

Minutes  
Little Home Church Council Meeting  
September 12, 2017

**In Attendance:**, Valeri Baldwin, Chip Braulick, Anne Bouchard, Lori Haseltine, Judy Hopkins, Bob Kaska, Richard Malmberg, Ann McLaughlin, Chuck Sbarbaro, Kristen Thornton, Susi Winqvist

**Absent:** Louise Aughnay, Carol Berger, Barb Braulick, Jane Shelton,

Moderator Anne Bouchard began the meeting at 7:08 pm. Pastor Richard led the council with devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

**Approval of Minutes:** No corrections were made to the August minutes. Valeri moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Lori H. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Richard commented on how well the outdoor service went this year. The sound system worked well. Pastor Richard felt that adding signs directing people to the service should be considered for next year.

**Special Guest:** Jacob Harshbarger, Open Door Health Center Community Engagement Coordinator, was our guest speaker. The Center that he represented serves all of the collar counties and communities as far as Rockford to serve the medical needs of HIV patients. He attended our meeting to introduce the organization to us. He hopes to build relationships with area churches as well as other community organizations. Both volunteers and funding for their programs are needed.

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

Due to the fact that the pledge receipts are trailing behind a bit, Anne suggested that Susi reminds the congregation to pay electronically. Susi will plan to put a reminder in the next newsletter.

The final proceeds for the Men of the LHC Cougars Game outing is \$97.

Susi brought up the discussion as to what the plans are for the money which exceeds the goal of the Outreach Ministry budget. Nothing was decided upon.

Ann moved to approve the treasurer's August report. Valeri seconded the motion. All were in favor. Treasurer's report approved.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS/LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

### **Financial Responsibility Task Force update:**

Art Zwemke reported for the Financial Responsibility Task Force. The group has set up a strategic plan to raise money in three areas; endowments, operating (members pledges), and

capitol campaign in order to generate enough money to secure our church's financial stability by 2021.

Art reviewed the **Endowment** plan. He stressed the importance of getting members to agree to add an endowment to the church in their wills. The goal is to **enlist 35 households** into the program, assuming that eight households have committed to date and a \$50,000 average bequest per household. A Legacy Society could be established and that society could be celebrated annually.

When addressing the **operating** budget, the team determined that the church needs to set a goal of \$300,000 breakeven operating budget with a goal attaining a total of **125 pledging households** by 2021. This is to be done by assuming that we attract 15 new households annually after 2017 with an estimated \$1100 pledge each per year, subtracting 3 household from annual attrition, and by increasing non pledge income by \$4,000 per year.

When addressing the **capitol** campaign, the goal would be to raise **\$2,500,000** in which about two-thirds of the money would come from members and friends and the about one third would come from outside sources.

On October 8, the Financial Responsibility Task Force will present their plan to the congregation and start the financial campaign at a post church service meeting. Plans were discussed regarding how the presentation will be handled. Long term strategy for 2021 will be based on a "three legged stool" concept where each leg of the stool needs to be strong in order to succeed. The campaign will use three numbers 125, 2.5, and 35 in order to promote their goals.

After much discussion, Bob moved that the council endorse the financial Responsibility Task Force's financial goals for 2021 which is to increase member households to 125, to achieve the capitol campaign goal of \$2.5 million, and to get 35 participants to pledge in the endowment fund. Val seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passes.

#### **Moderator's Comments/Announcements:**

Anne reviewed the following events:

- Boutique Preview Event: THIS Thursday: September 14, 3 – 7pm
- LHC Farmer's Market: September 30, 10 – 12
- Neighbors in Need/World Communion Sunday/ AND Blessing of the Hounds: Oct 1.  
Larry will not be at the Blessings because he will be performing in a recital for the Dieffenbach Organ preservation society which is raising funds to restore organs which his family once made. There are only a few of the organs left in existence. Valeri moved to send \$1000 to the Dieffenbach Organ preservation society in his honor. Judy seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- Trunk or Treat: October 29, 4:30. Anne described the event. Larry will be playing organ music. Hopefully, there will be 15 decorated car trunks. Food and games will be added.

## SUBMITTED REPORTS

**Christian Education:** Judy Hopkins submitted the following report to council for their consideration.

**REPORT TO THE LHC COUNCIL**  
**September 12, 2017**  
**The Experience of Being a Muslim Woman in America**

I can only imagine how difficult it must be for a woman who is a practicing Muslim to live and function professionally in the United States at the present time, especially if she chooses to wear the hijab.

I had the pleasure of attending a presentation on this subject in March. Huda Husseini is an attractive, vivacious young woman, Master's level faculty member at Northwest Suburban College in Rolling Meadows, who teaches chemistry. She is Muslim. She also chooses to wear the hijab. Together with two women students of NWSC who also wear the hijab, they sat as a panel. Each discussed her Muslim faith, mentioning her personal reasons for wearing the hijab. Each also described her experience as an identified Muslim here in America. Huda has agreed to come to Little Home Church with a couple of students to duplicate the experience for us, if we invite them.

