Little River United Church of Christ
Governance Board Minutes
June 10, 2015

Present:
Cici Thompson, Moderator          Bruce Douglas, at large
Rob Peters, Moderator-elect       John Forrest, at large
Tom Ross, Past-Moderator          (Absent), at large
Ann Lingo, Clerk                  Jean Wheelock, Personnel Committee
Gary Allen, Treasure              David Lindsey, Senior Pastor
Ben Northrup, Board of Trustees

Cici called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes:  Tom moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of the May 14th Church Council meeting.  Motion approved.

Wedding Policy:  Cici reported that the wedding policy has been updated with the exception of the fees and an alcohol policy. The Trustees will update the fees. Rob will check with other churches regarding their alcohol policies while attending the Central Atlantic Conference meeting.

Ministry Board:  Rob reported that he and a small group (Amy Mireku and Carolyn Yocom) are working on a draft fund raising policy using previous policies and other materials as resources. The committee would like wider participation. Their goal is to have a draft policy ready by the next meeting of the Ministry Board which is scheduled for September 9. The Board is also working on the program calendar for 2015 which they expect to have completed soon.

Governance Renewal Committee:  The committee met in late May. In addition to the former members of the committee (Cici, Rob, Ann, Karen Kleiber, and Linda Anderson who is currently inactive) Barbara Lowrey and the Governance Board members-at-large (Bruce, John and Scott) were invited to join the meeting. The committee agreed to begin working on a plan to move from our current Church Council and Governance Board model to a small governance or executive board model. A small board could consist of church officers and members-at-large who would each be responsible for representing one of the major boards or committees. The Governance Renewal Committee will continue to meet over the summer to further refine recommendations. David pointed out that LRUCC is a programmatic size church and that a small board structure is appropriate for a church our size. It is also in line with the Hotchkiss model. A small board model will achieve some of the goals of the renewal effort by relieving programmatic leaders of the additional responsibility for administrative leadership while reducing the number of meetings programmatic leaders are expected to attend.

Central Atlantic Conference:  Tom reported the Annual Conference is this coming weekend, June 12-14. He registered, but now is unable to attend and has a reservation he is willing to share with any who wants to attend. Rob and Ginny Peters and Jason Thompson as well as David and Hank will be attending all or part of the conference. The Conference will honor retiring President and General Minister, Geoffrey Black.

Sunday Sermon Talk Backs:  David had a request for sermon talk backs so he scheduled one for last Sunday in spite of the fact he could only lead a portion of the discussion due to a schedule conflict. Rob led the remainder of the session. It was only “lightly” attended. General consensus was that sermon talk backs work best when
the pastor who presented the morning’s sermon also leads the discussion. David noted that both he and Hank have full schedules this summer which means only one pastor will be in church each Sunday. David will promote the talk back sessions, and we’ll revisit their effectiveness at the end of June.

**Visioning Process:** Cici reported the next step will be to get former moderators together to get input on the Visioning Process and also to try to recover policies and history that have been lost in the three year interim period. On Saturday, September 19th there will be a strategic planning session to kick off the next step of the visioning process which is to define LRUCC’s vision for its future. The plan is to use an outside consultant who can ask the hard questions and reflect on what is being said.

**Treasurer’s report:** Gary reported that we’ve been running a little behind on pledges this year. Last year the same thing happened but we caught up in May. This year we fell further behind in May by about $12,000 which is a concern especially since there are some quarterly payments due soon that amount to about $40,000. Gary and Rob will try to determine the reason for the shortfall. It was also noted that summer is a time when people on vacation may fall behind on their pledges. Gary also noted some changes on the third page of the treasurer’s report which are strictly accounting changes to bring the pages into balance.

**Senior Pastor’s report:** David said that he and Tom had lunch with Verne regarding Verne’s becoming a Pastor Emeritus of LRUCC. They both felt that Verne was both honored and excited about the possibility. The congregation will need to approve Verne’s emeritus status at the fall congregational meeting.

David asked the Board members to look at the display in the social hall which he put together which combines the results of the Spring Visioning Sessions with local demographic data. After a brief visit to the display, members shared their impressions and noted that the display contains a wealth of thought provoking information.

**Personnel Committee:** Jean was referred to an attorney, Tiffany Releford of the Whiteford, Taylor & Preston Law Firm who will review the LRUCC Employee Handbook for $300/hour and expects it will take about three hours to complete the review. Jean moved and it was seconded that the Governance Board employ Ms Releford to review the LRUCC Employee Handbook. The motion was approved.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by David at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lingo
Clerk

The next meeting of the Governance Board is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m.