

Minutes
Little Home Church Council Meeting
July 12, 2011

In Attendance: Anne Bouchard, Carol Berger, Peter Gatsch, Bob Kaska, Jan Marchese, Ann McLaughlin, Marilyn Poole, Ron Purser, Nancy Schatzeder, Suzanne Setlock, Wally Setlock, Art Zwemke

Absent: Gianna Marchese

Ann began the meeting at 7:15 and asked those in attendance to send notes to church members listed in the church directory. We will be doing this at the beginning of each meeting to randomly selected members. Ron opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of minutes: The June minutes were presented for approval. Move to approve by Suzanne, seconded by Anne. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Church Action/Focus Items: Ann asked for any comments and thoughts on the Junual meeting held on June 26,2011. Art informed the group that he had done some research and discovered the original purchase price of the Peterson home was \$216,000 in 1999 and not the \$330,000 as reported at the Junual Meeting. Also, the Dixon home was purchased at \$175,000 and not \$185,000. We will probably have to use both properties for the bank loan and not just the one as presented in the proposed resolution at the Junual Meeting. Ann said we need to inform the congregation regarding the original purchase prices. When we have more information, we should also report this information in our “By the Way”.

Also at the Junual meeting, congregation members mentioned increasing pledges to cover the expected 2011 deficit and possibly we need to send a follow-up letter informing the proceedings at the Junual meeting. Banks need to be contacted to have the properties appraised in order to proceed on the loan or line of credit of \$150,000 approved at the Junual Meeting. Art and Ann will draft a letter with updated information for the congregation. Ann stated the meeting was over-all open and provoked good discussion of some critical issues. Discussion ensued regarding the congregation’s comments of the Junual meeting.

Some open Council Committee Chairs still exist for Christian Education and Congregational Life. If anyone has any ideas on filling these vacancies, please give them to Ann. Nancy Schatzeder has accepted as Worship and Spiritual Growth and Gianna Marchese has offered to stay on the Council as the Youth Member-at-Large (non-voting). The Council Members List and associated phone numbers/emails needs to be updated with the new council members. Suzanne has the Time and Talent Survey results and will get it to Ann.

Ann asked Ron (and Nancy) to keep up informed on UCC updates and also asked Ron to preach on some of the UCC denominational doctrines and issues. Art said we need to distinguish ourselves in the marketplace with our UCC identity of “congregational tradition”. Bob displayed our new logo and the statement “Worship, Service and Fellowship in the Congregational Tradition”.

Under New Business Bob stated that the youth pilgrimage to Cincinnati will be postponed to a future date (potentially this Fall). Emma will continue to volunteer to lead the Youth Group. The Council discussed the issue of the congregation getting back into the 'Cottage Meetings' with Sunday dinners in small groups where members make specific pledges to try and bring new members into our church. The meetings would start in September for ninety days, lead into Christmas and again at Easter with new members recruited by existing members. Marilyn suggested that Ron can give us guidance as he has already started churches and recruited members. We need to have evangelism events to attract prospective members. Bob discussed the member list and that we need to contact lapsed, perspective and new members. The 'Cottage Meetings' would be on Sunday nights from 4:00 to 5:00 with a dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 consisting of a simple meal possibly beginning September 18th. We need save the date postcards and we need to recruit hosts and facilitators. The purpose of the 'Cottage Meetings' would be to determine the focus of the church and also solicit people to recruit new members. Fellowship is the main focus. Membership is a congregational responsibility as is stewardship.

The Dixon house has been vacated and rented again. Peter said as Facilities Chair he will review the contracts with the various properties.

Carol said the bells have arrived! The proceeds of the last concert were \$13,500 and the total cost of the bells was \$12,500. Larry has said he will donate his time to lead the Bell Choirs. The extra \$1,000 will go to cover the music shortages. Bob proposed moving Larry's (closet) office to the empty office and using the vacated space as the bell closet. The bells are in wheeled cases and need to be added to our insurance policy coverage.

Carol also asked about the rental policy for non-members using the church facilities.

Pastor's report: Ron reminded the new council members that they need to pick-up their mail in the office mail boxes. If anyone wants a UCC Program Calendar, they can be ordered through Lori. At this time, 2 will be ordered for Ann and Suzanne. A local Bible study group has asked to use/rent our church facilities every other Tuesday morning. Council members suggested Ron inform them that they are more than welcome to join our Tuesday morning Bible study this Summer, but it seems to conflict with ours which meets weekly. The fifth-Sunday outdoor service and picnic will be July 31 at 4:00. Ron will discuss the proposed service format with Nancy Schatzeder.

Treasurer's Report: Art Zwemke reviewed the Treasurer's Report for June. The year was off to a slow start as the prepaid pledges were \$12,950 compared to last year's prepaid pledges of \$30,850. Pledges exceeded plan in June and May after laggings in all four previous months. The year-to-date deficit is (\$18,013) compared to a projected YTD surplus of \$2,861 at the end of June. This \$18,013 deficit is in addition to the planned deficit of \$30,000 which gives us about a \$50,000 projected deficit. The installments to the charities in our outreach program have been decreased accordingly based on these projected deficits. Anne moved approval of the Treasurer's Report with a 2nd from Suzanne. Report approved.

Moderator's Report: Ann informed the group that the next 'By the Way' articles are due Thursday for the July/August issue. Ann will do a small chart summarizing our financial status for the 'By the Way' and for the church bulletin. We should maybe mention the proposed Cottage Meetings and dinners and also thank people for their contributions to the church.

Moderator Elect: None

Long Range Plan Report: Items were previously discussed.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: None

Congregational Life: None

Evangelism: Items were previously discussed.

Facilities: Items were previously discussed. Wally added that the new 'Church Windows' software was up and running on the new computers. Also, the sprinklers in the courtyard irrigation system are all functioning now.

Outreach: Marilyn mentioned the committee is working on additional 'Mission Moments' to be presented at church services. Ralph is contacting Fox Valley Hospice and Valerie will be contacting the Renz Addiction Center for brief reports to be presented to the congregation.

Stewardship: Items were previously discussed.

Worship and Spiritual Growth: Nancy is working with Ron for the 5th Sunday worship program.

Members-at-large: Items were previously discussed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Ron closed the meeting with a prayer. Move to adjourn by Bob, seconded by Suzanne. Meeting adjourned 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk