

**Little River United Church of Christ**  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2017

**PRESENT:**

Carolyn Yocom, Moderator  
Jean Wheelock, Clerk  
(Absent), Membership Clerk  
Mary Summers, Treasurer  
Gary Allen, Comptroller  
(Absent), Archivist/Historian  
David Roach, Board of Christian Education  
Clark Beil, Board of Deacons  
Nancy Hall, Board of Outreach & Social Justice  
Ben Northrup, Board of Trustees

(Absent), Stewardship Committee  
George Leonard, Endowment Committee  
(Absent), Music Committee  
(Absent), Communications Committee  
(Absent), Nominations & Appointments  
(Absent) Personnel Committee  
Bruce Douglas, at large  
(Absent), at large  
John Mingus, at large  
David Lindsey, Senior Pastor

Carolyn opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with a prayer.

Carolyn apologized for the short notice and asked us to be intentional in our time spent in meetings. She said she would circulate the agenda earlier and would ask people to submit items with a time estimate for the agenda item.

Hearing no objections, the minutes of the Church Council for January, 2017, stand approved as written.

[David Lindsey arrived.]

**Pastor's Report.** David welcomed new members to the council and that he sees the Council's work as strategy and vision. He indicated that there are very positive signs of life in our church, including a successful stewardship campaign and more members joining. The weak spot is staffing – things are getting done, but it's sloppy. Pastoral care is not as robust as should be. Interim Search committee has two applications. The committee will review the applications soon. No interviews are set yet.

**The Council went into Executive Session on personnel matters.**

**Treasurer.** Mary Summers stated that the treasurer's report will come out mid-month as it takes the new accountant who comes twice a month (at \$180 an hour) longer to compile. We have moved to enforce two signatures on a check, and we can expect check signing just once a week. The free will offering at the Asheville contingent for the Women's March raised about \$800 against \$850 of expenses. With a possibility of more free will offerings they will created a pass-through account. Different formats. The building fund was opened, but it needs to have a description with it. The BB&T – Joe Christensen had been on the bank account – five attended BB&T to change names. Ben is now owner of general fund. Robin Petrusak, Ben Northrup, Gary Allen, Comptroller (appointed by the Trustees), Michelle Mitchel, Assistant Treasurer (appointed by the Trustees), and Mary now have check signing authority.

**Trustees.** Ben discussed his effort to streamline financial data. He is not ready for feedback yet. Monthly reports are done in Excel. Carolyn offered John as a resource for Excel. Ben and George emphasized: we must identify the cost of having our building. Power pole re placement update. Mike Nagy worked on the front doors; new doors ordered, will be delivered, installed soon. Robin has agreed to continue as chair of Trustees.

**Comptroller.** Gary Allen presented request for a change in the Housing Allowance for David Lindsey. In the past, it's been 50 -50. David requested an increase to \$50,000 for housing for the allowance. Gary moved that we approve an increase of his housing allowance to \$50,000 per year to be effective February 1, 2017. Ben seconded. David stated that Carrie advised him that rent and utilities would be \$49,800. The motion passed unanimously.

**Commissioning church leaders** will be Feb. 26. Ordination of new Deacons could be done on same Sunday. No roster of new leaders is available yet.

**Meetings.** Setting the meetings for the year - Carolyn stated that all GB meetings are on the calendar, whereas no ministry or Church Council meetings are. Discussion re setting effective timing and agenda for Council meetings. Carolyn appreciates people made themselves available on short notice. Communication between Council and Boards and Committees is two-way street. Carolyn's preference is to have separate Ministry Board meetings from Council. It was generally agreed that the Ministry Board would meet 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of month are open, and the Governance Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month. Church Council must meet once a quarter.

**Silent Auction.** David stated he had neglected to obtain permission for the Silent Auction. Fund Raising needs to be approved by the GB. Members inquired about the purpose of the fund raiser. Doreen Manchester had gone to David with the idea and suggested the money should go to building and grounds. George Leonard moved to approve Silent Auction with money going to Building and grounds. John seconded. Discussion re what might be more appropriate wording. Gary Allen suggested "Building Fund" which would be under the auspices of the Trustees. The GB could wrestle with how to apply funds. Friendly amendment. Another friendly amendment added that expenses to be reimbursed out of proceeds.

Final motion to approve Silent Auction with proceeds going to Building Fund with expenses to be reimbursed out of proceeds. David Roach approved the friendly amendment. Discussion re whether we are promoting externally and whether an event would be held simultaneously. Music event? Open Mic – meal? Mary moved to table the amendment pending more information in writing. Bruce seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**David** – second item re Communication. Sunday's visitor was a pick-pocket. Money stolen, but believes it's been returned as she was apprehended. David indicated possible responses, but doesn't want church to overreact; isn't looking for responses yet, but give it some thought and prayer.

**Carolyn summarized information to take back to boards and committees:** 1. Check signing delay, 2. Feb. 26 commissioning, 3. Dates of meetings, 4. Theft at church. Last - Communication as a church. Different avenues – how to do as efficiently, but as broadly as possible.

**Retreat date for Council will be set.** Most preferred a Saturday time. George Leonard emphasized that effective communication is two-way street. We need to provide avenues for feedback from the congregation. Carolyn

said that a church potluck as a possibility on Feb. 26. George said for every action we look at – how do we inform congregation and how do we get feedback on it?

**N&A.** David stated that N&A committee is frustrated. Check w/ your Boards and Committees re members: Why did they leave? Why were they hesitant to serve? Obstacles to serving? What are the opportunities for serving?

**Building Fund.** Gary moved to have the treasurer activate the building fund to accept contributions. John seconded. Motion approved.

David closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wheelock  
Church Clerk