

Approved with corrections at Church Council meeting on December 11, 2019

**LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Nancy Hall, Moderator; Larry Roth, Moderator-Elect; Dave Curtis, Communications and Historian/Archivist; Amanda Halstead, Music Committee; Adam Honeysett, Stewardship; Andrew Hunter, Trustees; John Mingus, Past Moderator; Tom Ross, Nominations and Appointments; Drew Nettinga, Deacons; Joe Christiansen, Endowment Fund; Bruce Douglas, Member-At-Large; Karen Kleiber, Member-At-Large; Mary Summers, Member-At-Large; Jennifer Mack, Comptroller; Cindy Fithian, BOSJ; David Lindsey, Senior 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 October 9, 2019 meeting were approved.

**Pastor's Time**

Pastor David reported to the Council that two of the staff were recently injured. Kathy Heyman and Roberta Croll both took a fall in the last few days. Both are doing well with their recovery.

A new contract has been made with John Davis and Nick Renzo for Sexton responsibilities. John will be working 15 hours a week as Sexton and 5 hours a week for his First Friday duties. Nick will be working 15 hours a week in the position of Temporary Sexton. Pastor David suggested that Council be aware of the new hours for Sexton and any impacts it may have to their ministries/programs. The new contract arrangements will be monitored over the next couple of months to see how the sexton schedule is working.

David told the Council that those being checked on for Pastoral Care are the Hartzlers. Bill has had continued health issues and Kathy is the primary caregiver. David went to Greenspring today for the monthly program. It has been a difficult year and several are struggling with the many losses of friends, especially those who were a part of the Greenspring community.

David told the Council that Consecration Sunday went very well. This year's theme "Growing Gratefully" was very well received by the congregation. Congratulations to the Stewardship Committee for all their support and efforts for a successful campaign. David let the Council know that Pastor Alexis will be here for service on Sunday, 11/10 but will then continue her time off the following week.

## **Financial Update**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pastor David gave the finance report for Carolyn Yocom who was not able to attend the meeting due to illness. He passed out the report for the Council to review. There are some cash flow concerns. A transfer from the General Fund account (at United Church Funds) to the General Fund money in the BB&T bank account was necessary. There was discussion on the financial report.

### **Stewardship**

Adam Honeysett reported that the Stewardship Committee was pleased with the success of Consecration Sunday. The youth enjoyed being a part of the sunflower theme of Growing Gratefully. There have been 62 pledges received so far. Last year at this time 45 pledges had been received. The campaign is at 49% of the goal at this time. Pledges are still being received. The percentage of pledges received so far is in line with the percentage received this time last year during the campaign.

### **Trustees (Budget)**

Andrew Hunter reported that the Trustees will be working with the Finance Team on the 2020 budget. One area Finance and the Trustees are exploring is a possible reduction of cost in employee health care benefits. Andrew welcomed any ideas from Council for other areas in the budget for cost reduction.

Andrew reported that previously the Council had discussed how to distribute the Unfunded Priorities funds. It was the consensus of the committee to split between BOSJ benevolent disbursements and staff end-of-the-year bonuses. A motion was made by Andrew and seconded by Mary Summers to divide the sum of \$4,486.00 between these two budget line items. The motion carried.

## **Boards, Ministries and Committees**

### **Music Committee**

Amanda Halstead reported to the Council that plans were being made for the music programs during Advent. The youth choir Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 15. On Christmas Eve the youth choirs will sing at the 5pm service and the sanctuary choir will sing at the 9pm service.

Final renovations are being made in Room 7. By the end of year the room should be completed with curtains and other finishing touches.

### **BOSJ**

Cindy Fithian reported to the Council that the gift tags for the White Christmas service are being prepared and will be placed on the Christmas tree in the atrium on Sunday, November 17.

“Hate Has No Home Here” yards signs were order by BOSJ. The members of the congregation will be encouraged to take a sign for their yard.

Additional copies of *Guide to Being a Straight Ally* and *Guide to Being a Trans Ally* have been ordered. The books will be available for the congregation. Due to a limited supply of books being ordered, BOSJ suggested that the books be returned after reading for others to borrow.

Cindy informed the Council that BOSJ members met with Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions in hopes of forming a new relationship with FACS and LRUC.

