

SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Vista Ridge UMC

Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022

1. The meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Monday, September 26, 2022, with all members except one (Carolyn serving CCA Food Pantry) present.
2. The Chair led a spiritual and leadership development discussion on the topic of revisiting the scope and tasking of the Servant Leadership Council (SLC). As we look ahead to 2023, it is important we ask the questions: Has the SLC delivered on what was promised? Is the current format the best one? Is the SLC spending time on the right items? Has the SLC been accountable? Much has been accomplished in 2022, but a self-review is always an appropriate first step to planning for the future. Hillarye led the group in prayer.
3. Pastor's Report:
 - a. The new VRUMC logo and core principles will be phased in during a several-week period in October, coincided with a sermon series (including one Sunday featuring the CCA President). The new logo and the associated core principles will be prominently displayed in the narthex area on the wall across from the offices. In addition, a painted stripe will be added to the inner wall circling the church, displaying 18 x 24 black and white photos of people serving in ministry areas. These photos will be removeable and replaced with more current photos in the future. Other added features will include new church name tags, vinyl car stickers, and the new digital sign. The rollout will conclude on October 30 with the sermon "Thriving in Joyful Community," and be followed by a Chili Cookoff, Cornbread Bakeoff, and the community Trunk or Treat event.
 - b. Two new community partners are being added. Keep Lewisville Beautiful will involve the church committing to keeping a portion of the adjoining median and right of way litter free. We are partnering with Denton County Friends of the Family to explore making the church a designated "safe place." Rev. Ashley Anne and Bill Burden will be undergoing training for this designation.
 - c. The Leadership Development Team will begin work on the 2023 roster of leadership soon. This item led to a discussion of the next topic.

4. 2023 Servant Leadership Council

- a. A discussion regarding the current makeup of the SLC ensued. The questions included:
 - Are we properly equipping our Ministry Team leaders with the right tools to accomplish their mission?
 - With the rollout of the new core principles, do we need to examine how the ministry areas are organized and led?

The assessment of the Chair is that the SLC has taken on too much of the “detail” work, relied upon the “point” persons (Trustees, SPRC, Finance), and not enough time on establishing Work Teams (including task descriptions). The tasking for 2023 should include more emphasis on establishing the Guiding Principles, empowering the Ministry Teams, and spend more time on big picture items.

Several potential options were discussed and it was determined that the Pastor and Chair will develop a working model for the SLC in the near future.

5. Financial Update

- a. Giving – For the Fiscal Year through August 2022, Actual Giving (\$345,095) exceeded Budget (\$303,732) by \$41,363.
- b. Expenses – During the same period, Actual Expenses (\$363,599) exceeded Budget (\$352,474) by \$11,125. The exceedance is in large part a result of the unexpected storm damage, with ensuing repair cost, and the employee payouts for former staff members. Financial Reports are available in the Church Office.
- c. Budget 2023 – A timeline of the budget process has been developed by Greg Rimling, Budget Work Team Leader. The process will begin in mid-October and establishes a goal of completion by early December. This coincides with the church’s annual Stewardship campaign taking place in November.

6. Action Items:

Building Items

Old Business

- a. Outdoor Digital Signage – Construction is complete and awaiting installation. The City of Lewisville has granted the permit as of today and we are scheduling the electrical and sign installation work.
- b. The new ice machine was delivered and returned, due to several dents located on the appliance. We are awaiting a new delivery.
- c. Repairs to the malfunctioning A/C unit have been completed.

New Business

- a. A/C Unit – The unit cooling Portable 1 has failed. For the near term, we are using the space for storage.
 - b. Congregational Care – Hillarye and Rev. Ashley Anne led a discussion on the current situation involving congregational care. It was agreed that there are holes in the current system, especially regarding retention of members. Both agreed to explore new ways to achieve the goal of efficient and timely notifications of absenteeism.
7. SPRC
- a. Closed Session – The SLC moved into closed session to discuss staff items.
8. A brief discussion was held about the recently held congregational conversation on the topic of the State of the UMC and its potential effect at VRUMC. The event was described as “informative” and “communal.” The SLC will report any further feedback from the congregation, if received.
9. Next Meeting: Over the next several weeks, Rev. Ashley Anne will attempt to solicit feedback from the SLC concerning the work of the Leadership Development Team. If this attempt is sufficiently successful, the next SLC meeting will be pushed to early November. If a meeting before then is needed, we will explore alternatives to provide maximum participation.
10. 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. W/ Each Other

Carolyn Simpson, Rel. W/ Community

Javier Saenz, Chair Trustee

Barry Sykes, Finance

Dianna King, SPRC

Susan Francis

Robin Wright

Tiffany Harlow