My inquiry was presented to Huda by a friend who also teaches at NWSC. Diane Gallentine (a former member of a UCC church) also offers the willingness of another colleague to speak for us.

Rabab Gomaa, M.S. is an Instructor in the Departments of Foreign Languages and Fine Arts at NWSC. In addition to a degree in architecture, Rabab received an Advanced Degree in Islamic Law from Islamic American University. Her teachings in Arabic studies at various institutions gave Ms. Gomaa the opportunity to serve as a guest speaker at such institutions as University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, DePaul University and Benedictine University. Today Gomaa has a dual appointment in the indicated departments at NWSC.

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I would like to suggest a format in which LHC could invite both the offered panel members and Ms Gomaa to speak to an audience at LHC, perhaps some Sunday afternoon this fall. Submitted by Judy Hopkins

**Congregational Life:** Barb Braulick was not able to attend tonight's meeting. She submitted the following report.

Upcoming event – Blessing of the Hounds, October 1

For the council's consideration, I am requesting a system be in place for those who are ill, lost a loved one, or other life circumstances that a card and note can be sent to know the Church is thinking of them. This is something that Congregational Life can do with communication from Pastor Richard and Lori Prang as the need arises.

**Evangelism:** Carol Berger submitted the following report. She was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

I had a meeting with several church members who live in Wayne, and we had a discussion developing ideas on how to recruit future members living in the neighborhood. We discussed our 2016-17 visitors' list, and divided up those we know and those we were unfamiliar with so additional contact can be made.

I am preparing small informational packets including our LHC mugs to be included with the Welcome baskets that are given to all new Wayne residents. I am meeting with our new Wayne Welcome Chairman within the next week or so, and will include Richard.

We will be passing out our Church postcards on the Blessing of the Hounds Sunday, October 1 listing our church activities for the fall and winter.

It is unfortunate that I will be out of town on Saturday, rummage sale day; however, if any Church Council members will be helping out on Saturday please be on the alert for any potential visitors/interested persons who would like to have a tour. Please have them fill out a visitor's card so I can follow up.

I will continue to review my visitor's list with Richard. Also, please stay vigilant with anyone you might know who is looking for a church or someone with whom we can meet a spiritual need.

Hopefully, we can have an Evangelism Sunday in October or November, depending on the church calendar. Additional members will help us balance our budget, and so onward and upward.

Thank you everyone for all you do for the LHC. Our church is a great place of worship because of all of you.

**Facilities:** Chuck Sbarbaro submitted the following report for the past month.

- Volunteers worked on the landscaping in the courtyard and west side of the church.
- A tree limb came down in a storm on the west side of church. While the tree was not on church property, several volunteers from the LHC Men's Group cut up the limb and piled the large logs at the roadside. The brush was piled up and should be picked up.
- One light in the church steeple had the bulb replaced. The second light also needs a bulb replacement and this should occur within the month.
- Cleaning the carpet in the Parish Hall has been proposed after the rummage sale. Can discuss at the September 12th meeting.
- The back doors at the back of the Parish Hall are unlocked. Should they be locked?

At council, Anne noted that the chapel light was repaired and thanked Chuck.

Valeri agreed with Chuck that the carpet needs cleaning and that carpet squares should be replaced.

**Outreach:** Valeri Baldwin forwarded the following report to Council.

**Neighborhood Food Pantry**

Bucket Brigade Update – We've given NFP two \$650 checks since launching the bucket brigade (kids walking the isles for cash donations). We collected \$106 in July and have 30% towards our next \$650 check.

During a Council meeting, there was a discussion about not passing the buckets every Sunday (fear of donation fatigue and some can't afford to give every week). What Council voted on and decided to do was, the buckets would only be passed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Last Sunday was our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, but the buckets were not passed. Maybe something do to with our outdoor service. In any event, the buckets should be passed this Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Note: The food pantry hours have changed. Monday & Thursday 10-1, Tuesday 1-4, ~~Fri 4-5:30~~, Sat. 8-11.

**Rummage Sale** – the following email was sent to Outreach Ministries:

LHC would like to invite the people you serve to receive a bag of items from our Rummage Sale for FREE! All you need to do is provide a copy of this email to anyone you think might like to take advantage of the offer. Your constituent then presents the coupon at check out. Let me know if you have any questions.

