

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

## Vista Ridge UMC

Meeting Minutes March 28, 2022

1. The meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Monday, March 28, 2022, with all members present.
2. The Chair led a spiritual and leadership development discussion on the topic of what grace looks like in a church setting. Many compare what church should be to an English Garden - beautiful flowers, plants, trees, etc., carefully maintained to eliminate weeds or dying vegetation. Instead, church should openly embrace the “unsightly” and grow in faith together. This is an example of the Justifying Grace that Wesley promoted among faithful Christians. Susan led the group in prayer.
3. Pastor’s Report:
  - a. The Pastor led a discussion on any feedback or perceptions following the most recent staffing change at the church. The reception for Lisa was well attended and received.
  - b. There will be a meeting on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> for anyone interested in the future of the Children’s Ministry. The Rev. Kim Meyers from St. Andrews UMC will be there to talk about Family Ministries.
  - c. VBS for this summer is in the planning stages. More details will be forthcoming.
  - d. The Sunday morning Children’s Ministry will continue through May with no changes. Christina and Johnny are involved in the curriculum. There will be special events in the summer and planning for what the ministry will look like in the fall are underway.
  - e. Christina Dixon’s hours will be redirected to reflect the additional needs of the Children’s Ministry going forward.
  - f. Beginning this fall, a new Sunday morning small group for parents with children will begin.

4. Action Items:

- a. Freeze & Water Protection: The water valve is currently on backorder but will be installed immediately following delivery.
- b. Media Updating: A proposal, created by Scott Luginbill, was presented to improve all facets of the livestreaming capability of the church. Following discussion, the SLC moved to authorize Javier to proceed on this proposal, with a cap on spending of \$8000. The funding of this project will come from a combination of the Capital Funds account and the interest earned on these funds over the last 3 years.
- c. Chancel Area Modifications: Options are still being considered with regards to lighting, backdrop, etc. When the Building (Interior) Work Team is fully staffed, they will take over the responsibility for specific choices.
- d. Work Teams: Bill is waiting on responses for invitation to serve on the Work Teams.
- e. 2022 Budget: The Council reviewed the latest statements on Giving, Expenses, and Budget updates (recalculated to reflect staffing change). The general opinion is that giving is trending slightly upward, while expenses are being held in check. With the understanding that a large deficit still exists in the budget, but several other factors may influence that number, the SLC formally adopted the latest version of the 2022 Budget.
  - One area of concern is continuing cost, responsiveness, and accuracy of the current contracted accounting system. The SLC will continue the exploration into a more “in-house” way of accomplishing the accounting.

5. Core Values Discussion – Grace

The SLC discussed the concept of Grace, and what that looks like at VRUMC. Here are some of the points made:

- Grace does not initiate with us, but from God. Grace from God can flow through us to others.
- Grace is experiencing the love of God
- Grace is the face that love shows when facing imperfection
- Our engagement with the community partners (Rockbrook Elementary, CCA, Salvations Army) are signs of grace
- Special events (Worship in the Park, Alpha small group, Sunday morning Children’s ministry) have all had examples of grace offered and received

6. Next Meeting: **Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the church**

7. Closing Prayer – Robin

Submitted:

Stephen Greenwade, Chair

Angie Christoffersen, Lay Member Annual Conf.

Hillarye Hightower, Rel. With Each Other

Javier Saenz, Chair Trustee

Dianna King, SPRC

Robin Wright

Ashley Anne Sipe, Lead Pastor

Claudia Rose, Rel. With God

Carolyn Simpson, Rel. With Community

Barry Sykes, Finance

Susan Francis

Tiffany Harlow