Little River United Church of Christ
Joint Ministry and Governance Board Meeting
9-10-14

PRESENT:
Tom Ross, Moderator
Cici Thompson, Moderator-elect
Linda Anderson, Past- Moderator
Dave Curtis, Treasurer
Dee Cardiff, Membership Clerk
Bunny Jones, Nominations and Appointments
Ben Northrup, Board of Trustees
Steve Carr, at large
John Forrest, at large
David Lindsey, Senior Pastor
Hank Fairman, Transitional Pastor for Faith Formation
Jennifer Atkinson, Board of Deacons
Jason Thompson, Board of Outreach and Social Justice
Carolyn Yocom, Board of Christian Education
Heather Shackley, Communications Advisory Team

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
Bunny Jones led the group in a devotional times.

REPORTS
Moderator: Tom thanked everyone for the time they put in on behalf of Little River UCC. He also acknowledged David’s arrival and his assumption of a leadership role at Little River and thanked Hank for keeping things moving during the transition.

Tom also acknowledged the hard work and support of the church Trustees.

He outlined the following challenges moving forward:
1. The Fall season, traditionally a busy time
2. The Stewardship campaign and how critical it is to be successful
3. New form of governance – how do we begin to reach out and communicate with the congregation?
4. Nominations and appointments – need assistance on committee as well as thinking of likely candidates for openings

Pastor(s):
Pastor David expressed several joys and concerns. The joys include worship, the warm welcome he and his fiancée Carrie have received, and our flexibility around his Mom’s death. He also expressed a concern about ongoing challenges in church administration.

Pastor Hank talked about the program year now beginning and the many exciting offerings. He also alerted us that the middle and high school youth have been meeting together. K-2 teachers are needed. Recruiting new leadership for the Pilgrim Fellowship (three men and three women). Confirmation class is starting next month. Ashton is seeking Director(s) for the Christmas pageant.

**Treasurer:** Dave projects that the fiscal year will end in the black. Income is below budget while some expenses are larger than budgeted. The budget is projected to finish well due to a savings in health care costs for Pastor David, and monies not spent due to staff vacancies. These savings will not be repeated in the next fiscal year. Transition funds for the Pastor have been zeroed out. Investment funds are doing well. Detailed budgets showing spending were sent to Committees on 9/10.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**July Governance board meeting minutes:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Passed.

**Women’s Retreat.** Bunny Jones moved that a designated pass-through fund be created to manage the finances of a Women’s Retreat, scheduled for October 17-18, 2015. It was moved and seconded.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Ministry Board.** Cici presented a consolidated calendar for all programming at the church. This valuable tool will soon be viewable online. The calendar represents a major milestone in the coordinating of church functions and uses throughout the year. Additional items related to the church schedule were discussed.

**Governance Board.** The Board needs to complete an understandable structure for Boards and Committees so we can operate transparently before the congregation. Also, the Board needs to finalize a 2015 budget after the Stewardship Campaign ends.

**Stewardship Campaign.** The theme of the campaign will be “Gifts from Loving Hearts”. The Campaign anticipates changes in the budget for a full-time office administrator and a part-time assistant, and adding additional hours to the Sexton position to raise it to 32 hours. Areas of significant change from 2014 include: outreach and social justice, pastoral expense, Christian Education, Office staff, Office operating, outside accounting, building maintenance, anticipating website upgrade. These represent an increase of $90,000. It was pointed out that once the Stewardship campaign is concluded and we have final figures, Church Council with input from the
Trustees and other boards and committees will determine the proposed 2015 budget to go to the annual meeting.

**Outreach and Communications.** The Board of Outreach and Social Justice moved to “adopt” the Open and Affirming function within Little River since it was a major component of their work. There is no one currently serving as leadership in the Open and Affirming area. The Board would also administer any budget for ONA activities. **Moved and seconded.** Approved.

**Committees of Church Council.** Tom discussed briefly the Committees currently functioning, including Safe Church, Communication Advisory Team, and Finance Committee and interim Personnel Committee. Tom recommended that we act at a future date to make the Personnel Committee a permanent one. Fitting these inside the new structure will be discussed at the October Governance Board meeting.

**Additional Discussion:** We will seek out additional ways to communicate with the congregation and enhance transparency. We will plan a ‘Town Hall’ meeting in advance of the annual meeting to discuss how the transition is working.

**Pastor David closed the meeting in prayer**

Meeting was adjourned at 9: 22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Carr
At-Large

Next Meeting: October 12, 2014