

Approved October 9, 2019

**LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Nancy Hall, Moderator; Larry Roth, Moderator-Elect; Dave Curtis, Communications and Historian/Archivist; Jan Curtis, Historian/Archivist; Jessica Sammis Nilles, Music Committee; Adam Honeysett, Stewardship; Andrew Hunter, Trustees; Bruce Douglas, Member-At-Large; Jennifer Mack, Comptroller; John Mingus, Past Moderator; Tom Ross, Nominations and Appointments; Chris Weakley, Deacons; Carolyn Yocom, Treasurer; 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.

**Approval of Minutes**

Being no correction to the minutes sent out prior to the meeting, the Church Council Minutes of July 31, 2019 meeting were approved with a motion by Chris Weakly and seconded by Adam Honeysett.

**Pastor's Time**

Pastor David reported he would be scheduling the Spiritual Autobiography classes. Staff are reviewing the calendar for dates that would be best for the classes. David also reviewed the recent passing of church members. Their service details will be given under New Business.

Pastor Alexis told the committee that Rally Day was very successful. She reported overall other areas of ministry going well at this time. She would be reporting further on specific ministries later in the meeting.

**Financial Update**

**Treasurer's Report**

Carolyn Yocom sent electronically to Council members the financial reports. She reported that with the switch to processing payroll from once a month to every two weeks, there was some increase in the operating costs due to this change. Carolyn met with the church bookkeepers this week to look at unfunded mandates and how to track them better. One idea was discussed

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to spotlight different ministries throughout the year to increase awareness about the ministry and funding/ goals/needs. The Finance Team will also be looking at streamlining the accounting process making improvements where needed. In discussion, Council members asked if there is any concern needed with increase in operating costs. Carolyn told the Council that all should be fine due to staff and volunteers conservative spending of funds. Nancy mentioned she had received positive feedback on the Counting Our Blessings Report being part of the Sunday bulletin. There was a question regarding mailing of mid-year giving statements and determined that the church finance committee now send only end of year giving statements. Once Realm is rolled out, everyone will be able to monitor their giving online.

### **Stewardship and Budget**

Adam Honeysett reported that the SummerFest went well and funds received from the event were approximately \$2,000. Unfunded Priorities special giving brought in approximately \$4500, \$2,000 of which is committed to offset staffing costs associated with the sabbatical. The Trustees plan to make recommendations on where and how to designate the additional funds raised at SummerFest. Some of the Unfunded Priorities have already been met this year, including organ repairs and mission trip and painting of Room 7.

Adam told the committee that the Stewardship Committee will be scheduling a Charitable Giving Learning Session this fall. The committee is working with Merrill Lynch as the speaker for the session. More information will be sent out as this event is planned.

### **Trustees**

Pastor David reported to Council that the security protection film was installed on the nursery windows. There were also new locks installed on the nursery doors and preschool doors. The new convection oven was installed this week in the church kitchen. Trustees will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 17.

Andrew Hunter reported that Nick Renzo's contract as temporary sexton was extended to the end of October. It is likely it will be extended again to end of year but Trustees were waiting for Pastor David to return from Sabbatical before the next extension was reviewed and finalized. The Council expressed thanks and gratitude for the great job Nick has done in the role of temporary Sexton.

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## **Boards, Ministries and Committees**

### **Music Committee**

Jessica Sammis Nilles reported to the committee that Room 7 which is now designated as the music room has been painted. She thanked those that helped with the work in Room 7. The organ repairs are still being made but should be finished soon. The Music Committee is discussing the possibility of having a celebratory recital highlighting the organ on a Sunday in October. There was discussion the recital could be part of the Thanksgiving meal/event that the Deacons are discussing plans in November.

Jessica reviewed with Council the upcoming special music Sundays for the remainder of the year.

