

Amended and Approved at Church Council Meeting on March 11, 2020

**LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 12, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Nancy Hall, Past Moderator; Larry Roth, Moderator; Dave Curtis, Historian/Archivist; Jan Curtis, Historian/Archivist; Amanda Halstead, Music Committee; Bruce Summers, Stewardship; Andrew Hunter, Trustees; Carrie Douglas, Nominations and Appointments; Carolyn Yocom, Treasurer; Chris Weakley, Deacons; Brian Payne, Endowment Fund; Karen Kleiber, Member-At-Large; Mary Summers, Member-At-Large; Jennifer Mack, Comptroller; Judy Moats, BOSJ; Cindy Fithian, BOSJ; David Roach, Christian Education; Kathy McCrea, Personnel; Barbara Shepherd, Communications

Staff Present: David Lindsey, Senior Pastor; Alexis Kassim, Associate Pastor; Kathy Heyman, Office Administrator

Guests Present: John Mingus

Larry Roth presented the Agenda. No changes or additions were made to the agenda as presented.

Pastor David opened the meeting in prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the congregation's Annual Meeting on February 2, 2020. Jan Curtis stated corrections were needed to the paragraph regarding the Ginna Minasian Dalton Fund. The changes were given to the church clerk and will be edited into the minutes. A motion was made by Chris Weakley, seconded by Nancy Hall to amend the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Payne, seconded by David Roach to approve the minutes as corrected and presented. The motion carried.

Minutes from the January 8, 2020 Church Council meeting. Kathy McCrea stated that clarification should be made regarding the names recorded in the minutes. The changes will be made to the minutes by the church clerk. A motion was made by Amanda Halstead, seconded by Barbara Shepherd to amend the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Curtis, seconded by Nancy Hall to approve the minutes as corrected and presented. The motion carried.

Larry Roth welcomed the new members starting their new term in 2020 and present at tonight's Council meeting.

## **Pastor's Reports**

Pastor David reported to the Council George Matthews' memorial service was held on Wednesday, February 5 here at Little River. The church also received news that Connie Fullerton passed away this week. In other areas of congregational care, Rachel Lane will be leaving the rehab center and returning to her apartment.

Pastor David told the Council he has been working on Realm. New groups are being added to the database for the boards and committees. Currently, Trustees have requested to have a group added to Realm which will help with having current member terms and assist in communication within the Trustees. Pastor David encouraged other boards and committees to work with him on their group information.

Pastor David gave the Council an update on his health and plans as he knows them at this time.

In discussion, concerns were mentioned on methods of serving communion during the time of flu season and possible threat of coronavirus. Some thoughts were for those serving to use rubber gloves or to serve wafers instead of bread. The Deacons will discuss this further at their next meeting if any changes will be needed for serving communion.

Pastor Alexis passed around pictures from the Main Street Child Development Center of families receiving their "white gifts" during the Christmas holiday.

Pastor Alexis reported to the Council the Hypothermia Mission on Sunday, February 9 went very well. There are a few logistical items to sort out before the next scheduled mission event on Sunday, March 29. A representative from the Hypothermia Shelter is interested in coming to Little River in the spring to talk about having the church become a Hypothermia site. There was discussion on plans for this to be considered at Little River.

Pastor Alexis presented the idea of a possible Summer Intern from Yale Divinity School to work at Little River. Dawn Jefferson is interested in interning at Little River as a field education site. She would be available to work 20 hours a week between June 1 and August 15. Christian Education has approved a stipend for the intern position of approximately \$3,000. A motion was made by Mary Summers, seconded by Bruce Summers for the Pastors to continue the process of hiring Dawn as a summer intern if agree this would be a good fit for all here at Little River. A decision would need to be made by March 15. The motion carried.

The Board of Christian Education is hosting a listening session for parents and youth after worship on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the future of the Pilgrim Youth Fellowship and get direct input on what youth and parents want to see from our youth ministry programs.

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Pastor Alexis also reported to the Council DC area UCC churches have been invited to participate in a national UCC effort to relieve medical debt in our area. The campaign would last throughout March and April, but LRUCC would focus on it during Eastertide as to not detract from the Lenten programming. BOSJ will consider having the Easter offering support the campaign. In discussion, Stewardship suggested the committee consider the 2020 calendar for fundraising allocations/needs. It was also discussed to shift perhaps the Shrove Pancake offering and consider this event sponsoring Rise Against Hunger (RAH). It was decided that further discussion should be held with the Stewardship Committee to determine how funding could be planned and allocated for all the upcoming events and free will offerings. Follow up on how to proceed will be discussed at the upcoming BOSJ meeting on Sunday, February 16.

