



SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes May 21, 2023

1. The regular meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 12:30 PM, with all members present with the exception of Tiffany Harlow.
2. The Lay Leader led a spiritual and leadership development discussion on the topic of the meaning of the biblical phrase, "Here I Am," referenced three times by Abraham in Genesis 22. The phrase can be taken to have three meanings – Acceptance, Supportive, and Seeking. To live more fully into each of these meanings, commitment and courage are required. James led the group in prayer.
3. Resolution for Sponsorship – A resolution was presented concerning the official church sponsorship for candidacy for ordained ministry for Colin Craft, current Director of Family Ministries at VRUMC. Included in the resolution was a waiver of the required one-year membership at VRUMC. The motion was passed unanimously by the Council and SPRC, and Vista Ridge UMC accepts all the responsibilities and duties therein.

4. Pastor's Report

Reclaimed Ministry – A creative ministry, envisioned by the Lead Pastor, is still in the formative stage. The church is actively seeking volunteers to engage with the ministry to formulate more specific planning. The hope is to openly invite local artists, or people with an interest in art, to participate.

VRUMC – The church continues to proceed on an upward trajectory, anecdotally compared to other similar churches in the area. We continue to see new faces in worship and other events, and have experienced a high level of participation at events like the recent Community Giveaway.

5. Discussion Items

- a. Proposal From Youth – A written proposal was presented by Jady Carrasco to have a public display on the church grounds during the month of June to send a message of inclusivity for VRUMC. During the ensuing discussion, concerns were expressed that taking this step without proper churchwide discussion and education could lead to unfavorable consequences. A compromise was offered, and agreed upon, to take a more discerning approach. The Lead Pastor and Lay Leader will look at alternatives in engaging elements of the “Reconciling” movement over the next several months.
- b. Church Security – The Chair led a discussion on the topic of church security. While the initial presentation was centered on the active shooter threat and steps the church could take, it was thought a more comprehensive approach to all security issues was needed. This would include building security weak areas, medical emergencies, and other potential threat areas. We will be looking at engaging an outside source to come in and ascertain what we might need to alleviate these areas. More information will be presented at a future meeting.
- c. Guiding Principles – The Chair presented a list of four Guiding Principles that the SLC examined and discussed. The list included:
 - Large building maintenance expenditure limits and procedures, to include bidding procedures
 - Disposal of Non-Cash assets, especially time frames
 - Church Credit Card Authority
 - Procedure to change an existing Guiding Principle

After several alterations and editing, these four Guiding Principles were agreed upon by the SLC.

The SLC will be addressing other Guiding Principles in future meetings this year.

- d. Discussion Topics from SLC
 - The Trustee Chair indicated the need to move from a volunteer-based grounds maintenance system to a limited contract with a yard service. The time, effort, and volunteer resources required are becoming more difficult to harness to keep the grounds properly cared for. The SLC agreed to contract for groundskeeping services costing \$600/month for a period of six months. Assuming the service proves to be acceptable, the ongoing future cost will be accounted for in the next budget.
 - A question was raised concerning the Youth Ministry Mission Trip. More information will be forthcoming.

6. Consent Package

- a. Financials – As of the end of April, the church remains on a firm financial footing. Excluding Depreciation, Total Revenue exceeds Total Expenses by \$8,068, and Budgeted by \$10,969. There is an ongoing question concerning the overage in Staff Wages/Benefits. Further conversation with the Church Accountant will be forthcoming to address this issue.
- b. Community Outreach Ministry Report – A written report was sent to the SLC updating the status of Community Outreach at VRUMC.

7. SPRC (Closed Session)
 - a. The SPRC Chair discussed the status of filling our open Worship Director position. A search team has been recruited for the process and the position has been posted on several websites. To date, one candidate has been identified and the interview process will begin this coming week.
 - b. The SPRC Chair intends to check in personally with every VRUMC Staff member over the next several weeks to ascertain well-being and identify any potential problem areas.

8. Additional Note – At a previous meeting of the SLC, the terms of a new contract covering church insurance was discussed. At the time, the final details were not available to enable an official vote. Following the meeting, the details were made known to the SLC and due to the time sensitivity of obtaining a new policy, an electronic vote was taken. The proposed contract was approved and the Chair of Trustees signed the paperwork on behalf of the church.

Next SLC Meeting – **Sunday, July 16, at 12:30 PM**

Closing Prayer – Barry Sykes

Submitted:

Stephen Greenwade, Chair

Ashley Anne Sipe, Lead Pastor

Angie Christoffersen, Lay Member Annual Conf

James Kunke, Lay Leader

Hillarye Hightower, Staff Parish Relations Chair

Barry Sykes, Chair of Trustees

Javier Saenz

Karen Meeks

Dan Sepdham

Susan Francis

Bernadette Ealy

Tiffany Harlow