest: Kathleen Sullivan Kaska

**Absent:** Kathy Haben, Karen Hansen, Lori Haseltine, Gianna Marchese, Ron Purser

Wally Setlock began the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and asked for prayer requests. He then gave the opening prayer.

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

**Pastor's Report:** No report.

**Perpetual Fund Report and Q & A:** Carol reported that Nancy Alex asked her to please advise the Council that the Flett, Brent R. Alex and John Berger Memorial Funds be segregated from the Perpetual Fund. Also, there were no specified dates to designate the trustees for the two open positions or when Nancy or Rik Alex will step down. Discussion occurred regarding the requirements for the Trustees, and when the Trustees would take effect and the oversight of the fund. Anne said the Perpetual Fund Committee should be making the decisions rather than the Council. The Junual minutes showed that one of the Alexes will step down by the Janual meeting date. Carol said the committee plans that one trustee will start immediately and when Nancy or Rik steps down, the second trustee will start their term. Regarding the requirements for trustees, Art said that over the years we have received sizable donations from people that are not church members and maybe the by-laws should say that 3 of the 5 trustees should be members in good standing with the church and the other 2 trustees may be members of the community. Most important is that the trustees must be beyond reproach. Trustees or Council can make a recommendation to the congregation to approve trustees and the term requirement. Anne moved that the Perpetual Fund Committee, in creating by-laws, define criteria for the trustees and have a minimum of 3 of the trustees be church members in good standing. The motion was seconded by Bob and then approved by Council with one opposed vote.

**Petersen House Update:**

Wally said there is no update on the Petersen house. He has yet not advised Karen to lower the listing price to \$220,000. He will meet with Karen and get an update. Bob requested that we have Karen attend the next council meeting and Wally said he will contact her.

**Open and Affirming (ONA) Update:** Wally stated that Open and Affirming congregation meeting after the service on September 9th was successful. Anne estimated 40 people attended and she felt there was a good turnout with a wide range of good comments. Nancy said the energy of the group worked well and everyone was open and accepting. Anne also noted there was a variety in ages. Wally said we will need to show the structure of the Committee to give an idea of what's anticipated for the future. Everyone was happy with the meeting and the attendance, and agreed the agenda was well planned.

**Moderator's Report (and Moderator-Elect):** The calendar of dates was discussed which was included with the minutes with one change: the Crop Walk is October 21 on Kathy's calendar. Wally said there was a suggestion we have the Sunday School teachers' names and classes posted. We could possibly have teachers, classes and where they meet put in the bulletin. Jane advised that the two teachers are Jane Shelton and Lori Haseltine. Anne will ask Lori to include them in the bulletin acknowledgments.

**Worship & Spiritual Growth:** Nancy has been working on the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday with Ron. The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday and she will talk with Jane about doing something with the Church School children and their families. Fifth Sunday is blessing of the hounds and Nancy would like to do something as a group, possibly a meal. Bob suggested hosting something outside as we have done in the past. Jane suggested we have a group to host coffee and food outside. Nancy will get a group together and discuss this with Ron. Kathleen presented the Advent Tea options and asked: Is this an annual event? Do we want to have a different type of gathering? What ministries are involved? Should it be on a Saturday instead? Kathleen will do the graphics for the Tea. Nancy said there is a lot of preparation and since we have a momentum now she would like to keep it going. Bob said potential dates are Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> or Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup>. Anne, Kathleen and Nancy will determine the date and announce it in the next By The Way.

**Treasurer's Report:** Art reported that August was lagging behind in pledges, but our receipts are at 64% vs. our three year average of 60%. The YTD deficit is (\$23,768) with a forecast of (\$23,211). Our income is at \$143,656 but our budgeted income is \$152,862. Most of our expenses we can't control, such as salaries and fringe benefits. We are not spending as much in our ministries as we have in the past. Although we have a shortage in revenue, our expenses are lower which is why we have a deficit close to plan. We are on target for our year-end deficit of \$37,395. We have not yet had to draw on our line of credit and, therefore, we are not incurring interest expense. Art said that the revenue shortfall is concerning and the underspending of expenses could hurt forward momentum of the church. Regarding the Budget timetable, next month Art will distribute 9 months of data for the ministry chairs. At the November meeting he will answer any budget questions and, in December, the ministry budgets are due. The budget will be approved at the January meeting. Ann moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Marilyn. All ayes, and the report was approved.

### **Ministry Reports:**

**Christian Education:** No Report

**Congregational Life:** Already Discussed

**Evangelism:** Bob stated that our sign out in front has a new insert. A new Church School sign and Blood Drive sign are also ready. The sign in front is now lighted with new bulbs. Bob said Church Windows has been updated and a mailing will go out for the Blessing of the Hounds, the Advent Tea and the Christmas Pageant. We still need to be reaching out to the community. Kathleen stated that the By The Way gets posted and is archived on our website and our Facebook page. Art suggested that we include our church in the direct mailing postcard packets that go out in a five mile radius. Anne and Art said we need a campaign. Anne knows another church which hired a consultant that was specific to their needs and we should possibly do this, too. Carol asked about contacting people who contribute memorials to the church and Ann and Art will follow up with Lori to make sure this happens. Visitor cards, when completed, have follow-up letters sent. Wally suggested that we all come to the next meeting with ideas for a membership drive. Art said that our By The Way is just outstanding and maybe we should mail them to all of the 60184 postal code and possibly hand them out at the Blessing of the Hounds. Kathleen stated that our By The Way emailed newsletters are less than 200 and only 60% get opened. Special notice emails have a high rate of opening; they get sent to about 260 addresses.

**Facilities:** Peter said there are a lot of items to be fixed and we need to get the money for it. Wally suggested we create a list and prioritize the things that need to be done. Art said we have money in both the paint fund and the renovation fund. There is \$7,666 available in our Paint Fund and \$19,000 in the Renovation Fund. Art suggested fixing the paint on the north side of the office. Peter will get quotes. Bob asked if Peter would get the quotes to get the chimney fixed, too.

**Outreach:** Marilyn reported that Rich Doerr has volunteered to handle the Cropwalk fundraiser.

**Stewardship:** No Report

**Worship & Spiritual Growth:** Nancy reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship in July was a success. It was an outdoor worship with a Pot Luck and the weather was great!

**Members-at-Large:** The Blessing of the Hounds and the September 11<sup>th</sup> announcements have both been displayed in the Post Office. Karen has given Lori Prang the name of a mason for our chimney.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:** Ann said there were an extraordinary number of memorial contributions for Barbara McCarthy and Ann will talk to Steve regarding ideas for the memorial gift, possibly a handicapped accessible door.

Move to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne B. and seconded by Bob. All ayes. Meeting adjourned. Anne led the closing prayer at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese  
Church Clerk