

Little River United Church of Christ
Governance Board Minutes
August 12, 2015

Present:

(Absent), Moderator	John Forrest, at large
Rob Peters, Moderator-elect	Scott O'Con, at large
Tom Ross, Past- Moderator	Kathleen Styles, Deacons
Ann Lingo, Clerk	Dave Curtis, Comptroller
Gary Allen, Treasurer	Jean Wheelock, Personnel Committee
Joe Christiansen & Ben Northrup, Board of Trustees	David Lindsey, Senior Pastor
Bruce Douglas, at large	

Tom Ross called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. David led an opening prayer.

Senior Pastor Report: In response to a recently published study by the Pew Research Center, David focused on the diversity portion of our church tag line, "Welcoming diversity, independent thought, and faithful action." Comparing the racial diversity among adults in the U.S., here is how LRUCC looks:

	National	LRUCC's geographic area	UCC	LRUCC
Whites	66%	54%	89%	95%
Latinos	15%	16%		
African American	12%	10%	8%	
Asian	4%	16%		
Other/everything else	3%	4%	3%	5%

There was agreement that these numbers are not a surprise and that reaching out to diverse groups is difficult.

Moderator Position: Because Cici has been extremely ill and will remain under medical care for some time, she is currently unable to fulfill the duties of the moderator. The by-laws designate the past-moderator as the person to step in when the moderator is unable to conduct business. However, due to the anticipated time involved, Tom suggested that Rob as moderator-elect is the appropriate person to step in and fill the moderator position. **Bruce moved and it was seconded that Rob Peters be approved to serve as acting-moderator for as long as needed. The motion was approved.**

Minutes: Tom moved that the minutes of the June Governance Board be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

Visioning Process: To move the Visioning process forward, David would like to appoint a task force of 5-7 individuals. This group will meet with him, and using the results of the spring Visioning Sessions as well as demographic data, they will develop a LRUCC Vision including specific suggestions for programs and activities. Their report will be the basis of a Visioning discussion at the Fall Congregational meeting. **Tom moved and it was seconded and approved to appoint a Visioning Task Force of 5 to 7 members to develop a report with specific recommendations for the Council and congregation.**

Treasurer's Report: Gary reported that while we are a bit ahead on non-pledge income and expenses, income is about \$33,000 short of the amount expected. This is due to the combination of optimistic budgeting and some

revised pledges due to moves or life circumstances. Additionally about \$22,000 which was donated in December 2014 for the 2015 budget was erroneously credited as 2014 income. Combining all of these things income is expected to be about \$50,000 short of the 2015 budget. David noted that several boards and committees gave up significant portions of their budgets to balance the budget in the first place. He has alerted staff to the need to reduce expenses. The Governance Board agreed with Rob asking all boards and committees to limit expenses, and the Trustees will consider budget cutting opportunities.

The Endowment Fund recently received a gift of \$22,000. The fund is now within \$23,000 of meeting the minimum \$250,000 required before the church can begin to use earnings from the Endowment.

Rob reported that he is interested in applying to the Trinity Trust for a challenge grant of \$25,000 in 2016 and \$15,000 in 2017. The grant would enable the Stewardship Committee and Rob to create educational materials aimed at developing new pledging units.

Personnel Committee: The committee received the results of a legal review of the LRUCC Employee Handbook by Tiffany Releford of the Whiteford, Taylor and Preston. Jean has reviewed the results with David. She will email the changes suggested by Ms. Releford to board members for their review before the next meeting with the expectation that the changes can be approved at the September meeting. The charge for the legal review came to just under \$1000 including a courtesy discount.

Ministry Board: Rob reported that the Opportunities for Generosity Policy has been approved by the Ministry Board and forwarded to the Finance Committee and Trustees for comment. Rob expects to have the policy ready for approval at the October meeting.

New Business: David will be conducting annual reviews with the staff during the latter part of this month. The Governance Board is responsible for annual reviews of the pastors. Tom suggested that we need to initiate a system for evaluating our programs and will follow up with suggestions he has gleaned from a new book, "Completing the Circle."

Fall Calendar: The Fall Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, October 18. The agenda will include a vote to honor Verne Arens as a Pastor Emeritus of Little River UCC as well as discussions of a new governance model proposal and of the task force's report on a LRUCC Vision and programs.

Consecration Sunday will be on October 25th. Advent dates are: Fun Shops on November 29th, Advent Spiral on December 6, White Gift Service on December 13, and Blue Christmas on December 20.

David closed the meeting at 9:10 p.m. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lingo
Clerk

The next Governance Board meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9.

The next Church Council meeting is currently scheduled for October 14.

Please note these are tentative as it may be necessary to schedule a Council meeting before October 14.