The email was sent to the following Ministries:

- Bridge Communities, [www.bridgecommunities.org](http://www.bridgecommunities.org)
- Transitional Housing Ministry, [www.bridgecommunities.org](http://www.bridgecommunities.org)
- Community Crisis Center, [www.crisiscenter.org](http://www.crisiscenter.org)
- Fox Valley Hands of Hope, [www.fvhh.net](http://www.fvhh.net)
- Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, [www.mshv.org](http://www.mshv.org)
- Neighborhood Food Pantry, [www.stisidoreparish.org](http://www.stisidoreparish.org)
- Renz Addiction Counseling Center, [www.renzcenter.org](http://www.renzcenter.org)

### **Crop walk**

LHC has not been involved in Crop Walk for several years given the organizers were unorganized. Dave Wenz is our new contact and he reached out to me regarding Crop Walk 2017. They had a meeting 9/6 to launch the event and Marilyn Poole attended on my behalf. **Outreach is looking for someone to spearhead this effort.** My LHC, work and ISSA Chicago commitments have my schedule maxed out. Please reach out to me if you're interested. The volunteer packet is in the church office.

### **Mission volunteering opportunities**

#### **Bridge Communities**

**GIVING PARTY** - to benefit the client families, be a part of the **GIVING PARTY** birthday. Party guests will participate in activities from What's It Like to Be Homeless?, Educational Curriculum and receive Bridge Communities token gifts for a party 'goodie bag'. In lieu of (or in addition to) traditional birthdays or other special occasions.

- Family fun certificates - every family wants to create special memories spending time together, but many family-fun activities can be too expensive for Bridge families. A day at a local amusement park, zoo, movies or museum make great gifts the whole Bridge family
- Your guests will bring a gift for a family or child. Gift suggestions include:
  - Roll of quarters – the leased apartment building has laundry facilities and a roll of quarters is a way to help the family clean their clothes.
  - Gift cards - provide that extra bit of help with gift cards to food stores and retailers (Wal-Mart, Target, Kohl's).
  - Gasoline cards - every client family must work or attend school so extra help paying for gasoline is much appreciated.
  - New Books & Games - both of these make great **GIVING PARTY** gifts to share with Bridge kids for their own birthday

#### **Community Crisis Center**

- **Food rescue** - picking up food donations at nearby restaurants/businesses.
- **Group Activity** - Bingo, board game, movie, arts & crafts, or cookie baking night (see attached).
- **Shelter Dinner** – Bring in a meal, having it catered, prepare meal onsite (see attached).

#### **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans**

- **Yard work** at Tammy's Trace (mulch, annual flower planting in May).
- **Spring cleaning** for Veteran houses.

**Neighborhood Food Pantry** (Monday and Thursday 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, Tuesday 1:00-4:00, Saturday 8:00-11:00)

#### **Volunteer hours**

- Stock shelves
- Organize donations
- Help guests collect their groceries

**Stewardship:** See the report for the Financial Responsibility Task Force.

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Jane Shelton was not able to attend. The following is her submitted report.

#### **WSG REPORT - SEPT 2017**

The big event was the Quilting Bee on August 11 and 12. Lots of fun and lots of output. 8 fidget quilts and 2 aprons were delivered to David Kelsey. Another bee is planned for October, led by Susannah Lesswing.

Unfortunately I could not attend the Outdoor Worship Service this year but I'm hoping that no one was stung by a bee and everyone enjoyed this annual event.

No other events to report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The discussion of the Capital Campaign Plans with the Dwyer Philanthropy will be discussed at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Valeri is hoping to add Crop walk to the church activities for this October. However, she will be seeking a volunteer to help coordinate walkers from our church.

Richard said that a neighbor would like to start a meditation group. The group is considering 9:00 am on Wednesday mornings as their meeting time.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Valeri and seconded by Lori. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm

Pastor Richard gave the closing prayer:

Faithfully submitted,  
Kristen Thornton  
Church Clerk

## Treasurer's Report: August 2017 Financials

**A – 1** Total Operating Receipts YTD: **\$168,751.58** is **68.60%** of **\$246,000 Budget** which is somewhat ahead of the 3-year average 63.48%.

**A – 1** Total Pledge Receipts YTD: **\$118,892** is **66.05%** of **\$180,000 Budget** and is behind the 3-year average 68.94%.

**B - 1-B – 6** Operating Report. Current 2017 YTD Net Income of \$14,319. Compare to budgeted Net Income (loss) of (\$10,597). YTD 2016 Net Income (loss) projected at (\$7,538).

**C – 1-C – 3** Balance Sheet. Overall financial position of \$241,326 on 08/31/2017.

Compared to \$242,073 at 07/31/2017.

Compared to \$273,962 at 08/31/2016.

**D – 1** Consolidated Fund Activity. Higher than beginning 2017 balance: \$212, 618→\$241,326.

**E – 1** Men of LHC Cougars Game Outing: Net proceeds to date \$97. No further monies received. Rummage Sale Fundraiser this weekend.

**E – 2** Fundraising Totals to date: \$25,509 which is **92.76%** of \$27,500 Outreach Budget. This includes the Food Pantry donations. Food Pantry Collections: YTD \$1,622. \$1,300 has been disbursed and current collections are at **49.54%** towards the next \$650 gift.

Prayerfully submitted,



Susan F. Winquist

Treasurer

Lhcsfw2