

LITTLE HOME CHURCH BY THE WAYSIDE (LHC)
FEBRUARY MEETING
February 6, 2011

Moderator Bob Kaska called the February Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and Pastor Ron opened with a prayer. Thirty-nine members of the church were present. Bob stated that the main order of business would be the approval of the 2011 budget which presents some challenges but we also have tremendous resources evidenced by our 140 year tradition which makes Little Home Church a special place.

Pastor's Report: Ron explained that the state of our church is "healthy". Ten years ago Ron and Maggie came to Little Home Church and the church has come a long way in 10 years. Although the church congregation is small in number, people at our church do a lot: contributions to Feeding Northwest DuPage and Cropwalk for example. All we do to help people in the name of Little Home Church shows our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ and the mission and ministry of Little Home Church. The congregation thanked Ron for his ten years of service.

Moderator's Report: Bob reflected on the past 6 months as Church Moderator and said it's been fun, fast and frustrating at times. He then recognized the Council Members, introducing each Ministry Chair. He stated that the main emphasis of his report is the church's strategic plan. Suzanne Setlock explained the Long Range Plan's three strategic goals: Membership which is led by Bob Kaska, Properties led by Anne Bouchard and Endowments led by Art Zwemke. Suzanne stated that the Long Range Planning Committee stays focused with regular conference call meetings.

Bob Kaska then reported that the LRP Membership goals are to grow and maintain (retain) membership by focusing on:

- 1) Members in transition: perspective members, lapsed members and new members. This will be done by identifying and maintaining contact to stay close to those members;
- 2) Maintaining involvement: committed members will contact members in transition (an example would be a call to personally invite those members to our Chili Cook-Off). The team's specific goal is 15 new members this year. The Membership team is Kristin Thornton, Kathleen Kaska, Ron Purser and Ann McLaughlin.

Anne Bouchard reported on the LRP Properties group which also includes Dan Roach and Rik Alex. They need to let the IRS know the church's plan for the Peterson house & Dixon house properties for the next 5 years. At this time, there are no plans, but their team wants to reach out and build a relationship with the Village before bringing a plan to them. Rik attended the Village's Historic Sites Commission as the church sits in the Historic District of Wayne. This means we are protected from change, but also, we cannot change anything. Over time, the goal is to devise a plan that will be acceptable to the Historic Commission: a pleasingly aesthetic plan that would best serve the village and the church.

Rik Alex then explained the process of getting village approval of plans as many of our congregation members do not live in the Village of Wayne. Both houses are zoned residential and Rik has been attending the Historic Commission meetings in order to learn the process involved to get plans approved. He explained the Historic Commission's purpose is to maintain the existing 'streetscape' along Army Trail Road. The team's goal is to have a plan by June, 2012 for the properties owned by the church which will be a blend of what we want to do and what is possible (allowable).

Art Zwemke reported for the Endowment team and mentioned that in the past the church has benefited from donations from people mentioning Little Home Church in their wills and how they would like their donation spent. The trustees of the Endowment team are: John Berger, Dave Sterner and Dave Poole. The goal of the team, by our Junual meeting, is to have set up endowments and their uses and to establish endowments on a long-term basis. We have the 3 Trustees and in June the team should have more details on the endowment plan in the areas of cash, real estate, stock, etc.

Treasurer's Report: Art reported that we have aggregate Fund Balances of \$84,322, exclusive of real estate, as of December 31, 2010. Our annual budget was \$278,390 for 2010. Our rental properties are valued at \$350,000 and \$165,000. This has been the first year both houses were occupied and rents were collected for the entire year, (although it is not part of our mission to rent properties). The Fund Balance at the year end was \$2,732,122 (includes real estate) with no debt.

We started the year with a Fund Balance of \$123,335 and ended the year with \$84,322. Expenditures were mainly for a new roof and gutters and a new generator at the Guild House. On the operating side, we collected \$261,792 (of which \$176,743 was from pledges) and spent \$277,355 which created a deficit of (\$15,563). In 2009, there was an actual deficit of (\$6,699) and the plan for 2010 was (\$30,390) with the combined deficit being (\$27,190). Outreach was budgeted at \$32,240 but the Council cut-back Outreach to \$28,017 to reduce the deficit and conserve cash.

Suzanne Setlock reported that we are 3 pledges behind last year, but a total dollar amount of \$10,000 behind. We have \$170,000 in pledges and the economy is reflected in the pledges. The Council has cut budgets and not overspent. We have old buildings which need upkeep and are not as efficient as new. We need to increase our membership to increase our pledges.

Ann McLaughlin was congratulated on 10 years of services as the church's Financial Secretary. She reported that we are now at 68 pledges for 2011 and have 9 new pledges. Ann explained the chart distributed and said the average pledge at Little Home Church is approx. \$2,500.

Art returned to explain the 2011 budget. He used a graph to show how our income of \$256,000 is 2/3 pledges and 1/3 other identified contributors and fund raisers, etc. Expenses of \$286,120 are 2/3 payroll and benefits expense. Facilities are \$53,000 and Outreach is \$28,000. If Outreach had stayed at 20% of pledges it would be \$34,000 so

that expense has been reduced by \$6,000. For 2011, expenses show a proposed deficit of (\$30,120). We may have to revisit our financial situation in June if revenues are not on track. We have normally had payroll increases of 4% every year, but salaries are frozen for 2011 which saves \$6,500. Roger Kotecki moved approval of the 2011 budget, seconded by Alex Kentfield. Discussion occurred regarding the desire to give increases to staff. The 2011 Budget was approved with all ayes. None opposed.

Moderator Bob Kaska closed saying the real message is that although we would like more *from* the congregation, we would rather have more *of* the congregation. The Little Home Church music program is exceptional and was outstanding for a snowy Sunday today. Please do a membership referral if you can, we need to spread the good news of Little Home Church.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Pastor Ron closed with meeting with a prayer.

Roger Kotecki moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Art Zwemke. The meeting closed at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Marchese
Church Clerk