

Little River United Church of Christ  
Annual Meeting  
January 29, 2017

Rob Peters, moderator, welcomed members and called the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Senior Pastor David Lindsey offered an opening prayer.

Rob announced the presence of a quorum and that the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting and the 2016 Reconvened Annual meeting had been approved by the Church Council. **Tom Ross moved to allow the Church Council to approve the minutes of this meeting. The motion was adopted by voice vote.**

Pastor David Lindsey observed that the past year was eventful in both painful and joyful ways. While the Rev. Hank Fairman ended his time with the church in the fall, an interim associate pastor search committee is in the process of identifying an interim replacement. We have lost some members and taken in new members resulting in increased Sunday worship attendance. More frequent fellowship dinners and a growing Christian Education program have enriched our lives.

The 2016 Annual Report containing reports from officers, boards, committees and staff was distributed. Rob asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions and noted that the Stewardship Committee is looking forward to expanded volunteer support. Barbara Lowrey said that Amanda Halstead's name was omitted from the Music Committee report.

Camille Brooks, chair of Nominations and Appointments Committee, thanked committee members and reported that several committee and board openings remain. She asked for additional nominations, hearing none, **George Leonard moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was affirmed** and the ballots distributed. After tabulating the ballots, Camille announced that 72 votes were cast and that **the proposed slate was unanimously elected.**

**Jean Wheelock moved to officially establish a Personnel Committee and make the associated by-laws changes.**

***The Personnel Committee shall consist of three members elected for a three-year term each, with one person being elected each year at the annual meeting. After serving two full terms, they shall be ineligible for re-election for one year. The committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending personnel policies, and assisting LRUCC members, lay staff, boards and committees in the administration and implementation of the personnel policies. The Committee shall report to the Governance Board.***

***Re-number current sections 10 and 11 to become sections 11 and 12.***

**The motion was adopted by voice vote without dissent.**

Carolyn Yocom, moderator-elect, referred members to the last page of the Annual Report, "Little River UCC 2016 Survey Results." She reported that compiling the results was complicated due to the overlap in categories and responses. Generally the survey responses indicate that we value our space and want to make the needed improvements to ensure its future. We want more pastoral support but are not sure what form that should take. There was less certainty on our governance and how we adapt to a changing society in terms of support for our building, programs and mission. She said the results should be thought of as the beginning of longer conversation.

Robin Petrusak, chair Board of Trustees, reported that the Board is requesting approval to borrow money for repairs to the church building. She said the Trustees have received an estimate of \$70,000 to replace the flat roof, and have an out-dated estimate for \$100,000 to repave the parking lot and drive way, however they want to engage an engineering firm to identify paving options before making any paving decisions. The Board also considers repair of the ceiling in the social hall to be a priority and would consider replacing the lights at an estimated cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000. Work is also needed on the siding. She provided examples of loan options from the UCC, but said the Trustees haven't decided which option to pursue.

**Robin moved to authorize the Commonwealth Trustees of the Little River United Church of Christ to borrow up to \$250,000 for the purpose of paying for major repairs to the church building and exterior grounds as identified by the Board of Trustees.** After discussion and agreement to call the questions, **motion passed without dissent by voice vote.**

Robin reported that the Endowment Fund has for the first time reached the point where it can begin to distribute earnings, \$12,000 this year. The Fund currently is valued at \$316,588 with a total contributed principal of \$268,453. By Endowment Fund Policy the distribution will be, 40% for outreach projects identified by the Board of Outreach and Social Justice (BOSJ), 30% to support innovative ministries for capital projects, 20% to support the church operating budget as requested by the Board of Trustees and 10% for scholarships or support of UCC-related institutions of higher education as requested by BOSJ.

Requests for endowment funding include:

- Outreach, BOSJ requests \$3,000 to join ACCA and \$1,800 for local and national benevolence;
- Innovation Ministry/Capital Projects, Communication Committee requests \$3,600 to proceed with redesign of the LRUCC website (total cost projected to be \$15,000);
- Support of Church Operations, Trustees request \$2,400 for the operating budget;
- Scholarships, BOSJ requests \$1,200 to start an endowed scholarship at Howard University

George Leonard, chair Endowment Committee reported that the committee has reviewed proposals and recommended their adoption. Robin said that the endowment distribution funds are included in the proposed budget and will be voted on as part of the budget.

Mary Summers, treasurer, reported that we ended 2016 with a positive balance of \$76,753 due to higher than expected income by 4% and lower than expected expenses by 7%. Actual expenses in 2016 were

- 60% for staff/contractors,
- 22% for operations/programs,
- 10% for benevolences,
- 1% for reserves and
- 7% unspent.

Benevolences totaled \$98,917 with an additional \$1000 distributed from the Thelma Morris Fund for mission related work. The major repair reserve fund was depleted to \$15,155 with the purchase of a new HVAC at a cost of \$58,320 which was partially offset by transfers and contributions. Funds invested at UC Funds averaged 6.76% return up from the 2.4% average over the past three years.

Mary reported that the church provides \$4,000 in benevolence to groups that use our facilities which could probably more accurately be valued at about \$30,000. She challenged boards and committees to make of use the designated funds, and noted that a contribution paid for the new chairs in the social hall.

Robin began the 2017 budget presentation by announcing good news. The Stewardship Campaign surpassed its target, there is the addition of \$2,400 from the Endowment Fund, and \$50,000 in carry over from 2016. The Board of Trustees prepared two budgets one with and one without using the carry over funds. When the carry over funds were added to the budget, they were used:

- 60% (\$30,000) for the Major Repair Reserve,
- 24% (\$12,000) for Benevolence,

- 10% (\$5,000) for Web-site Redesign and the remaining
- 6% (\$3,000) for Web-site Reserve.

The budget, including the carry over funds breaks down:

- 51% Staff
- 25% Operations
- 12% Benevolences
- 6% Programs
- 7% Reserves

She noted that the budget includes a 2% cost of living increase for staff, a 9% increase for medical, and 4% increase for dental insurance. A new line item has been added for projected monthly payments on loans for major repairs. Another new line has been added for staff appreciation. Estimates of non-pledge income, miscellaneous and building use income we retained from 2016 budget.

**Robin moved adoption of the proposed budget. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Tom Ross expressed appreciation to Rob and Ginny Peters for their church leadership. He also thanks Robin and the Board of Trustees for their work.

Dawn Forrest asked members for feedback on the move to one Service at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Comments included:

- It's nice to have everyone together.
- Sunday school teachers miss the opportunity to hear the sermon.
- We miss some of the people who regularly came to the 11 a.m. service.
- Without the second service, the service runs longer than some like.
- Fall is a good time to re-consider the change and think about what comes next.

David Lindsey speaking for BOSJ reported the board is concerned about ways in which transgendered people may feel uncomfortable in our building. The Board is considering genderless bathrooms, and would like feedback from the congregation.

He also reported that the Interim Associate Pastor Search Committee has received applications for the position and will be meeting soon to review the applications. He hopes that very soon after we have an interim associate pastor on board, we can begin the process for a settled associate pastor or pastors.

David also announced that the Silent Auction has been postponed and will be held at a later date. More information is forthcoming.

David led a benediction before Rob entertained a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Lingo  
Clerk