

Little River United Church of Christ
Governance Board Meeting
November 11, 2015

PRESENT:

Rob Peters, Acting Moderator
Tom Ross, Past- Moderator
Gary Allen, Treasurer
Joe Christiansen, Board of Trustees
John Forrest, at large
Bruce Douglas, at large
Dave Curtis, Comptroller
Jean Wheelock, Personnel Committee
David Lindsey, Senior Pastor
Clerk, Absent

Rob called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and offered an opening devotional and prayer. Tom Ross offered to serve as recording secretary for the meeting in the absence of Ann Lingo.

Minutes: August 12 meeting of the governance board minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion for approval made by Joe, seconded by Bruce.

Senior Pastor's report: David reported that the advent calendar of events will be going out to the congregation by the end of the week, mentioning that key events including advent funshops, white gift service and other events are posted on the church calendar. Thanks to Christina Fairman for her lead on the advent funshops; he also noted that the Christmas Eve service for families will start at 4:00 pm this year.

David provided an update on the "visioning" process which includes a working group composed of a diverse group of LRUCC members who are working to refine and identify a vision for LRUCC. Included in that group are Sandra Honeysett, John Forrest, Dennis Bloomquist, Carrie Douglas, Lisa Page, Gail Perry, Steve Wheelock, Marilyn Saillor. Working with David, it is anticipated that they will have a draft "vision" and a prospective on who we are as a congregation to be ready for action at the annual congregational meeting scheduled for January 31, 2015. There will be an opportunity for "town hall" discussions with the congregation on December 13 & 20.

Treasurer's report: Gary provided copies of the treasurer's report and highlighted a few key items: 1) pledge income is up as we near the end of the year; 2) Board and committees are responding well to the anticipated shortfall helping to reduce expenses, 3) the actual shortfall may be closer to \$30,000 as opposed to \$50,000; 4) there have been three significant financial gifts in recent months.

Trustees: Joe Christiansen reported that the Trustees have approved a contract with Trade Masters to replace the heating unit for the Sanctuary which failed recently. Target date for the completion of their work is December 1.

The church recently received a contribution from an anonymous donor to purchase and install handrails for the sanctuary to assist those who have physical challenges in assisting in worship. Trustees are the lead for this and are investigating various options.

Trustees have the lead in putting together a draft budget for 2016. A budget call has gone out to board and committees with a deadline of November 15.

Finally, Joe reported that LRUCC member Jay Shackley completed his Boy Scout eagle project on November 7 which consisted of an erosion project to decrease water flow near the front entrance. This along with other measures may help with drainage issues affecting the front doors of the church.

Personnel Committee: Jean Wheelock reported on the review of the LRUCC Employee handbook by a local attorney with expertise in personnel. After a brief discussion, a motion to approve the “revisions” was made by Jean and seconded by Tom. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee: Dave Curtis requested Governing Board action to propose to the congregation at the annual meeting an action to have the Building Fund deficit (funds have previously been approved for building purposes) be written off by transferring \$18,227.31 from the general fund. In addition the building fund liability to repay the Parsonage Fund the \$30 k loan and the Jubilee Fund liability to repay the Parsonage Fund the \$20 k loan should both be cancelled. This will be an action for consideration by the congregation at the annual meeting in January. Gary Allen moved and Bruce Douglas seconded for approval. The motion passed unanimously. A full report on this action is attached.

Wedding Policy: This action was tabled; Acting Moderator Peters will take the lead and report back at a future date.

LRUCC Generosity Policy: Jen Beckman reported and shared a proposed policy regarding special opportunities for generosity which was prepared by the Ministry Board (see attached). This policy would provide guiding principles to place a framework around financial and other special drives during the year. Bruce moved and Tom seconded for approval. In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that the guidelines are intended to promote dialogue and discussion. Tom proposed one change to the document under the final principle, stating that “Opportunities for generosity” should be coordinated *and approved by the Ministry Board*, so that activities, offerings and projects”..... It was suggested that this policy should be posted on the web site and shared with the boards and committees of the church. Motion carried unanimously with change as proposed.

