

**LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Nancy Hall, Moderator; Larry Roth, Moderator-Elect; Dave Curtis, Communications and Historian/Archivist; Nancy Carey, Music Committee; Adam Honeysett, Stewardship; Andrew Hunter, Trustees; John Mingus, Past Moderator; Tom Ross, Nominations and Appointments; Chris Weakley, Deacons; Carolyn Yocom, Treasurer; Joe Christiansen, Endowment Fund; Bruce Douglas, Member-At-Large; Karen Kleiber, Member-At-Large; David Lindsey, Senior Pastor; Alexis Kassim, Associate Pastor; Kathy Heyman, Church Clerk/Recorder

David Lindsey opened the meeting in prayer.

Nancy Hall Presented the Agenda. No changes or additions were made to the agenda as presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

Being no correction to the minutes sent out prior to the meeting, the Church Council Minutes of September 11, 2019 meeting were approved with a motion by Dave Curtis and seconded by Joe Christiansen.

**Pastor's Time**

David reported to Council that the Spiritual Autobiography classes that he will be leading begin on Wednesday, October 16. David gave a description of the class and encouraged Council members to attend if interested.

David gave a report on Pastoral Care. He thanked everyone for their help with the several memorial services Little River has held over the last couple of months.

Pastor Alexis reported that she attended UCC Annual Meeting this past weekend. John Davis, Nick Renzo and Steffi Socher also attended to share their experiences during the Youth Mission Trip in Puerto Rico and offered insights to planning next year's trip.

Pastor Alexis informed the Council she will be on vacation starting on October 24 to November 9. She will be back for Consecration Sunday and then gone again November 11-22.

## **Financial Update**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Carolyn Yocom distributed a handout to the Council a Memorandum of Understanding Between Little River UCC and Bookkeeper for their review and discussion. The Council recommended some changes to the document which will be made and then presented again to Council at their next meeting for final approval.

Carolyn distributed a new report on the Operating Budget that has an overall view of the finances with less description of each line item. The detailed line item budget report will continue to be given to each committee chair. Carolyn explained the new overall report is for Council to be able to quickly view and discuss.

### **Stewardship**

Adam Honeysett reviewed with Council the Stewardship plan for 2020. The theme is "Growing Gratefully". Stewardship is engaging the congregation in the campaign by having the children and youth make sunflowers to display on the wall of the church. A pledge letter was sent out to each member requesting them to consider making a 2020 pledge. Over the coming weeks, the committee will continue to send more materials to members, and also have special events during worship services and a table at the Ministries Fair. Consecration Sunday will be held on November 10.

### **Trustees**

Andrew Hunter asked the Council for their assistance in identifying allocation for Unfunded Priorities monies in the amount of \$2,486. In discussion, it was suggested that Trustees consider splitting the monies between two Unfunded Priorities that have received no financial support yet: staff year-end bonuses and BOSJ benevolences. Any further comments and ideas can be sent to Andrew.

Andrew let the Council know that the Trustees are looking at a vendor to provide soap and paper towel dispensers in the church restrooms. Pricing and contract agreement are still being reviewed at this time, but it may save funds on supplies and create uniformity in all of LRUCC's restrooms.

Andrew reported that the Trustees have made a first draft of the 2020 budget. At this time there is a \$70,000 deficit which would result in an approximately 12% increase needed in pledge and contributions for 2020. Council discussed the challenges this will bring to the Stewardship effort. However, it was also discussed that this is not a huge deficit and could be reached with more review to be done in the coming months as the budget is finalized.

### **Boards, Ministries and Committees Report**

Alexis reported that benevolences this year were distributed among hunger, homeless, climate change and racial justice along with major repair to the church organ. With shortage of benevolence funds in 2019, BOSJ has been supporting organizations through in-kind donation and increased engagement with the programs promoted by our benevolence organizations. Some of these activities include: Faith Action for Climate Solutions' clean-up at Accotink Creek; accompany of immigrants to court/ICE check-ins; collect donations for Friends of Guest House; pack 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger with 54 people participating. This past Sunday Rev. Michael Joseph, Global Ministries co-worker in Colombia preached at LRUCC worship service for World Communion Sunday and presented a talk about the struggles and successes of Colombia's peacemaking process.

Cindy Fithian, Co-Chair of BOSJ thanked Karen Kleiber for helping to organize the Rise Against Hunger event and the Boy Scouts for their help with set up. The event had a wonderful turn-out of volunteers and the youth had a good time participating in making of the meals. BOSJ will have a table at the Ministries Fair and will distribute books purchased by Judy Moats called "Guide to Being a Straight Ally" and "Guide to Being a Trans Ally" for members to borrow to read. BOSJ will have a meeting on Monday, October 14 with administrators from NVCC to discuss and identify areas of need in which LRUCC could offer support to the student community.

### **Christian Education**

Alexis reported that CE had met and discussed possible changes to the age range of the elementary church school class and the youth class. The youth class is now welcoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. So far this has worked very well! We have a gap of older youth right now, so the class feels more like 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade. The elementary class is splitting the lesson time between younger (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) and older (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>), then joining back together for craft time and games. So far the format seems to be working and will continue to be reassessed as needed during the school year. Alexis told the Council that CE is planning a Family, Faith & Film Day after worship on Sunday, December 22. The event will include a holiday movie intended for children and youth of all ages (and their parents).

