

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
September 20, 2010

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Gary Estes, Judy Hopkins, Emma Kaska, Bob Kaska, Ron Purser, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Kristen Thornton, Art Zwemke.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ron at 7:13 pm. Bob asked everyone to share a memory from their youth group experience.

Approval of minutes. The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and Suzanne moved that they be accepted. Kristin seconded. Minutes approved.

Pastor's report. Ron introduced Emma Kaska as the newest member of the church staff. They have big plans for the youth for the year ahead. Ron noted that he has several Sundays ahead where Emma can take over since he has conflicts. This will give her a chance to meld with the kids. Ralph has already approached Emma to offer the support of Christian Ed. The kids are happy she is here. Emma presented the Youth Group folders which each kid will receive, and described the contents. She also presented a syllabus of potential activities. Emma also presented a sign-up sheet for Interested Shepherds (adult chaperones) and noted that we will have an event on October 30-31 (lock-in) and a trip to the Art Institute on November 7. Ron added that the retreat has been postponed until the spring.

The fire department spent two hours today going over the church with Ron, for our fire inspection. We passed.

Ron announced that Nancy Fraley's ecclesiastical council is scheduled for November 7, one of the final steps to go through before becoming ordained. They will meet at First Congregational Church in Elgin, and anyone can show up to question her. Ron is planning to attend to offer support to Nancy.

Ron will be out of town the week of the 10th of October and Don Heinrich will be preaching in Ron's absence. There will be a wedding on Sunday the 10th and the father of the groom has offered to help clean up after the Rummage Sale on Saturday, the 9th.

Moderator's Report: Bob distributed the Planning Metrics document for consideration. The document seeks to show projections for the ministries and church through to June 2012. Bob cited some calendar events coming up: Neighbors in Need, World Communion Sunday and the Blessing of the Hounds,

October 3, Rummage Sale October 8-9, Crop Walk, October 17, Stewardship Sunday, November 14, There is no plan to have a 5th Sunday service in October.

Treasurer's Report: Art reported that receipts are generally holding up fairly well and we are slightly ahead of the three year trend, as we also are with pledges. Identified contributors are not contributing as we had projected. As far as the monthly report is concerned, the facilities budget took a big hit with the payment of the property taxes. At the end of August, we are deeper in the red than we projected, by about \$7,000. Art reminded the council that we will begin talking about budgets in October, and work on drafts up to ratification of the budget in January. Gutters and roof have been paid for out of the renovation fund. Suzanne moved to accept the report and Kristen seconded. Report approved.

Moderator Elect's Report: No report.

Long Range Planning Committee: Suzanne reported that this committee meets monthly via conference call. We have three long term initiatives: Endowment, Membership and Properties. The Endowment Team is headed by Art, with members Dave Poole and John Berger. Bob Kaska leads the Membership Team, with Ann McLaughlin, Kristen Thornton and Ron serving on the team. Bob and Lori Prang have begun working with Church Windows software to update our files and identify members. Properties Team is headed by Anne Bouchard, and Dan Roach and Rik Alex are on the team. That team is looking at "old" ideas, working on new ideas and planning to meet with Village of Wayne officials soon to learn about the process required when working on properties. Tuesday the 5th of October is set for the next conference call. Art added that the Church Windows software is excellent and strongly encourages Lori to utilize it. There seems to be a lot offered by this system and we should take advantage of it. Art moved that we purchase a new computer for Lori, and Kristen mentioned that a colleague has some computers he wishes to donate because they are not as technologically up to date as he requires. Art has a reference for computer tech help. Kristen will pursue this option. Ron added that a recent person who was married here also offered to assist with computer help. Art recommended that we pursue all possible computer improvement options.

By the Way: Suzanne added that she is planning to continue the "We Noticed" column in the By the Way. She needs all to provide input for this column.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Ron reported in Ralph's absence that Ralph is working with Emma and Mary Roach. He also has plans to bring in the pastor of the Geneva United Methodist church, who has a bicycle ministry. He repairs them and gives them out to those in need. He has also given up his car and

travels by bike. Ralph is hoping to schedule him to speak in November. Ralph is also working on a possible Hayride at Danada Farm sometime in the fall. Sunday School is up and running. Ann M added that the speaker on Sunday was great. Ron added that these speakers are part of a build-up of our adult education program.

Congregational Life: Jean Muno reported for Susannah Lesswing. Peggy Gower is a local psychologist who is willing to offer a free talk at the church. The theme would probably involve parenting, sometime in November or December. The ministry is also considering a regular movie night for families, once a quarter or so, as another way to encourage families to use the church. Art suggested that we have the calendar on hand to make such additions. Jean said that Ty had a friend over who was very enthusiastic about what was going on with our youth group. Bob added that the plan is that Youth Group will meet every Sunday, from 3-5pm, rain or shine.