Pastor Alexis told the Council that the church received good news that Emily Mingus and Susan Kennedy on the CE board will be available to teach Godly Play during the Lent Suppers and Discussion. This will allow for more families with young children to participate and be involved in the Lent Soup Supper discussions.

### **Financial Update**

#### **Treasurer Report**

Carolyn Yocom distributed the financial overview report for the Council to review. She reported that the current line items may seem inflated since some members have processed their yearly giving for the whole year to be given in January. The staff payroll line item was lower because there were 3 payrolls in January. At this time all financial income and line items look good.

A question was asked about why there was still a balance in the Christmas Fund on the financial overview document. Pastor Alexis said that the checks to Christmas Fund recipients had just gone out earlier this week. Discussion followed to clarify how the Christmas Fund is dispersed every year, with current and former Treasurers at the meeting stating that we organize disbursements in order to make the UCC's "5 for 5" listing of churches that take up all 5 UCC-related offerings throughout the year.

#### **Stewardship**

Bruce Summers reviewed the plan to distribute the "Counting Our Blessings" financial information provided in the Sunday bulletins. He told the Council February 27, 2020 will mark the official 65th Anniversary of the founding of Little River. This past year we lost several of our last remaining founding members and other long-time members who contributed many decades of time, talent, and resources to build our congregation. In honor of our past members and in celebration of our 65th Anniversary, the Stewardship Committee would like to invite the congregation to donate \$.65 or more to fund current and emerging unmet needs of the church that were not included in our annual budget. Donations could be increments of \$.65, \$6.50, \$65.00, \$650.00, or more. In discussion, Council suggested written communication be sent out

via Current Tidings, the Sunday bulletin and newsletter, to the congregation with announcement of the fundraising plan prior to the anniversary date.

### **Trustees**

Andrew Hunter told the Council the Trustees will be meeting on Tuesday, February 18. At that meeting they will be focusing and targeting ways to save on utilities at the church. The Trustees have a target of \$1,000 they hope to save over the budget year in future utility costs. Andrew told the Council there was no further updates on the 2020 budget presented and approved at the Annual Meeting.

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

Judy Moats reported for BOSJ. She told the committee the private showing of the moving "*Just Mercy*" went very well with a very good attendance of over 175 people. The free will offering received funds of \$874.00. The plans for the funds are for 50% to be allocated for benevolences and 50% to support an organization working against the death penalty. It was noted those who attended the movie were from Little River, with others from Fairfax Presbyterian Church, NOVA students and The Friends of Guest House.

Chris Weakley reported for the Deacons. Lent will begin on Wed. Feb. 26 with Ash Wednesday service. Lent Program/Discussion and Soup dinners will begin Sunday March 1. The discussions for the suppers will be based on the book "*White Awake*". There will be a special music service on Sunday, March 29. Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 6. Several volunteers will be needed to make sure the services run smoothly.

Chris discussed with Council the possibility of inviting First Samoan Church to participate in a joint service with Little River for Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries Sunday which is celebrated on April 26. Pastor David offered to extend the invitation. Chris also mentioned the Deacons were discussing another possibility of reaching out to the Muslim community for a joint event during Ramadan, which runs from April 24-May 24.

Amanda Halstead reported for the Music Committee. The committee is requesting if a church meeting or activity is to be held in Room 8 to please request this through the church office so the event/meeting is scheduled on the church calendar. This will assist the Handbell Choir in setting up a location for rehearsal. The bells prefer to rehearse in Room 8 but can be flexible.

Carrie Douglas reported for the Nominations and Appointments Committee. The committee requests any updates to boards and committees for 2020 be given to Roberta Croll, Communications staff member so all information can be updated to the leadership roster which will be posted on the church website.

### **New Business**

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Larry Roth told the Council with the passing of the by-law change made and accepted at the Annual Meeting, the Ministry Board and Governance Board will begin meeting separately from the Council meeting. The schedule for these meeting will be coordinated in the next couple of months. He will be sending out communication on the schedule and plans to the Council for their review and comments/suggestions.

Pastor David encouraged all chairs of committees and boards to provide an accurate email so clean up of the Realm database can be completed. He also encouraged all chairs of committees/boards to download the app from the link that was emailed in January.

Pastor Alexis closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

After the conclusion and adjournment of the regular Church Council meeting, the Council reconvened to meet in Executive Session. Staff did not attend the Executive Session.