

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
October 19, 2010

In Attendance: Judy Hopkins, Bob Kaska, Susannah Lesswing, Gianna Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Ron Purser, Kristen Thornton, Jim Winqvist. Gary Estes was visiting tonight.

Absent: Anne Bouchard, Ralph Daehn, Tim Haben, Emma Kaska, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Art Zwemke

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ron at 7:12 pm. Bob asked everyone to share the memory of their best surgical experience.

Approval of minutes. The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and Anne moved that they be accepted. Jim seconded. Minutes approved.

Pastor's report. Ron discussed the Sunday wedding which took place on October 10th after the rummage sale. The groom's father helped our group immensely with the clean up and packing of remaining rummage. However, the fire department was here when the caterers set off the fire alarms cooking in the kitchen. Jim Winqvist was called twice and eventually ended up staying for the duration. Thank you, Jim. The caterers also damaged the garbage disposal; all clean-up and expenses were covered by the wedding group.

Ron stated he has been busy with many visitations and counseling. Several congregation members are recovering in rehabilitation from illnesses or surgeries.

Congregation member Nancy Fraley will be having her ecclesiastical council on Sunday, November 7th at Elgin's First Congregational Church. All are invited to attend to support (or question) Nancy. Ron also discovered Nancy's home church (LHC) provides refreshments. He will get more information regarding the time and the refreshment requirements. Ron is planning to attend.

Moderator's Report: Bob asked everyone to review the Planning Metrics document which has been updated. The document seeks to show projections for the ministries and church through to June 2012. The Council Calendar was also reviewed and Bob asked for any corrections so Kristin can update the calendar on the website. He also mentioned we have the potential for a fund-raising campaign for our 140th anniversary in 2011 to replenish some long-term funds needed during tough economic times. The last fundraiser of this type was in

1996 for the 125th year. The window of time is closing in if we want to plan an event.

Treasurer's Report: Bob reviewed the Treasurer's Report in Art's absence. Bob reported that receipts are generally holding up fairly well and we are still ahead of the three year trend, as we also are with pledges. Identified contributors are down, although we have had receipts in that category for October. The September deficit (\$26,858) continues to be larger than budgeted, (\$17,378). Expenses continue to be in-line with expectations.

Anne explained the 2nd half of the Treasurer's Report which contains the Budget Summary and Budget Detail which shows the YTD results for 2010 and 2009. The 2011 budgets need to be completed for each of the ministries. Questions will be answered at the November Council meeting and the budgets need to be turned in at the December meeting for approval at the January meeting. Judy moved to accept the report and Susannah seconded. Report approved.-

Moderator Elect's Report: No report.

Long Range Planning Committee: Bob reported in Suzanne's absence. There have been on-going discussions and the group continues to move along and focus on the three long term initiatives: Endowment, Membership and Properties. There have been initial commitments on endowments; Rik Alex is attending the Village Board Meetings and although we have no pre-determined plans for our properties we hope to re-engage the Village as we are looking for the best use of these properties. In Membership, we have new members, Peter and Jennifer Nicholas who were married here. Bob and Lori are looking at the church data base to utilize existing technology and get information properly categorized in our computer. We need to maintain contact with inactive members to keep them as existing members, possibly by inviting them to an event/pageant or dinner to keep them engaged. We also need to identify potential new members.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: Ron reported in Ralph's absence that Larry is planning to have music, the Children's Choir, in Sunday School when the children are released from service. The Church Service will have a new format with the sermon preceding the offering in order to have Larry in Sunday School. He will then be back in the sanctuary in time for the remainder of the service. The music program is currently gearing-up for Advent.

Congregational Life: Susannah reported that she will be working with Kathleen Kaska designing the program format for the Advent Tea in December with possibly the Choir, a brief service, tea and sandwiches by members, and a

social hour. The Community Dinner that has been discussed as a possibility is not going to happen. It has been decided that our facilities may not be large enough and it may be a bigger undertaking than expected. Other churches in the area are already doing this and their facilities are quite a bit larger than ours. Also, this may be difficult to do on an regular basis. Currently we have high expectations for existing projects and we are meeting high goals in our outreach ministry. January 29th we are planning a dinner and silent auction as an adult evening function. The Advent Tea and Rummage Sale are quite extensive undertakings and the Chili Cook-Off is coming up February 26th. College care packages were packed last Sunday, Oct. 17, after church service with 16 boxes being sent. This is a possibility for Congregational Life or it may be perpetuated by the college parents. The first effort seemed like a success.

Evangelism: Kristen reported that the Blessing of the Hounds and the following fellowship outside was well received. We also have just had another New Member Sunday. She is looking for more photos on the website and hopes to highlight the Youth Group activities with some new ones.

Facilities: Jim reported that all the cement board is up outside and will soon be painted with the batten up and the second coat of paint. The cobblestones are scheduled to be replaced and repaired as well as a few painting jobs to finish up. Also minor work will be done in the Sanctuary replacing Communion cup holders. The big projects scheduled right now are repairing the cobblestone, the chimney for which we need more bids and a budget? We also need to consider a 'hold-handicapped' power door for the parish hall. Jim suggested the possibility of grant funding. The kitchen garbage disposal has a casting leak and Gary Estes is donating a new (larger) 1.25 horsepower disposal. Thank you, Gary.

Outreach: Ron reported that Tim Haben is looking for a replacement for leadership due to conflict with his new job. Crop walk was a big success for a smaller number of 'walkers' from our church. Thanksgiving dinner baskets are coming up again as are the Christmas baskets and the Giving Tree. 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: Youth member Gianna reported the Youth Group is having regular meetings every Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00. Saturday, Oct 30th is the Halloween 'lock-in' party overnight at the Guild House with permission for a late-night Ghoul Walk. A Chicago Art Institute trip is planned for Nov. 7. Emma is doing a great job and has lots of activity ideas.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Ron reported for Wally regarding upcoming dates. No 5th Sunday Special Service is planned for October due to Halloween falling on that Sunday. Greens have been ordered for the Hanging of

the Greens on Sunday, November 28th, with a potluck lunch to follow. Ron reported that the Thanksgiving Eve service will be here at LHC with Bartlett Emmanuel UCC.

New Business:

We need to find a replacement for Tim in Outreach. Until then, others will have to fill-in. Currently, the Pancake Breakfast is on hold. The Rummage Sale was a great success. The goal of \$4,500 was exceeded! There was good weather, lots of donations and great attendance. Also, the whole community was involved, not just the church. Congratulations! Bob received great feedback from the Blessing of the Hounds Service. There have also been wonderful comments regarding the lovely courtyard. Thank you, Gardening Angels!

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting. Ann seconded. Ron closed with prayer at 8:55 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk