

**Little River United Church of Christ**  
Church Council Meeting  
December 10, 2014

**Present:**

Tom Ross, Moderator	
Cici Thompson, Moderator-elect (Absent), Past- Moderator	Rob Peters, Endowment Fund & Stewardship Committees
Ann Lingo, Clerk (Absent), Membership Clerk	(Absent), Music Committee
Dave Curtis, Treasurer	Heather Shackley, Communications Advisory Team (Absent), Nominations & Appointments
Gary Allen, Assistant Treasurer	(Absent), at large
Kent & Steve Rogers, Archivist/Historian	(Absent), at large
Mike Craven, Board of Christian Ed.	(Vacant), at large
Bruce Summers, Board of Deacons	(Absent), Personnel Committee
Karen Kleiber, Board of Outreach & Social Justice	David Lindsey, Senior Pastor
Joe Christianson & Ben Northrup, Board Trustees	Hank Fairman, Transitional Pastor for Faith Formation

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. As the evening devotional Tom asked those present to share Christmas moments they had recently experienced.

**REPORTS**

**Moderator:** Tom remarked that Advent is a very busy time of the year, and thanked those present for all their work. He reminded everyone that December 17<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Annual Reports to be submitted to the church office.

**Senior Pastor:** David started his report by noting last weekend there were five services including three worship services, the White Gift Service and a memorial service, and thanked the staff especially Hank, Ashton and Craig, as well as the Deacons for making it all happen. He expressed concern that staff and committees are communicating their 2015 needs in preparation for putting the budget together.

David has attempted to address the current racial and social justice issues in sermons, and knows these issues are causing anguish for members. A discussion followed regarding the complexity of the issues and the difficulty breaking down barriers to enable constructive dialogue among members of the community. David and Hank are looking toward Martin Luther King weekend as an opportunity to engage the congregation in meaningful dialogue.

**Transitional Pastor for Faith Formation:** Hank reported that our partners in faith have called us to join in a vigil this Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> along 16<sup>th</sup> Street from Silver Spring to the White House asking President Obama to take meaningful action in the fight for racial justice. LRUCC will join Lincoln Temple UCC and First Congregational UCC by lining several blocks with participants and luminary. There will also be an action led by the Rev. Al Sharpton on Saturday at Freedom Plaza in the District. This Sunday the Faith and Film series will continue the dialogue. There were suggestions for ways to share LRUCC's history and stance on racial justice issues with the local community. Tom urged that we share outreach ideas with David and Hank.

**Stewardship:** Rob reported the Stewardship Committee has received 2015 pledges for approximately \$592,000 from 137 givers. His best estimate is that there are still 41 givers who can be expected to pledge about \$67,800. Adding additional income of \$55,000 from other sources brings the total expected income to approximately \$715,000. This is significantly lower than the campaign goal of \$800,000. Fifty-five givers have increased their pledges while a significant number have reduced pledges. The average pledge is above that of 2014. Rob is thinking about a Stewardship education effort for early 2015 that he thinks may raise some additional revenue.

**Treasurer:** Dave continues to expect that we'll end up in the black this year, but with less revenue than last year. All vouchers for 2014 purchases must be in the office by December 28<sup>th</sup> if they are to be paid in 2014. Dave shared proposed policies from the Finance Committee for Special Fund Raising and Other Appeals and for Capital Equipment. He asked members to read the policies for discussion at a future meeting. In regard to the Special Funding Raising and Other Appeals proposed policy, there was a discussion of the need to discern our vision before deciding on a policy to resource that vision.

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**Minutes:** Council deferred action on November Governance Board meeting minutes to the next Governance Board Meeting.

**Proposed resolution:** The Board of Outreach and Social Justice (BOSJ) would like the congregation to adopt the Dismantling the New Jim Crow resolution at the Annual Meeting. The resolution supports Resolutions and Pronouncements of the General Synod. The Central Atlantic Conference is asking congregations to adopt the resolution which calls for congregations to educate members on how African American men are being marginalized and to take action to dismantle the institutional support for the New Jim Crow. Discussion followed regarding whether or not the congregation will be ready to vote on the resolution. It was noted BOSJ has sponsored several forums in the past couple of years on the status of racial justice. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to put the resolution on Dismantling New Jim Crow to a vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting.** Information about the resolution will be made available to the congregation.

**Process for putting together the 2015 budget:** Church officers developed the follow proposal for the 2015 budget process:

A budget working group consisting of representatives of the Trustees, Deacons, Board of Outreach and Social Justice (BOSJ), Christian Education, two members at large from the Governance Board, and the Moderator and Moderator-Elect will provide guidance and set priorities for the Board of Trustees to use in preparing the proposed 2015 budget.

