Little River United Church of Christ  
Church Council Minutes  
October 12, 2016

PRESENT:

Cici Thompson, Acting Moderator  
(absent), Moderator-Elect  
Ann Lingo, Clerk  
(absent), Membership Clerk  
Mary Summers, Treasurer  
Gary Allen, Assist. Treasurer  
Dave Curtis, Comptroller  
(Absent), Archivist/Historian  
Saundra Honeysett, Board of Christian Education  
Dawn Forrest, Board of Deacons  
Amy Mireku, Board of Outreach & Social Justice  
Robin Petrusak & Ben Northrup, Board of Trustees  
Rob Peters, Stewardship Committee  
George Leonard, Endowment Committee  
Barbara Lowrey, Music Committee  
(absent), Communications Committee  
Camille Brooks, Nominations & Appointments  
Bruce Douglas, Governance Board at large member  
John Forrest, Governance Board at large member  
John Mingus, Governance Board at large member  
Susan Britton, Member  
David Lindsey, Senior Pastor  
Donna Jones, Church Business Administrator

Cici called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and David open the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the September 14 meeting were approved as corrected.

SAFE CHURCH: David welcomed Susan Britton, Child Advocacy Center Program Director, who shared her expertise on keeping children safe. Susan works at the Center for Alexandria’s Children investigating child abuse and neglect. She also represents Stewards of Children, a program that trains adults to become advocates for children. She emphasized that children are very vulnerable, and that nearly all child abuse is by someone known to the child. Susan observed that our Safe Church training could be enhanced and offered to provide Stewards of Children training at LRUCC.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Saundra reported that the White Privilege class started last Sunday. The Women’s Book Group will follow up with a discussion of two chapters of Jim Wallis’s book, America’s Original Sin, Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America, on November 6. Bibles will be presented to Godly Play and third grade students on October 23.

BOARD OF OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (BOSJ): Amy reported that 40 people attended the first session of the Dismantling the New Jim Crow program series. She also reported that the leaders of the White Privilege Classes are rescheduling to after the first of the year when sessions can be scheduled weekly and small group discussions can be accommodated. BOSJ is also working on the Coat Drive, Thanksgiving Baskets, and a dinner to follow the White Gift Service. They are looking for a speaker to address transgender issues on January 22.

DEACONS: Dawn reported that the Bereavement Tea is scheduled for December 13. Deacons will soon be mailing cookies to college students. Jason Thompson has requested that the Deacons bring a professional story teller to LRUCC, and the Deacons are investigating the possibility. Jason will offer a story telling interpretation of the scripture on Reformation Sunday.
TRUSTEES: Robin noted the Trustees are moving from a focus on the building to a focus on the 2017 budget. They received a report from Josh Clarke, a new member, who has made an environmental assessment of our grounds. He identified spaces that could be used differently and has ideas for dealing with the drainage problems along the driveway. Robin noted that we have a number of trees that have fallen and there are more likely to fall. She thanked Ben for getting our consultant, Claire Bamburg’s, report copied and bulk mailed. Ben reported there were a number of challenges in getting the report into the bulk mail by Tuesday at 8 a.m. Now he is turning his attention to issues with backup on the LAN system.

Concerns were voiced that all members may not get Claire’s report before the meeting next Sunday. There was discussion about the feasibility of making the report available electronically and having copies available in the office for pick up during the week and at Sunday’s meeting.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (N & A): Camille reported the leadership roster is being revised and the new roster will be published soon. The committee continues contacting members to fill current vacancies. The Stewardship Committee and Trustees currently have the most openings. N & A has had some success inviting potential members to attend a committee meeting before committing to membership. Currently they are checking with committee members whose terms are expiring to determine the number of vacancies that need to be filled for 2017.

TREASURER: Mary reported the final report for September is not quite ready as our new accountant is still learning our ACS accounting system. Mary expects the report will be complete soon and will send it out via email. Meanwhile, pledge income is $3000 and overall income $30,000 above expectations at this point in the year. We have received a reimbursement for Hank’s health and dental insurance. His last payment will be 12/31/16.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dave reminded members of the Governance Board to review the policy for “Crediting of Incoming Revenue” so that they can vote on it at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: Dave reported for the committee that they have received feedback that both the platform and the content of the website needs to be updated. They will be contacting committees and boards requesting updated information meanwhile they are investigating updating the site.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Barbara reported the music program is adjusting to the new one service format. They are pleased to have Ashton back after her maternity leave. The committee is working on increasing membership in the Sanctuary Choir by offering participants practice time every other Sunday before the service in addition to the regular practice times on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: George reports the Endowment continues to grow. It is currently at $394,000. Committees need to be thinking about how they want to use their portion of the available funding. (up to 20% for the church operating budget, up to 10% for scholarships, up to 40% for outreach projects, and the remaining amount available for innovative ministries or programs and/or capital projects)

PLAN FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 23: Robin asked for guidance on how to present the budget. It was suggested that the budget needs to reflect the response of the congregation at the 10/16 Congregational meeting to staffing options, there needs to be discussion of capital reserves, and that the results of the environment survey by Josh Clarke would be informative.
PLAN FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 16: Cici will bring the meeting to order and David will offer a prayer. Then the meeting will be turned over to our consultant, Claire Bamberg, who will lead a discussion she expects to last about three hours. The meeting will be recorded. Before leaving the meeting, members will be asked to record their preferred options. These comments will be compiled and forwarded to the Church Council. Cici asked for reaction to Claire’s report. Concerns were raised about how members will react to the fact that the report begins with an option to sell the property. Other concerns were raised about the status and options for governance. It was noted that options for ministry outside the building were mentioned in the report several times.

STEWARDSHIP: David noted that he is looking forward to the Stewardship Campaign which is on hold until after the Congregational meeting on October 16. He thanked Rob and the Stewardship Committee for their work on the campaign which is ready to go.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 .m. with a prayer by David.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lingo
Clerk

The next meeting of the Governance Board (or Council) will be on November 9