Acting Moderator, Rob Peters called the meeting to order at 11:25 and asked Senior Pastor David Lindsey to offer an opening prayer. Rob invited the congregation to approve a motion to extend wishes for a speedy recovery to Moderator, Cici Thompson. The motion was moved, seconded and approved by acclamation.

David reported on our Visioning process which started in the spring with three conversations at which members were asked to respond to three questions. Who are we? Who are our neighbors? and what is God calling us to do or be? After the conversations David created a bulletin board display in the Social Hall with the results alongside local demographics and case studies. In September a Visioning Team was formed. Members of the team are Denny Bloomquist, Carrie Douglas, John Forrest, Saundra Honeycutt, Lisa Page, Gail Perry, Marilin Sailor, and Steve Wheelock. They are charged with studying the results of the spring conversations, continuing the dialogue with members and friends, identifying overarching themes, and discerning what it is God is calling Little River UCC to be and do. They are to report at the Annual Meeting. Meanwhile David called on the congregation to continue honest, healthy conversation and debate with each other and the team, to support and pray for them, and finally to embrace the Vision.

Past moderator, Tom Ross presented the recommendation of the Church Renewal Committee for restructuring the church governance. Noting that the current structure is outdated and inefficient, and that we have been working with a trial structure for the past year and a half, he said the committee is recommending the church be led by two boards working together, a Governance Board and a Ministry Board. The Governance Board would be chaired by the moderator and charged with approving policies, coordinating and approving funding and ensuring church operations. The Ministry Board would be chaired by the Senior Pastor and be charged with carrying out the ministry of the church. This new structure would eliminate the current Church Council. He noted that the Church Renewal Committee will be offering opportunities for further discussion before the January annual meeting.

Treasurer, Gary Allen provided an update on the church’s current budget situation. He predicts a deficit of $30,000 to $40,000 this year due to a combination of things. The 2015 budget was too optimistic. Some anticipated revenue is not coming in, and $20,000 which was donated in 2014 for the 2015 budget was mistakenly credited to the 2014 budget. The church has about $90,000 in surplus funds which have been built up over the last 60 years as a cushion against unforeseen financial contingencies. Much of the surplus may be needed to cover the deficit we are likely to wind up with this year.

Tom Ross and Barbara Allen, who were on the search committee for Verne Arens, briefly reviewed the major accomplishments during Verne’s 23 year ministry. Tom introduced a motion to honor Verne by
naming him Pastor Emeritus of LRUCC. Barbara seconded the motion, and David spoke in favor of the
motion. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Rob announced that the annual meeting will be on January 31, 2016.

Ellen Wertman reported the exercise class has gotten so small that they need new members in order
to continue. She encouraged all to join the class which is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30
a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at a cost of $6.00 per session.

Rob called for a motion to adjourn which was made and seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at
12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lingo
Clerk