

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

## Vista Ridge UMC

Meeting Minutes May 2, 2022

1. The meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Monday, May 2, 2022, and with exception of Hillarye Hightower all members were present.
2. The Chair led a spiritual and leadership development discussion on the topic of “rebranding.” Rebranding can have several layers – superficially a change in name, look, or logo; or on a deeper level, an alteration of priorities, services, or values. The important facets of rebranding are to identify the public’s perception of what you are, and responding with services and ministries that reflect who you truly are. The example of Peter was used to illustrate the point. The perception of Simon Peter as impulsive and slow to understand deeper meanings, was changed by Jesus to reflect his faith and trust that the true Peter was steadfast and dependable. Dianna led the group in prayer.
3. Pastor’s Report:
  - a. The Pastor led a discussion on things we as a church can lift up as celebratory moments, and opportunities that we can build upon.
  - b. The Family Ministry meeting that took place in April was discussed. The changeover from the previous model has been positive, with room to grow. The feedback was productive and included several good ideas to consider. It is also an important part of the strategy to engage parents in some way. The new Connection Space is a starting point to achieve that goal.
  - c. The remainder of time was spent presenting the first rough draft of how we as a church might present ourselves in a new way. The working theme is “Come Grow With Us.” The initial language was derived from the existing 4 Core Values the church has been using, and altering it to fit into the “Grow” language. The key element of the strategy is that we emphasize growth, in every imaginable way. The SLC will take a few days to consider this first look and respond with any reflections. It should be noted that this is just the first iteration and when the time is appropriate, professional outsourcing may be used to create a final product.
4. Report from District Meeting with the Bishop

3 members of the SLC (Stephen, Angie, Carolyn) attended a laity meeting with the Bishop on Saturday, April 30. The following were takeaway points:

  - General Conference has again been postponed until 2024.

- The Global Methodist Church (a segment of the UMC that has officially broken from the denomination) has become official as of May 1.
- Much disinformation, promoted by several advocacy groups, has made its way into various outlets. The Bishop promoted using 2 official sources of information: The North Texas Conference newsletter and the United Methodist News Service. Links to both media sources will be published in the next few issues of *The Vista*.
- There is a process for disaffiliation (denoted in ¶2553 of *The UMC Book of Discipline*). The process takes several steps lasting 9-12 months, and involves fulfilling 4 financial requirements.
- Since nothing has changed, or is likely to before 2024, there is no compelling reason for a church to rush to disaffiliate at this time.
- It is important to discern truths versus misconceptions before making any judgments.
- More information will be available following the North Texas Annual Conference, to be held in June.
- The SLC will remain informed, and pass along pertinent information to the congregation, as the situation warrants.

#### 5. Consent Package – Financials

The SLC had opportunity to review the current financial status of the church. Copies of the report are on file with the church and available to any member of the congregation. A brief synopsis is that Giving is on a positive trend up, particularly with Unpledged Giving, while Expenses continue to be in line.

#### Action Items:

- a. Freeze & Water Protection: The water valve that had previously ordered has become lost in the delivery process. Javier will obtain a new valve and it will be installed at soonest opportunity.
- b. Media Updating: The new sound equipment has arrived and will be installed soon.
- c. Chancel Area Modifications: Barry is meeting with Mark Boyd (Electrician, to help with new lighting) and Sherry Boyd (Theater Arts, to help pick color schemes for the back of the Chancel area).
- d. Work Teams: The SLC is returning to the Simplified Board principle of developing new ideas on the board, then empowering the appropriate Work Teams to carry out the decisions.
- e. Hiring Process: Exploration continues on the path to returning the church's accounting to a more "in-house" model. A discussion was called for input as to how the hiring process is to occur. The SLC agreed that the Chair and Dianna, as SPRC Rep, along with the Lead Pastor, will be responsible for making the decision. The Council will be kept up-to-date on the process.

f. Guiding Principle – Church Credit Card Authorization: The issue of authorizing certain members of the VRUMC Staff to use church credit cards was brought before the SLC. The main sticking point is that staff members are currently being required to use their personal cards for church expenditures, then wait for reimbursement. This places an inordinate burden on the staff member, in addition to be inefficient in the accounting for such expenditures. To alleviate the situation, the Chair put forth a proposal to adopt 2 Guiding Principles, to read as follows:

1) The following staff positions are authorized to hold, and use, a credit card tied to the church's bank account:

Lead Pastor

Business Administrator

Director(s) of Family Ministries

Each of the authorized parties are subject to the spending limits of the current Church Budget and the appropriate Guiding Principles. Receipts for each expenditure will be turned in to the Church Office within 10 business days of the transaction. In addition, a monthly Expense Report, including the appropriate Budget line item, will be required to be completed.

2) The Business Administrator/Treasurer must be consulted concerning any single purchase or expenditure over \$1000 for purposes of cash flow management. The Business Administrator/Treasurer does not approve or deny purchases but rather confirms large expenditures will not create cash flow issues.

After due consideration, the SLC voted to adopt both of these Guiding Principles.

6. Next Meeting: **Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the church**

7. Closing Prayer – Barry

Submitted:

Stephen Greenwade, Chair

Ashley Anne Sipe, Lead Pastor

Angie Christoffersen, Lay Member Annual Conf.

Claudia Rose, Rel. With God

Hillarye Hightower, Rel. With Each Other

Carolyn Simpson, Rel. With Community

Javier Saenz, Chair Trustee

Barry Sykes, Finance

Dianna King, SPRC

Susan Francis

Robin Wright

Tiffany Harlow