

Little River United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting
September 23, 2015

PRESENT:

(Absent), Acting Moderator	Dave Curtis, Comptroller
Tom Ross, Past- Moderator	Steve Wheelock, Music Committee
Ann Lingo, Clerk	Hube Beckwith, Communications Advisory Team
Dee Cardiff, Membership Clerk	Roy Brooks, Nominations & Appointments
(Absent), Treasurer	Bruce Douglas, at large
(Vacant), Archivist/Historian	John Forrest, at large
Carolyn Yocom, Board of Christian Ed.	(Vacant), at large
Kathleen Styles, Board of Deacons	David Lindsey, Senior Pastor
Amy Mireku, Board of Outreach & Social Justice	Hank Fairman, Transitional Pastor for Faith Formation
Ben Northrup, Board of Trustees	
Jen Beckman, Stewardship	

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Carolyn offered an opening devotional thought and prayer.

Minutes: David noted that the minutes of the August Governance Board meeting state the fall Congregational meeting date as October 18. That was correct at the time of the meeting, but the date has since been changed to October 11. Tom requested that approval of the minutes of the August Governance Board meeting be postponed until the next Governance Board meeting.

Treasurer's report: In Gary's absence Dave Curtis reported that presently we can expect a \$30,000 to \$40,000 deficit in the 2015 operating budget. Though the shortfall is too great to be covered by reduced expenses, the Governance Board and the Trustees have urged all boards, committees and staff to minimize the deficit by limiting spending as much as possible. Separately, the cash particularly in the General Fund in the local bank is low so the Treasurer transferred money invested in the United Church Funds to the local bank account. Currently he has moved \$10,000 with the expectation that additional transfers will be needed. With the recent deaths of Nelia McLuckie and Judy Davidson, the Endowment Fund has received additional funds. The Endowment Fund is nearing the point where it can begin to disburse money per the Endowment Fund policy.

The Building fund currently has a negative balance of over \$18,000. The Finance Committee is recommending that the negative balance should be zeroed out so that any future building fund will not start with a negative balance. To that end they are recommending that \$18,277.31 be transferred from the general fund to the Building Fund. They also recommend that the Building Fund liability to repay the Parsonage Fund \$30,000 and the Jubilee Fund liability to repay the Parsonage fund the \$20,000 should be cancelled. The Parsonage Fund current has more than enough funds to meet its current projected needs. The Finance Committee believes that after additional consideration and endorsement by the Trustees and the Church Council these recommendations must be approved by the congregation. The Council deferred discussion and action on these recommendations until a future meeting.

Senior Pastor's report: David noted that we have lost two pillars of the church in Judy Davidson and Nelia McLuckie. He expressed his thanks to all those who attended their services last week and especially to those who helped with the services and reception. He noted that many in the church have had strong relationships

with previous LRUCC pastors. In difficult and emotional times members may wish to turn to previous pastors, but only LRUCC current pastors are eligible to provide pastoral care and officiate at services.

David has been looking at the timing for the two Sunday services. He finds that on communion Sundays the first service runs about 65 minutes and the second 55 minutes.

Report from Transitional Pastor for Faith Formation: Hank reports that Sunday school classes are up and running with 90 registered participants and an expectation of 50-60 participants on any given Sunday. PF members have changed their meeting time to mid-afternoon to avoid conflicts with other activities. The children's choirs are also adjusting their rehearsal times. Since only one young person is eligible for confirmation this year, there will not be a confirmation class until next year.

Hank has been working with the Membership Clerks past and present (Dee and Bunny Jones) and Rob to update the membership roster. Letters have been sent out to people who have not participated recently and/or are no longer residents asking if they desire to maintain their relationship with LRUCC. Replies have been prompt. The committee expects to change the status of about 200 individuals. Including children, this will leave LRUCC with about 600 active members.

Moderator's Report: Tom reported that Scott O'Con has resigned from his at-large position on the Council. Tom thanked David and Hank for their extra efforts during the past couple of weeks.

LRUCC Mission and Vision: David said he believes the Vision comes from God and the congregation embraces (or gets excited about) the Vision. Using the proposed governance model, the Governance Board enables the Vision and the Ministry team implements the Vision. The governance model pictures overlapping circles with the Governance Board in one circle and the Ministry Board in the other. The space where the circles overlap, which is the largest portion of the model, David sees as the space where the congregation embraces the vision.

After the Holy Conversations in the spring, David paired the results of the conversations with local demographics. The Conversation results and demographics are currently on display in the social hall. This fall he has organized a Vision Team to develop a proposed Vision for LRUCC using the gathered information and demographics. Team members are Denny Bloomquist, Gail Perry, Sandra Honeysett, Steve Wheelock, Carrie Douglas, John Forrest, Lisa Page, and Marilyn Sailor. The team is expected to present their findings at the annual meeting in January. Meanwhile members of the committee will be collecting and processing the thoughts and wishes of the congregation. Discussion followed.

Report and Recommendations on Church Governance: Tom presented the recommendations of the Church Governance Renewal Committee. Their proposal is to replace the current Church Council with two Boards, a Governance Board and a Ministry Board. The Governance Board would be chaired by the Moderator and consist of the Past Moderator, the Moderator-elect, the Treasurer, Church Clerk and at-large members who would serve as liaisons with other boards and committees. The Senior Pastor would be a non-voting member of the Governance Board. The board would have responsibility for fiscal resources, personnel, building and grounds, and the budget. Sub-committees of the Governance Board could include Nominations and Appointments, Safe Church Committee, Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees. The Senior Pastor would be responsible to the Governance Board.

The Ministry Board would be chaired by the Senior Pastor. It would consist of representatives of the boards of Deacons, Christian Education, Outreach and Social Action, the Music and Stewardship committees as well as the

Communications Advisory Team, Membership Clerk and Historian. The Ministry Board would be responsible for creating and coordinating programs and activities that embrace the Vision.

The Governance and Ministry Boards would provide a unified structure for making governance decisions and a unified structure of making ministry decisions. There would be a firm and well marked boundary between the boards with active mutual communication and accountability between governance and ministry. The boards would have joint annual planning and evaluation retreats. In this model, Governance enables the Vision while Ministry carries out the church Vision.

In addition to creating two new boards the Governance Renewal Committee wants to take a look at the committee structure with the goal of reducing elected committee size while at the same time increasing participation of the membership by providing more opportunities for limited involvement in church programs. Discussion followed.

Tom thanked those present for their input and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. David closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lingo
Clerk