Stewardship report: Jen reported that as of November 11, a total of 77 pledges for 2016 have been received totaling approximately \$400,000, with a good number of potential pledges still outstanding. The Stewardship committee is following up with letters and phone calls to those who have not pledged. Jen reported that about 30% of pledges received this year included some increase in giving.

Organizational report: Tom provided an overview of the proposed principles and recommendations on “restructuring” our governance proposal (see attached write-up). In addition, it is suggested that the boards and committees be asked to review their responsibilities, develop a written charter and consider what a “core” number of members would be needed to manage and lead their committee efforts. This could lead to a reduction in number of committee members and allow volunteers to work on various projects rather than having to attend all committee members. Further discussion with church leaders and church members will take place in December with a recommendation to the congregational meeting in January for action.

Other Items:

The Endowment Committee has completed draft revisions to the endowment policy. These are administrative changes that do not affect the substance of the policy. The amendments will be presented at the annual meeting.

The church membership clerk, pastoral staff and others have been reviewing the church membership and sending out letters to inactive members so our "rolls" and directory can more accurately list those who are involved with LRUCC. Recommendations will be made to the annual meeting in January for any changes in status.

Rob thanked those present for their input and adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m. David closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Ross

Proposed LRUCC Policy Regarding Special Opportunities for Generosity

Prepared by the Ministry Board

Guiding Principles

- LRUCC is a place of worship where opportunities for generosity, in addition to annual support of the church's operating budget, can enhance our relationship with each other and with our faith.
- Stewardship activities, which are intentional gifts and pledges to support LRUCC (including 4 special offerings),¹ are critical to the well-being of the church and operate outside of this policy.²
- Certain Boards and Committees have budgeted funds that are approved by the congregation to be spent providing activities, offerings, and projects that support benevolence partners as well as the wider United Church of Christ.
- “Opportunities for generosity” are instances where congregational members have the option to participate in and contribute to activities, offerings, and projects that support
 - LRUCC and its ministries
 - LRUCC benevolence partners,
 - UCC-wide activities, and
 - ad hoc needs that arise in our community and the wider world.
- “Opportunities for generosity” should be coordinated and approved by the Ministry Board so that activities, offerings, and projects
 - do not overlap, and therefore compete or conflict, with each other;
 - do not create an atmosphere of continual fund raising that may negatively affect the worship experience or giving for support of the church's ministries ; and
 - do not compete or conflict with stewardship campaign activities.

Steps for Implementing Opportunities for Generosity

- In general, opportunities for generosity are subject to the calendar setting process, which is coordinated and overseen by the Ministry Board. To the extent possible, after input from boards and committees, the Ministry Board publishes in September a calendar of special offerings and opportunities for generosity for the coming year with the understanding that adjustments may arise as specific, unanticipated needs arise. Once on the calendar, the giving opportunities may be publicized via LRUCC’s social media sites, web page, and newsletter with the assistance of the communications team. At the discretion of the Senior Minister, announcements may also be made in the bulletin and prior to the beginning of worship services or as a moment for mission during worship.

1

The four special offerings are (1) One Great Hour of Sharing, (2) Strengthen the Church, (3) Neighbors in Need, and (4) Christmas.

2

This should note the By-Laws and Documents related to stewardship.

- Ad hoc opportunities for generosity, as deemed appropriate by the ministry board and with the assistance of the Senior Minister, may be publicized via LRUCC's social media sites, web page, and newsletters with the assistance of the communications team. At the discretion of the Senior Minister, information about such opportunities may be included in the Sunday bulletin and/or as spoken announcements in worship by the sponsoring board or committee.
- Members or "friends" of LRUCC's group Facebook page may also post other opportunities for generosity on LRUCC's group Facebook page.
- Any issues with the implementation of these policies may be raised to the church council for consideration, investigation, and resolution by providing the moderator and clerk with a description of the issue or concern.

Policy adopted by Governance Board November 11, 2015