Using this guidance as well as updated Stewardship estimates, projected income and anticipated expenses, the Board to Trustees will draft the 2015 budget for review and coordination with the Church Council at their meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The proposed 2015 budget, as coordinated with the Church Council, will be presented by the Trustees, with assistance from Deacons, BOSJ and Christian Education, for adoption at the congregational meeting on January 25.

After a short discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to move forward using the budget process as proposed above.**

**Year end business:** Tom reminded everyone of deadlines of December 17<sup>th</sup> for annual reports and December 28<sup>th</sup> for vouchers. Nomination and appointments are still working to fill a few vacancies. David and Hank asked to be consulted on the status of appointments. Dave Curtis distributed a short list of proposed By-Laws

changes that he thinks should come before the congregation at the Annual Meeting and requested people think about them before the January Council meeting. Tom reported that the Organizational Renewal Committee is recommending that the organizational changes adopted at the 2013 Annual meeting be continued with an evaluation and report back to the congregation mid-2015. Hank asked that committees review the orphan programs they adopted last year to make sure they know which programs they are responsible for and that they are willing to continue supporting those programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with a closing prayer by David.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Lingo  
Clerk

Attachment: Dismantling the New Jim Crow

Next Meeting:

**Church Council – Wednesday, January 14**

## 1 Dismantling The New Jim Crow

2 WHEREAS, Paul in Galatians 3:26 writes, “You are all sons of God  
3 through faith in Christ Jesus,” and in verse 28, he continues, “There is  
4 neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all  
5 one in Christ Jesus”;

6 WHEREAS, Paul in Galatians 5:1 declares to us that “It is for freedom  
7 that Christ has set us free” and exhorts us to “Stand firm, then, and do  
8 not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”;

9 WHEREAS, the prophet Isaiah admonishes “those who make unjust  
10 laws, . . . who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their  
11 rights and withhold justice from the oppressed . . .” (Isaiah 10:1-2);

12 WHEREAS, the acceptance of Black people of African descent, as  
13 children of God entitled to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,”  
14 has been a problem for our country as manifested in the three-fifths  
clause of The Constitution Of The United States,<sup>1</sup> 15 in the institution of  
slavery,<sup>2</sup> and in the brutal enforcement of Jim Crow laws;<sup>3</sup> 16

17 WHEREAS, the will of the American people on this issue has been  
18 enunciated through the sacrifice of the Civil War, the abolition of  
slavery,<sup>4</sup> the amending of The Constitution,<sup>5</sup> 19 and the overthrow of Jim  
Crow;<sup>6</sup> 20

21 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the manifestation of the will of the  
22 American people, the enforcement of the so-called War On Drugs has  
23 stripped and continues to deprive millions of African American men of  
basic rights guaranteed to other citizens of The United States;<sup>7</sup> 24

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WHEREAS, millions of African American 25 men are currently under  
control of the criminal justice system,<sup>8</sup> 26 unable to vote or to serve on  
27 juries but able to be discriminated against legally in employment,  
housing, and federal assistance;<sup>9</sup> 28

29 WHEREAS, African Americans are prosecuted more often, receive  
30 longer sentences, and serve longer terms than White Americans for  
violations of laws prohibiting the use or distribution of drugs;<sup>10</sup> 31

32 WHEREAS, even though the rate of drug use among White and Black  
33 Americans is the same, men of color comprise sixty-six percent of  
people in prison for using drugs;<sup>11</sup> 34

35 WHEREAS, young African American men comprise fourteen percent of  
36 young men in The United States, yet comprise forty percent of young  
men in prison;<sup>12</sup> 37

38 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of The United States has held that such  
39 glaring disparities are inadmissible as reasons to bring action to remedy  
such injustices,<sup>13</sup> 40 even in states in which ninety percent of people

imprisoned for violations of drug laws are African Americans;14 41  
42 WHEREAS, General Synods of The United Church Of Christ have passed  
43 resolutions and pronouncements calling the Church to action to help  
44 find solutions to the resurgence of racism, the seemingly endless War  
45 on Drugs, the problem of mass incarceration and the growth of the  
46 prison-industrial complex, and the reality of racial and class bias in  
47 arrests and sentencing, as well as resolutions and pronouncements  
48 calling the Church to seek justice in policing, housing, and employment  
49 for people who have served felony sentences, to address inadequate  
50 legal representation for the indigent, to provide training and