### **Deacon's Report**

Drew Nettinga gave the Deacons' report in the absence of Chris Weakley. Drew reported to the Council that on Sunday, November 24 after service, a Thanksgiving dinner will be held in the social hall, with activities for children. This event will replace the Advent Fun Shops of previous years. The reason for the change is due to the first Sunday of Advent (December 1) falling this year on the Sunday of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The hanging of the greens is also planned for this weekend.

Drew reviewed the Advent activities and services to be held: Sunday, December 8 will be the White Gift Service; Saturday, December 14 will be the Bereavement Tea and Blue Christmas Service here at LRUC; Tuesday, December 24 there will be two Christmas Eve services, one at 5:00pm and one at 9:00pm.

Drew also reported to Council that the Women's Ministry gifted the church with two 5ft long candle lighters.

## **New Business**

### **Calendar of Activities**

Pastor David let the Council know that he is working on asking a family to be a part of the manger scene for Christmas Eve. The White Gift program has cut back on the number of tags to 225. The three organizations we are working with for donations are ACCA, Shaw Community Ministry, and Main Street.

### **Listening Session**

Nancy Hall reported at the listening session held on Sunday November 3, that the Trustees gave a presentation on a Security and Fire Drill/Evacuation plan. A practice fire drill is being planned to be held during a Sunday worship service. The date for the evacuation plan will be provided to Council once details are finalized.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Nominations & Appointments Discussion**

Tom Ross reported to the Council that Carrie Douglas has joined the N&A committee. At the end of the year, Tom and Barbara Shepherd will end their term on the N&A committee. Starting in 2020, two members will remain on the N&A committee, Bob Lingo and Carrie Douglas. The N&A committee members are requesting all boards and committees to confirm which members currently serving will continue in 2020 and/or nominate members to serve on their respective boards/committees. Any boards/committees that have not yet provided this information to N&A are encouraged to do so. On January 5, N&A will hold a meeting to identify and review the slate of members that have agreed to volunteer on a board or committee. At the Annual Meeting on February 2, the final slate of nominees will be presented for approval. There was discussion on the process of receiving and reviewing nominations.

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

Dave Curtis gave an update on the Ginna Minasian Dalton Memorial Fund. He distributed a written proposal on the process and establishment of the fund. After review of the proposal and discussion, an amendment was made to the proposal to add an addendum with a 10-year sunset clause. The motion carried to add the sunset timeline of January 1, 2031. A motion to accept the proposal as presented, with the addendum, was made by Dave Curtis, seconded by

Cindy Fithian. The motion carried. The designated fund will be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 2 which will also be the one-year anniversary of Ginna's passing.

### **Governance Structure Plans and Implementation**

Larry Roth reported to Council that the new governance structure is being reviewed and a proposal will be presented after the Annual Meeting. In discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to devote the next Church Council meeting in December to review the governance structure. This would allow more time for discussion before the proposal is presented at the Annual Meeting.

The four bullet points to be discussed:

- Communication
- Decision Making Process (Streamline/Clearer Processes)
- Number of Volunteers Needed
- Inconsistent Attendance at Meetings

Further discussion was held on the restructure plan. One point of discussion was to review worship attendance numbers for the past 10 years.

### **First Friday Update**

Pastor David reported to Council that First Friday was held on Nov. 1. Attendance was down from the October FF but it was recognized that the event was the day after Halloween and also before a long weekend school holiday. Those who attended had a good time with the costume theme and magician show. Next FF will be held on Dec. 6.

### **Realm Rollout**

Pastor David told the Council the Realm rollout is planned for two Sundays in December. During the Realm rollout the congregation will have an opportunity to review and download the app. Some of the Realm special features allow members to review their financial giving and update contact information. Pastor David encouraged the church leaders to download the app on their phones prior to the Realm rollout so they have an opportunity to review the program and special features.

### **Other Business**

Pastor David told the Council staff has requested their approval to close the church office on Friday, November 29, the day after Thanksgiving. The current personnel policies do not designate the day as an employee paid holiday. A motion was made by Cindy Fithian, seconded

by Amanda Halstead to close the church office and designate Friday, Nov. 29 as an employee paid holiday. The motion carried.

Pastor David told the Council that Dorothy Nance recently passed away. Dorothy and her husband were past members at LRUCC. A memorial service was being planned. He also let Council know that it was the 2-year anniversary of the passing of Kent Rogers. He mentioned that this was a very unusual and extraordinary time for our country with the impeachment hearings being held.

Pastor David closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.