

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

## Vista Ridge UMC

Meeting Minutes August 15, 2022

1. The meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Monday, August 15, 2022, with all members present.
2. The Chair led a spiritual and leadership development discussion on the topic of how disagreements within a church can result in permanent division. Disagreements will always exist, but how you deal with the conflict says much about the true nature of your church. Open and honest discussion is usually the best strategy in resolving issues. Susan led the group in prayer.
3. Pastor's Report:
  - a. After the discussion on the new VRUMC logo in June, the highlights were pared down and sent to a graphic designer for further work. His professional input is that more work needs to be done. He will be providing 2 choices, incorporating the key elements of settled on by the SLC, and final decision will be made by the Lead Pastor. Cost of the designer will be \$750. The logo and Core Values will be rolled out in a sermon series this October.
  - b. After much consideration, the church will embark on a year-long series in 2023 titled *The Bible Year*. The decision was based on numerous comments made from the congregation expressing the desire to know more about the Bible. Elements will include a sermon series (designed not to deter visitors), encouragement for daily reading, and formation of small groups (using a 52-episode video series available on Amplify).
  - c. Following the 9:00 AM service on August 28, there will be a Traditional Worship conversation with the Lead Pastor. Topics will include worship format, Communion, service time, and any other pertinent items. All are invited to attend.
  - d. Leadership Development – With 3 members of the SLC rolling off at the end of 2022, work needs to begin to identify possible replacements. Although the responsibility of this task lies with Leadership Development, the Lead Pastor would like the input of the current SLC. The Team will begin deliberation this fall.

#### 4. Financial Update

- a. Giving – For the month of July, actual offerings totaled \$43,111.72. This amount was \$249.99 below budgeted for the month (\$43,361.71). For the year-to-date, giving exceeds budget by \$39,678.77.
- b. Expenses – For the month of July, actual expenses totaled \$45,275.60, which was \$1,277.05 less than budgeted. For the year-to-date, expenses are \$12,143.46 less than budgeted. Financial Reports are available in the Church Office.

#### 5. Action Items:

##### **Building Items**

##### Old Business

- a. Freeze Protection Valve – The equipment has been installed and is working properly. There is some concern with “pipe hammering” when the water flows. Javier has volunteered to look at dampening alternatives.
- b. A/V Equipment Upgrades – All equipment has been installed and is working properly. Some tweaking to the system and presentation is on-going.
- c. Outdoor Digital Signage – Construction is complete and awaiting installation (hopefully by end of August). The only delay is with permit approval by the City of Lewisville. There are no apparent issues with obtaining the necessary permits.

##### New Business

- a. Ice Machine – The church ice machine, located in the kitchen, has ceased to function and is beyond repair. Two estimates for new equipment have been attained and are being considered by the Business Administrator before purchase.
- b. A/C Unit – One unit has failed. The Business Administrator is seeking alternatives for new equipment.
- c. Capital Expenditures – The SLC is of the opinion that the purchase of replacement equipment for both of these items falls into the category of “Capital Expenditure.”

#### 6. SPRC

- a. Closed Session – The SLC moved into closed session to discuss staff items.
- b. The Business Administrator has expressed the desire to attend training that will enhance his job skills. The training will consist of 2 modules, to be accomplished virtually in September-October and January-March. The cost of the training will be paid by the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.
- c. The accountant has been made aware of the incorrect accumulation of vacation rollover time, meant as a short-term benefit during the recent pandemic. He is making the necessary adjustments.

7. The SLC engaged in conversation about the growing division in the United Methodist denomination. While there has been no sense of desire to disaffiliate at VRUMC, many have questions about the issues and impact upon the church. It was agreed, in the spirit of transparency and openness, that some forum should be used to present facts, dispel rumors, identify conjecture, and answer questions. A “Town Hall” event will be

scheduled for late September (most likely on a Sunday afternoon). The Lead Pastor and Lay Leader will work on format and content for the event.

8. Next Meeting: **Monday, September 19 at 7:00 PM at the church.** This meeting is subject to cancellation if there are no pressing issues to be addressed.
9. Closing Prayer – Tiffany

Submitted:

Stephen Greenwade, Chair

Angie Christoffersen, Lay Member Annual Conf.

Hillarye Hightower, Rel. W/ Each Other

Javier Saenz, Chair Trustee

Dianna King, SPRC

Robin Wright

Ashley Anne Sipe, Lead Pastor

Claudia Rose, Rel. With God

Carolyn Simpson, Rel. W/ Community

Barry Sykes, Finance

Susan Francis

Tiffany Harlow