

**Little River United Church of Christ  
Reconvened Annual Meeting  
March 6, 2016**

The 2016 Annual Meeting was reconvened at 11:30 a.m. by Moderator, Rob Peters. David Lindsey led an opening prayer. Rob announced the presence of a quorum, and there being no objection, appointed George Leonard parliamentarian. Rob then reviewed the meeting agenda and announced that voting on the 2016 budget would be by written ballot.

Robin Petrusak, Board of Trustees chair, outlined the process used to re-work the proposed 2016 budget. She said that after the meeting was temporarily recessed on February 6 to reconvene on March 6, Joe Christiansen, former chair of the Board of Trustees, gathered an ad hoc budget working group representing differing points of view and interest groups within the church. In addition to Joe, the group included Jen Beckman, Betsy Erickson, John Forrest, Barbara Lowrey, Amy Mireku, James Taylor, and Chris Weakley. Ben Northrup, Bruce Summers and Rob Peters also met with the working group.

The group met on February 24. After considering all comments they had received, they drafted a new proposed 2016 budget. Their budget was then presented to the congregation at a Town Hall meeting on February 28. Considering comments received at the Town Hall, the working group presented their recommendations to the Board of Trustees who then prepared the budget presented at this meeting.

Robin reviewed the major components of the proposed budget:

- Current staffing model retained,
- Benevolences reduced to 10% of operating income,
- Reserves increased from 2015, but reduced from original proposal to 1% of operating income,
- New budget reflects changes to pledge income during the past 6 weeks and additional non-pledge income received over the past month.

She then moved that this new proposed 2016 budget be substituted for the budget presented on February 6. Her motion was seconded by Tom Johnson. The question called and the motion was approved.

Robin noted that while working on this new budget proposal, the committee kept in mind the following passage from 1 Corinthians 11:4-7.

*“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Holy Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.”*

The floor was opened to discussion. Comments and concerns included:

- Concerns about the reduction in reserves,
- Need to evaluate our needs and resources and plan for future years starting immediately,
- Need for the congregation to know the process for consideration and decisions concerning our future,
- Concerns about reduction in benevolences and especially OCWM and a desire to increase them soon,
- Request for more on-going information about progress of Stewardship campaign,
- Thanks to the ad-hoc budget committee and Trustees who developed the new budget.

Bruce Douglas called the question and voting proceed by ballot. Rob reported that the proposed 2016 budget as presented today was approved. (Results were 81 yea votes, 2 nay votes and 2 abstentions with 85 ballots cast as reported by ballot counters, Don Wallace and Bob Cattell. Roberts Rules of Order require that the results of a written ballot be recorded in the minutes.)

Announcements:

- There are vacancies on the Board of Trustees, Stewardship and Deacons. In all there are 22 open committee slots. Volunteers are encouraged to come forward.
- General Synod of the UCC will be in Baltimore in 2017. Members are encouraged to participate especially in the Sunday worship and communion service.

Rob thanked Robin, the ad hoc budget committee, and the Trustees for their work in developing the 2016 budget. He noted we have a common understanding that there is work to be done as we prepare for the future of LRUCC.

Rob adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m. after a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Lingo  
Clerk

.