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rehabilitation for prison inmates, and to restore 51 voting rights for people  
who have served their sentences;15 52

53 WHEREAS, the War on Drugs continues, with the result that The United  
54 States, with only five percent of the world's population, incarcerates  
55 twenty-five percent of the world's prisoners, the highest percentage of  
56 incarceration in the world;

57 WHEREAS, in some of our largest cities, the high school dropout rate is  
over fifty percent;16 58 in public schools across America, only ten percent  
of eighth grade Black males read at or above a proficient level;17 59 and, in  
60 our national capital, it is predicted that **three** of every **four** young  
African American males can expect to serve time in prison;18 61 and  
62 WHEREAS, more African American men are disenfranchised today than  
63 in 1870, the year the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution was  
ratified;19 64

65 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Atlantic Conference of  
66 The United Church Of Christ supports and reaffirms General Synod  
67 Resolutions and Pronouncements calling the Church to action to focus  
68 attention on, and to help find solutions for, eliminating racism in all its  
69 guises, ending the War on Drugs, stopping mass incarceration and the  
70 growth of the prison-industrial complex, ending racial and class bias in  
71 arrests and sentencing, implementing justice in policing, housing, and  
72 employment for people who have served felony sentences, addressing  
73 inadequate legal representation for the indigent, providing training and  
74 rehabilitation for prison inmates, and restoring voting rights for people  
who have served their sentences;20 75

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each association 76 and congregation of  
77 the Central Atlantic Conference be encouraged to:

78 1. Educate its members how, under the New Jim Crow, African  
79 American men are being marginalized by being forced into a caste  
80 of second class citizens who have no right to vote or to serve on a  
81 jury and who are barred from receiving federal assistance or public  
housing;21 82

83 2. Take action to dismantle the institutional support and insidious  
84 effects of the New Jim Crow;

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that new emphasis be placed on the  
86 implementation of the Prudential Resolution, Sacred Conversations on  
Race, approved by General Synod 27;22 87 and

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, if approved, be put in  
89 the proper form by the Board of Directors of The Central Atlantic  
90 Conference for submission to General Synod 30.

1 U.S. Const. art. 1, sec. 2.

2 Lerone Bennett, Jr., *Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America*.

3 Douglas Blackmon, *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black People in America from the Civil War to World War II*. (New York: Doubleday, 2008); John Hope Franklin and Alfred Moss, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, 8th edition. (New York: Knopf, 2008); and Gilbert King, *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America*. (New York: Harper, 2012).

4 U.S. Const. amend. XIII.

5 U.S. Const. amend. XIV, XV.

6 *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) and The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. 83-352, 78 Stat. 241 (1964).

7 Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. (New York: The New Press, 2010), 59.

8 *Ibid.*, 57.

9 *Ibid.*, 59.

10 Human Rights Watch, "Punishment and Prejudice: Racial Disparities in the War on Drugs." HRW Reports, Vol. 12, No. 2 (May, 2000).

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11 The Sentencing Project – [sentencingproject.org/template/page.cfar?id=122](http://sentencingproject.org/template/page.cfar?id=122).

12 The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, "Race, Ethnicity & Health Care." July, 2006.

13 *McClesky v. Kemp*, 481 U.S. 279 (1989).

14 Human Rights Watch.

15 "Prophetic Actions and Social Policy Statements, 1957-2011." Report to the Board of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, (March, 2012), 6,7

16 Michael Gerson, "The Overlooked Plight of Black Males." *The Washington Post*, December 13, 2012.

17 US Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress.

18 Michelle Alexander, 6.

19 *Ibid.*, 175.

20 "Prophetic Actions and Social Policy Statements, 1957-2011," 6.

21 Michelle Alexander, 17.

22 "Sacred Conversations on Race." General Synod 27, 2009.

#### **RESOURCES**

1. Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press. 2010.

2. Blackmon, Douglas A. *Slavery By Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*. Doubleday.

3. Gerson, Michael. "The Overlooked Plight of Black Males." *The Washington Post*, December 13, 2012.

4. "Incarceration in The United States", Wikipedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/incarceration\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/incarceration_in_the_United_States).

5. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. "Race, Ethnicity And Health Care." July, 2000.
6. Nagel, William G. *The New Red Barn: A Critical look at the Modern American Prison*. Walker & Co.
7. Rothman, David J. *The Discovery of the Asylum*. Google e-Book.
8. The Sentencing Project.org.
9. United Church Of Christ General Resolutions. (There are about 20)
10. United States Department of Education. "National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)."

**This resolution has been endorsed by the Central Atlantic Conference Board of Directors.**