

SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Vista Ridge UMC

Meeting Minutes November 14, 2022

1. The meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Monday, November 14, 2022, with all members, excepting Javier and Claudia, present.
2. The Chair led a spiritual and leadership development discussion on the topic of the importance of the church budget process and how it will be different within the new leadership structure. The detail work will be administered by the Budget Work Team (Greg Rimling), in conjunction with the input of the Ministry Team Leaders. The role of the SLC is to determine the overall direction and efficiency of the church's finances. The responsibility of stewardship of the resources entrusted to us remains the same – to carefully manage the financial gifts dedicated to the ministry areas we have chosen to align with. Barry led the group in prayer.
3. Pastor's Report:
 - a. Stewardship 2023 – The campaign, with the associated sermon series, began last week and will continue through November. As of this date, 15 pledges have been submitted, with 9 showing increases over previous years, and 1 new family included.
 - b. Leadership Development Team – Work has begun to fill a total of 4 spots for the 2023 SLC. Several candidates have been approached and the Team is awaiting a decision from each. When the slate has been completely filled out, a roster will be published to the SLC and the congregation.
4. Consent Package

The contents of the package were limited to the latest Giving Report. The SLC discussed the makeup of the published numbers and whether a true picture of the giving level was being properly indicated. The group agreed that future reporting should be limited to Pledged Income and General Giving, and omitting all other "pass through" type gifts.
5. Action Items
 - a. 2023 Budget – The SLC reviewed the proposed Expense proposal for 2023. The total request is \$479,273 versus the 2022 Expense Budget of \$508,705, a reduction of \$29,432. The main adjustments made to the proposed budget that resulted in the difference are:
 - 1) The consolidation of staff positions (Children & Youth into Family)

- 2) A reduction the Conference Apportionments
- 3) The inclusion of \$10,000 to cover a potential insurance deductible for the building.

The SLC agreed that this was a good starting point and until the results of the Stewardship Campaign are known, no adjustments were necessary on the proposed Expense Budget.

- b. The meeting moved to a closed session to discuss SPRC issues. This included how the SPRC Expense item for 2023 was calculated, along with item c.
- c. The SLC discussed a request from the Directors of Worship and Communications to consider rolling over accrued vacation time into 2023. The following proposal was moved, seconded, and agreed to by the SLC:
“Due to insufficient time in 2022 to use previously earned vacation time, the SLC hereby grants a one-time carry over of the accrued time to be used in 2023. This carryover will be limited to the Directors of Worship and Communications, and must be used in the 2023 calendar year.”

6. New Business

- a. A question was posed to the Lead Pastor about the recently announced VRUMC Board of Church and Society. The group will have their first gathering on December 5, 2022, and discuss where the focal points of the group’s activities may be directed. The goal is to emphasize educating (individually, as a church, and into the community) on a marginalized group that may not been receiving adequate attention from society. More information will be forthcoming.
- b. Congregational Care – The SLC Chair will be forming a Work Group to formulate a plan on how best maximize our effectiveness in this ministry area. The Chair will be reaching out to those that have past experience, or are currently participating, in the various categories of this mission.
- c. The role of the SLC and the Ministry Teams – The group discussed the lack of communication as to how the SLC and the individual Ministry Teams are to operate. The idea behind the new Leadership structure was to free the governing board from spending too much time on detail work, and instead focus on large scale direction and vision. The Ministry Teams are empowered to work in their individual areas autonomously, within the constraints of their budget and the Guiding Principles. The Chair will be conversing with Ministry Team leaders to further explain the workings of this new hierarchy.

7. Next Meeting: December 12, 2022.

8. Closing Prayer – Pastor Ashley Anne

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