Rob called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with a prayer and offered all present an opportunity to share.

Minutes: Tom moved and Carolyn seconded approval of minutes of the September 23rd Council Meeting. Motion approved. Bruce moved and Tom seconded approval of the December 9th Governance Board Meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Gary reported he will distribute the final treasurer's report for 2015 after meeting with the accountant next week. About $500 in additional pledge income has been received recently. He now expects the deficit to be around $17,000, much better than the earlier forecast of $50,000. He thanked all those responsible for keeping expenses down in the past few months. The major repair reserve is down to $64,000 actually less due to market fluctuation. We will have another major repair expense this summer as the air conditioning in the social hall must be replaced. Rob noted that the good news is that the Endowment Fund now has received donations of $231,661. Once donations reach $250,000, we can began to use some of the proceeds.

Board of Outreach and Social Justice: Karen presented a resolution (attached) on Syrian refugees to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Gary moved and Tom seconded that the resolution be recommended for approval by the congregation with wording to broaden the statement to include refugees from Syria and other Islamic countries. The motion was approved.

Roles and Responsibilities for Financial Management: Dave presented December rev. 11a draft of this document. He moved that the Council endorse the document. Jen seconded the motion. Following discussion Dave agreed to make changes to section V regarding Fundraisers and Special Collections. The Ministry Board will be responsible for approval of such Fundraisers and Special Collections and will maintain a calendar of such events in coordination with the Stewardship Committee. Dave agreed to make these changes and post the document on the website. Motion passed.
Governance Structure: Tom reported that after a number of town meetings to discuss the recommendation for governance renewal there were a few changes in the recommendation. With approval of the Council the proposal will be presented at the annual meeting along with required by-law changes. Steve moved and Karen seconded that the proposal be recommended for acceptance by the congregation. After discussion the proposal was tabled until a revised proposal can be crafted and discussed at a special Council meeting next Wednesday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting then went into Executive session to discuss the budget proposal for 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lingo
Clerk

Attached: Proposed Resolution on Syrian Refugees
Resolution on Syrian Refugees

Whereas,
In his human life, Jesus of Nazareth was a political refugee in a time of persecution and religious intolerance.

And, from our founding, Little River UCC has shared a public witness against the systemic evils of Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism, denial of aboriginal rights, and religious intolerance. Our congregation upholds the principle that all people are God’s people regardless of race, religion, heritage, or other human-made distinctions.

And, because of the rise in Islamophobia, denial of refugee rights and the prejudice against citizens of Syria who reside in (or hope to reside in) our communities, our congregation feels called to speak and to act in witness to our faith.

Therefore,
We, the members and clergy, of Little River United Church of Christ, stand in support of all people and communities that have been directly challenged by the political and humanitarian crisis in Syria, and the rise of hateful speech and Islamophobia in our nation. And therefore, Little River UCC:

1. Calls for prayer for all those affected by the Syrian crisis: internally displaced persons, refugees and those seeking to care for both populations;
2. Reaffirms the historic role of the United Church of Christ as an advocate of human rights for immigrants, refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers and our heritage of resettling and assisting refugees;
3. Encourages partnerships with religious and other non-governmental organizations, as well as government agencies, in the care and resettlement of refugees;
4. Calls individuals to petition the President and their U.S. Senators and Representatives for the United States to receive more Syrian refugees; and
5. Commits to partner with agencies that are working to host Syrian refugee families resettled in the United States and Puerto Rico, until such time as such needs are met and those displaced can find a peaceful home.