### **Deacons**

Chris Weakley reported that the Bereavement Tea will be held here at LRUCC on December 14<sup>th</sup> instead of Greenspring. A "Blue Christmas" Service will follow the Tea in the Sanctuary. Chris reported that a Thanksgiving lunch is being planned for after worship on Sunday, November 24 in lieu of coffee hour. This event will give an opportunity for the congregation to socialize

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before the busy holiday season begins and will be kick off for Advent that starts the following Sunday, December 1. The “hanging of the greens” will happen on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> as well so that everything will be in place when Advent begins.

### **Endowment Fund**

Joe Christiansen reported to the Council that proposals for endowment fund disbursements will be due by December 15. A proposal must be received for consideration of receiving funds. The proposal should include why funds are needed, what the need is, timeline in needing the funds, and cost estimates.

### **Racial Justice Coalition**

Dave Curtis reported for Jan Curtis that there will be a free seminar at the National Cathedral on Wednesday, October 23 on Gun Violence and Houses of Worship. Jan will be organizing LRUC participation if you have any questions you can contact her. Registration is required to attend the seminar.

### **New Business**

#### **Realm Rollout**

Pastor David reported to the Council that church communication has always been a struggle. He gave an overview of the Realm program and showed a video on the database program. An app that can be downloaded on a computer or cell phone would give members the option to look up personal giving statements, update contact information and importantly, set privacy settings to manage own data. In discussion, Council expressed the need for a rollout plan for the congregation. Pastor David told the Council he had a draft plan to roll out the program to the congregation in December. The Communications Committee will also be meeting to discuss Realm and the roll out plan to volunteers and the congregation.

#### **Calendar of Activities**

The Advent calendar was reviewed by Chris under the Deacon Report. Pastor David asked the Council to consider rescheduling the November Council meeting due to the Spiritual Autobiography classes he will be leading on Wednesdays starting on October 16. The November meeting would be impacted with the classes being for 6 consecutive weeks. Council suggested that Pastor David check with the class attendees once the sessions begin and any flexibility to change the November class date and then let the Council know if a rescheduled meeting date is needed. A change of meeting date can be handled through email with Council members.

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Nancy Carey reported for the Music Committee that an organ recital was being planned to highlight the major repairs that have been made to the organ over the last couple of months. The recital will be held in November or December. Further details are being planned by Pastor David, Craig Stapert and the Music Committee.

Pastor Alexis let the Council know that pictures of lost loved one are being requested from the congregation to be displayed for All Souls Sunday on November 3. There will be a table in the Social Hall for folks to put their labeled pictures. Names of the loved ones that have passed in the last year will be read during the service with a candle lighting ceremony. Due to the presence of lit candles during service, communion will be moved to after the sermon and a deacon will make sure communion is given to the church school classes.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Nominations and Appointments Report**

Tom Ross emailed the Council prior to the meeting regarding a new procedures and timeline for identifying members willing to serve on Boards and committees for 2020 and beyond. The email was printed and distributed to Council for discussion. A list of board/committee member status was also distributed to Council. N&A is requesting Board/Committee Chairs to inform N&A by email the status of the members listed on their committee. Each Board/Committee Chair will need to contact those members to identify their willingness to serve or continue to serve by November 10. On Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>, a lunch meeting will be held by N&A with Board/Committee Chairs to finalize the slate for 2020 to then be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 2. The Council reviewed and discussed the new procedures. In discussion, Council suggested that the procedures sounded fine and that personal contact in recruiting was the best way to engage members to volunteer. Another suggestion was to offer members to serve as co-chairs on committees to split the volunteer board/committee work.

#### **Ministries Fair**

Pastor Alexis let the Council know that if Boards/Committees wanted to participate in the Ministries Fair on Sunday, October 13 to contact Nick to request a table and size needed by Thursday, October 10.

#### **Security and Safety Committee**

No report.

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### **Ginna Minasian Dalton Memorial Fund Update**

Dave Curtis reported to the Council that the Christian Education met and reviewed the draft plan for the endowment fund. CE will continue their work to define the nature of the fund and present it to the Church Council at the November meeting.

### **Governance Structure**

Larry Roth distributed a handout to the Council outlining four bullet points in a proposed change in the structure of church governance. The outline proposal ideas came from the Leadership Retreat held in June. After discussion regarding the proposal it was decided that further review and amendments needed to be made. Any comments/additions/deletions to the draft governance structure proposal should be sent to Tom Ross, Larry Roth or Karen Kleiber. The draft proposal will be kept on the agenda under Council's Unfinished Business for further discussion.

### **First Friday**

Chris Weakley reported First Friday event on October 4 was very successful. Attendance was approximately 40 children and plenty of volunteers. The older youth are enjoying being a part of First Friday and helping as volunteers. Next FF will be on November 1. Chris encouraged Council members to volunteer if interested and available.

In closing prayer, Pastor Alexis mentioned to keep the Jewish Community close in prayer during Yom Kippur. There was a reported shooting in Germany outside a synagogue during a service.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.