Evangelism: Kristen reported that she is getting more photos on the website. She will also post something on Craig's List for the Rummage Sale. For the Blessing of the Hounds we need to get the signs up. Kristin will speak to whoever is providing fellowship that day to see about serving fellowship outside to better include our guests on horseback.

Facilities: Gary Estes reported for Jim Winquist that they have a work day scheduled for 8 am on Saturday, the 25th of September to complete the project just outside the kitchen door. Help would be appreciated. Kristen recommended that Lori could send out an email seeking volunteers.

Gary said that they solicited bids in November 2009 to boost the level of insulation for the attic of the sanctuary, kitchen and organ loft. Four bids were received, and Gary's company submitted the lowest bid, ranging from \$4100 to Gary's bid of \$1950. Wally moved to accept the bid. Suzanne seconded. Ann asked if this would help with our heating bill. Gary said that the current insulation is substandard and this work will show an improvement in the bill in about three years. Motion carried.

Bob asked if there are any other projects we hope to complete before winter. Gary said the big push is getting the siding done from the kitchen doorway to the corner, and then get the pavers back in place.

Outreach: Ron reported that Tim Haben is looking for a replacement for leadership due to conflict with his new job. Crop walk and Thanksgiving dinner baskets are coming up. Tim is also hoping to find someone to take over the Pancake Breakfasts.

Stewardship: Suzanne reported that Rev. Al Patten will be preaching on Stewardship Sunday, the 14th of November. Al is a retired minister, formerly of Baker Memorial in St. Charles.

Members-at-large: Judy commented that she will speak under New Business.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Wally reiterated upcoming dates. He hopes to have materials ordered by October 1st, with the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 28th, with a potluck lunch to follow. Ron reported that he will be in touch with Emmanuel UCC in Bartlett to discuss the Thanksgiving Eve service that we share with them. The service will be here at LHC with a combined choir.

New Business:

Community Dinner: Bob reminded us about Judy's idea of offering a community dinner during the holidays. Judy reported that there are other churches which are already offering a community dinner. Judy met with the priest of a church in Wisconsin which offers a continuing program of providing meals to homebound parishioners. The priest provided a lot of helpful information about details and specific considerations for putting on such an event. Art suggested maybe adding a movie to make it more attractive to families. Judy added that her husband's church in Canada hosts regular movie nights where those who attend vote on the movie to be shown, and can have pizza and a movie for a nominal fee. Kristen offered that Mom's Morning Out is another popular idea for bringing community members into the church. Kristen added that people would need to drive to get here and Judy noted that people drive to the food pantry a mile away. The priest also advocated that we advertise in the newspaper.

Bob asked what is the interest of the council in doing this? Bob feels that we are not in a position to offer a regular community meal at this time. Ron suggested we talk to the walk-in ministry board and solicit information about the local need and possible number of people involved. Art recommended that we ask the membership team to consider this concept, as to how it factors in to our long range planning. Suzanne said that we would be funding this, and we are already strapped with our budget. We would need a firm financial plan. Ann asked if there were any others working with Judy. (No.) Wally said that we need more details about the numbers we might get and how we might keep the food hot, and Wally agreed that the food pantry staff would be a good resource for more information about the local population. Ann thinks perhaps we should table this for now, and revisit the idea sometime in the future. Bob added that this additional outreach is not part of our current long range plan. Judy added in talking with Susannah it was mentioned that this idea has been brought up before, but not acted upon. Suzanne recommended that this seems to fall under congregational life or outreach. Bob said he would like to table this for now, and perhaps revisit it down the road. Ron offered to contact the board of the food pantry and inquire about current information about feasibility of such an event.

Planning Metrics: Bob asked for rough numbers about members and budget: 270 members, budget at \$278,000, and about 68 pledging units. Where can we be in 2012? Can we reach 90 pledges, and \$300,000? We need to review and perhaps re-categorize our membership. Art added that we really need to measure our beginning balance, and how many we add and lose. Bob hopes that we can begin to think about these kinds of goals, get familiar with the numbers and the projections. Art added that we could fill in some information about the endowment, saying we know of three families who have included the church in their estate planning, and choose a higher number to achieve by 2012.

Wally moved to adjourn the meeting. Kristin seconded. Ron led the council in the mitzvah benediction at 9:03. "May the Lord watch over me and thee, while we are apart, one from the other." Or something close to that! Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Bouchard (for Jan Marchese)