

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

## Vista Ridge UMC

Meeting Minutes June 27, 2022

1. The meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Monday, June 27, 2022, with all members, with two exceptions, present.
2. The Chair led a spiritual and leadership development discussion on the topic of the continuing decline of interest in religion and the church in the world. The anecdotal evidence suggests that the decline has not bottomed yet and our job is to remain relevant and available to meet the community's needs. A study of history points that the power and truth that Christianity represents, suggests that humanity has a tendency to drift away from God but eventually recognizes the hole that leaves and seeks to find a way back. Hillarye led the group in prayer.
3. Pastor's Report:
  - a. Calendar Update: The rollout of the new VRUMC Vision strategy will begin on October 2, beginning a 4-week sermon series on the 4 themes of the vision. The 2022 Giving Campaign will take place over a 2-week period in November.
  - b. The Pastor led a discussion on variations to proposed new logos for the church. The discussion led to a narrowing down of choices, with remaining adaptation to continue.
4. Report from Annual Conference
  - A brief synopsis was given as to the North Texas Annual Conference that took place earlier in the month.
  - Much of the attention was on the subject of churches choosing to disaffiliate from the UMC, and the process to accomplish the move. Local churches have until August 2022 to decide on the move, and make the ensuing payouts by the end of 2023. There has been no discussion to engage in this process at VRUMC.
5. Financial Update
  - a. Giving – For the month of June, actual offerings totaled \$33,403.86. This amount was \$1,325.62 below budgeted for the month (\$34,729.48). For the year-to-date, giving exceeds budget by \$32,997.25.
  - b. Expenses – The report from the accountant only became available just prior to the meeting, therefore insufficient time to examine the numbers was available. A clearer picture of the financial status of the church will be presented at the SLC Special Meeting next week.

6. Action Items:

**Building Items**

- a. Chancel Changes – There have been several comments concerning the recent changes to the Chancel area. Most of the comments have been supportive, with a few criticisms of the paint color and the rearrangement of the furniture.
- b. A/V Equipment Upgrades – The installation of the new equipment resulted in the computer crashing. An assessment of the situation resulted in the procurement of a new computer that will be able to handle the load and last for several years. The computer should be installed in the next week.
- c. Outdoor Digital Signage – A designated gift was received to address the visibility of the church to drive-by traffic. An initial proposal from a company based in Houston was received but deemed to be inadequate for several reasons (Cost \$42,000 + \$7,000 electrical work; Size 2 feet X 4 feet). Further investigation discovered a local company that estimates total cost about \$27,000 (with no additional electrical work required), and sign size at 4 feet X 8 feet. A team will be visiting the company this coming week to determine the feasibility.

7. SPRC

- a. Departure of Director of Family Ministries – The Pastor presented the facts concerning the sudden, and unexpected, departure of Johnny Milton from the staff of VRUMC. The resignation came in the form of an email and call messages were not returned. The Youth have been advised of the situation and look forward to being involved in finding a replacement.
- b. Director of Family Ministries Search – A very qualified candidate looking for a new position became known to the Pastor. A team of 9 adults, 4 youth, and 1 child meet with the candidate and was unanimously in favor of offering the position. The SLC saw no need to further the search and endorsed the decision through a formal vote (motion by Robin, seconded by Claudia).
- c. Motion – In order to convey appreciation to the staff for their diligent work these past 2 years, a motion was made (Hillarye), and seconded (Susan), to approve 3% raises for Carolyn, Bill, Laurie, and Hannah (contingent upon no hourly changes), to go into effect immediately. The SLC passed the motion unanimously.
- d. Closed Session – The SLC moved into closed session to discuss other staffing issues.

8. Next Meeting: **Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the church.** This will be a Special Meeting with limited topics and will be a Closed Session.

9. Closing Prayer – Barry

Submitted:

Stephen Greenwade, Chair

Ashley Anne Sipe, Lead Pastor

Angie Christoffersen, Lay Member Annual Conf. (Absent)

Claudia Rose, Rel. With God

Hillarye Hightower, Rel. W/ Each Other

Carolyn Simpson, Rel. W/ Community

Javier Saenz, Chair Trustee (Absent)

Barry Sykes, Finance

Dianna King, SPRC

Susan Francis

Robin Wright

Tiffany Harlow