### **New Business**

#### **Nominations and Appointments Proposal**

Tom Ross reported to the Council that the Nominations and Appointments Committee have been meeting to provide slate of committee members for 2020 at Annual Meeting. He let the Council know that at the end of 2019, he and Barbara Allen will be at the end of their term. At this time, there are only 3 members on N&A, leaving only Bob Lingo to serve in 2020. Bob has voiced an intent to resign if no one else joins N&A to replace Barbara and Tom! Tom explained that N&A committee were considering "dissolving" the committee and having recruitment fall on individual boards and committees to find new members to serve. He gave Council a proposal to consider in writing for them to review. There was discussion on what would work best in the future on how to recruit volunteers/committee members. It was the consensus of Council to have Board of Governance review options and proposal provided by N&A. After this review, it will be brought back to Council for further discussion and final decision on how LRUCC should proceed.

#### **Annual Meeting Reschedule Date**

Nancy Hall reported to the Council that she and Larry Roth would not be able to attend the Annual Meeting if it is held on the original schedule date of January 26. After discussion and review of the church calendar, it was determined to reschedule the Annual Meeting to Sunday, February 2. A motion was made by Jan Curtis, seconded by Chris Weakley to confirm this date on the church calendar. Motion carried.

#### **Fall Programs**

Pastor Alexis reported for the Board of Christian Education that there will be a Safe Church Training for those volunteers that work with children and youth on Sunday September 22 and

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also on September 30. BOSJ will also be holding a LGBTQ+ Listening Session on September 22. Rise Against Hunger is scheduled for Sunday September 29. A link to sign up to help will be in Current Reflections or contact her. The Boy Scouts will be helping with set up and break down at RAH.

Pastor Alexis brought to the Council if LRUCC should hold a Ministries Fair this year? It was the consensus of the Council to hold this event on Sunday October 13.

### **Advent Programs**

Pastor David reviewed Advent Calendar with Council.

### **Upcoming Memorial Services**

Amy Seymour here at LRUCC on Saturday, September 14

Jeanne Fulford service will be held at Greenspring on Saturday, October 12.

Willard Griffing here at LRUCC on Saturday, October 26

### **Old Business**

#### **Unfunded Needs**

Andrew Hunter reported that the Trustees continue to work with the church to find a way to support the Unfunded Priorities that were not funded in the annual budget for 2019. Support has so far gone to a variety of priorities, including support of First Friday, the Youth Mission Trip, and organ repairs. Remaining unfunded priorities include a new key system for the church building, staff end-of-year bonuses, and board-designated benevolences

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

Andrew reported that there was discussion on plans for a fire drill exit exercise during Sunday worship service. The emergency exit plan is in development with the Board of Trustees/Safety and Security Committee. Further updates will be provided to Council once the plan is finalized.

#### **Governance Structure**

Larry Roth reported that a meeting was held two weeks ago. An email was sent to Council regarding the proposed plan and discussion on this will be held at the October 9 Council meeting. Ideas on streamlining meetings, having smaller committees/teams and simplifying command structures were discussed.

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### **First Friday**

Chris Weakley reported that the Deacons have decided to continue First Friday events until the end of the year. Chris thanked the Trustees for their continued assistance with financial support for the program. Future First Friday events in 2020 will be reviewed later in the year for consideration and planning. Program commitment and volunteer support will be needed for the program to continue. Chris encouraged Council members to volunteer if possible.

### **Ginna Minasian Dalton Fund**

Dave Curtis provided the Council with a written outline and plan to establish a designated fund to honor the memory of the Rev. Ginna Minasian Dalton for their review.

### **Final Comments**

- Further clarity was made on the Leadership Training and the proposed agenda topics.
- Bruce commented that there should be less White Gift tags this year. Alexis reported that BOSJ has already addressed this with the organizations we work with and a proposed plan to change how white gift tags will be received this year.
- Andrew Hunter suggested that the 2020 budget should be added to the agenda for Council Meeting on Oct. 9.
- Tom Ross requested if anyone has a name for the N&A to consider for 2020 slate for committee members to please let the committee know.
- Dave Curtis brought up to Council the Commonwealth Trustees and the need as stated in the LRUCC By-laws that three members must be identified to serve on the Board. Those three members currently are: Willard Griffing (deceased), Barbara Lowrey and Steve Wheelock.

Pastor Alexis closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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