

Call for Annual Congregational Meeting

A PDF of this announcement and the Bylaws Changes is available here:
<https://www.lrucc.org/s/Official-Call-2023.pdf>

Members of Little River United Church of Christ are called to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023, shortly following the Sunday worship service at approximately 11:15 am. The meeting will be conducted in person and via Zoom at the same link as the Sunday worship service.

The business of the meeting will include:

- Remarks by the Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr., Interim Senior Pastor
- Receipt of the annual report and remarks from officers, board and committee chairs, and lay leaders
- Proposed change to bylaws (below)
- Informational presentation about approved Safe Community Policy
- Election of officers and members of boards and committees
- Endowment Fund distribution
- Financial updates and adoption of 2023 Budget
- Other business as appropriate
- Remarks for the good of the Church

February 2023
Rich Dodenhoff, Church Clerk

Proposed Bylaws Change

Council proposes amending Article VII of the Bylaws.

Current Bylaws:

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1, *Admission*. Any person desiring to become a member of this Church shall **submit an application** to a Pastor or the Board of Deacons. Admission shall be by one of the following means:

- a. On confession of faith.
- b. On presentation of a letter of transfer from another church.
- c. On reaffirmation of faith, if a letter is not available.

Persons who desire to actively support this Church, but retain membership in some other church may be admitted as Associate Members. They shall have all the rights and privileges of members.

SECTION 2, *Reception*. A person who accepts the spirit of the **Statement of Faith** and whose application has been approved by a Pastor or the Board of Deacons shall be received at a worship service or such other time as ordered by the Board of Deacons. Any who are unable to attend in public, may be received by a Pastor. Upon reception, all members shall be given a copy of these Bylaws.

SECTION 3, *Termination*. Church membership may be terminated by one of the following means:

1. The request of any member for a letter of transfer to another Christian Church may be granted by a Pastor

and such action reported to the Board of Deacons and to the Membership Clerk. Alternately, the Membership Clerk shall grant such letter upon approval of the request by the Board of Deacons. Membership shall cease upon issue of the letter. Letters addressed to churches in general shall not be granted.

2. If a member requests the termination of membership, the Church shall patiently endeavor to secure such member's continuance; but, failing such effort, the request shall be granted.
3. **Members whose addresses have long been unknown or who for a period of one year, in spite of kindly approaches, have not communicated with the Church may, by vote of the Board of Deacons and written report of such action to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, be transferred to the "Inactive List." If, after expiration of one additional year, their addresses are still unknown or they are unwilling to renew their active connection with the Church, their names may, by vote of the Board of Deacons and written report of such action to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, be removed from the roll. Upon the occasion of either report, if there should be objection to the action to transfer to the Inactive List or to removal from the roll, the action will be subject to the will of the congregation.**

d. Should a member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, the Church on recommendation of the Board of Deacons may censure, suspend, or terminate the membership of such members by a two-thirds vote at a special meeting; but only after due notice and hearing and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to amendment in accordance with the law of Christ (MATTHEW 18:15-17).

SECTION 4, *Restoration*. Any person whose name has been transferred to the Inactive List may be restored to full membership by vote of the Board of Deacons. Any person whose membership has been terminated may be readmitted by the usual means.

Proposed Bylaws

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1, *Admission*. Any person desiring to become a member of this Church shall convey this desire to a Pastor or the Board of Deacons. Admission shall be by one of the following means:

- a. On confession of faith.
- b. On presentation of a letter of transfer from another church.
- c. On reaffirmation of faith, if a letter is not available.

Persons who desire to actively support this Church, but retain membership in some other church may be admitted as Associate Members. They shall have all the rights and privileges of members.

SECTION 2, *Reception*. A person who accepts the spirit of the UCC Statement of Faith and whose application has been approved by a Pastor or the Board of Deacons shall be received at a worship service or such other time as ordered by the Board of Deacons. Any who are unable to attend in public, may be received by a Pastor. Upon reception, all members shall be given a copy of these Bylaws.

SECTION 3, *Termination*. Church membership may be terminated by one of the following means:

1. The request of any member for a letter of transfer to another Christian Church may be granted by a Pastor and such action reported to the Board of Deacons and to the Membership Clerk. Alternately, the Membership Clerk shall grant such letter upon approval of the request by the Board of Deacons. Membership shall cease upon issue of the letter. Letters addressed to churches in general shall not be granted.
2. If a member requests the termination of membership, the Church shall patiently endeavor to secure such member's continuance; but, failing such effort, the request shall be granted.
3. The Membership Clerk will consult the Board of Deacons and the Treasurer about identified members whose addresses are unknown and those who have not communicated with the church in the last year in spite of kindly approaches. The Membership Clerk shall then attempt to contact these members. If they do not respond to this contact or otherwise communicate with the church within six months, the membership clerk shall recommend removal from the membership roll. By vote of the Board of Deacons members shall be removed from the roll and this action will be included in the Membership Clerk's Annual Report.

d. Should a member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, the Church on recommendation of the Board of Deacons may censure, suspend, or terminate the membership of such members by a two-thirds vote at a special meeting; but only after due notice and hearing and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to amendment in accordance with the law of Christ (MATTHEW 18:15-17).

SECTION 4, *Restoration*. Any person whose membership has been terminated may be readmitted by the usual means.