



SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes February 27, 2024

1. The regular meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7 pm, with all members present in person, except for Bernadette Ealy, who joined via Zoom, and Dan Sepdham. This constitutes a quorum of voting members.
2. James Kunke led the opening prayer.
3. Discussion Items
 - a. Follow up from SLC Retreat: Rev. Ashley Anne led a discussion to obtain additional feedback from the brainstorming exercise presented at the SLC Retreat: Where do our gifts intersect with the needs of the community? A discussion ensued regarding the single service and an expressed interest for more variety of music. It was decided to include this topic in our next Church Family Meeting to help with transparency in the rollout process. A new usher/greeter program has been rolled out with training. A new small group focusing on 1-hour service projects has been started at the 11 o'clock hour. Efforts will be made to help publicize the new group to the entire congregation.
 - b. Starting Point Brunch: Rev. Ashley Anne informed the council that 26 new and returning visitors have been invited to the March 3, 2024 brunch. Joining Sunday is set for March 24, 2024.
 - c. Explore: 2024 - Children's Ministry Meeting Update: Susan Francis and Tiffany Harlow spoke about the positive energy and excitement that came from the "Ask a better question" discussion at a recent Children's Ministry meeting. The direction includes shifting focus from a traditional VBS model to an intentional effort to impact the children in our community, with focus on our longstanding relationship with Rockbrook Elementary.

- d. Possible Building Use - Denton County Friends of the Family: Hillarye Hightower explained the request for DCFOF Mobile Advocates to office out of Vista Ridge UMC premises. These advocates are on grant funding that requires them to office “in the community.” They would also have the ability to intake clients, which would be a community benefit that the church could promote. Wesley Potter, Trustee Chair for 2024, approved the requested building usage.
- e. Discussion Topics from SLC: No additional topics were brought forth.

4. Pastor’s Report

- a. UMC General Conference: April 23-May 3: The 2020 United Methodist Church General Conference that was rescheduled due to Covid, is now taking place in April 2024 in Charlotte, NC. The schedule, legislation and additional resources can be found here: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020> At the direction of the General Conference, Church and Society has undertaken an eight-year process to develop revised Social Principles for a worldwide church. Business and worship sessions will be livestreamed.
- b. Vista Ridge UMC Lunch & Launch: April 21, 2024: The Sunday before GC, VRUMC will host a Lunch & Launch. This will include a Q&A session and prayer time in advance of the General Conference. James Kunke volunteered to help set up a prayer vigil for the congregation to be in intentional prayer during the 11-day span of General Conference.
- c. UMC Conference Unification: As churches have disaffiliated, several surrounding conferences do not have the resources to remain separate. The conferences considering the unification process include the North Texas Conference (VRUMC’s current conference), North West Conference (the Panhandle area) and the Central Texas Conference. As it’s being discussed, Bishop Saenz would remain our Bishop; there would be 7 instead of 4 District Superintendents, with each new DS having more churches to serve. The projected unification will be voted on in September 2024, to go into effect January 1, 2025. Our apportionments went down last year, so the hope is that we would not see increases in apportionments with this new structure. Rev. Ashley Anne asks for prayers for both of the above items: for clarity and a way forward.

5. Financial Update

- a. Matt Devine, Finance Chair, took the council through an update on the Balance Sheet and recommendations to reclass expense activities.
- b. The first recommendation would be to reclass expense activity from the TMF funds (the land sale account) that were previously voted and approved capital expenditures; and correct the designated funds.

- c. The second recommendation is to reclaim the \$100K+ of capital expenditures from TMF and shift into the Legacy account.
 - d. The third recommendation is a potential retirement/reclass of activities in designated funds. This would include funds for “expired” events such as the church’s 25th anniversary and 2018 flood.
 - e. No formal vote was taken, but all present agreed to have the Finance Chair move forward with requesting the TMF reclass from the District Superintendent.
- 6. Online Action Items: The following are the action items taken by an electronic vote since the previous meeting of the SLC.
 - a. January 17, 2024 - Approval of an expenditure of up to \$5,000 for mandatory water main repairs.
 - b. January 19, 2024 - Approval of additional water main repair funding totaling \$9,659. An additional team and appropriate tools were needed to dig under the concrete to make the needed repairs.
 - c. January 29, 2024 - Approval of the purchase of Aura identity monitoring (\$9-\$12/pp/mo) until February 2025 for 4 former employees whose mailed W2s had their Social Security numbers showing from the outside of the envelope.
- 7. Staff-Parish Relations
 - a. The council held a closed session to discuss SPRC items. No formal votes were recorded.
- 8. Next SLC Meeting: March 19, 2024
 - a. Church Family Meeting: April 7, 2024
- 9. Pastor Ashley Anne led the council in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

SLC Membership:

Karen Meeks, Chair

Ashley Anne Sipe, Lead Pastor

Angie Christoffersen, Lay Member Annual Conf

James Kunke, Lay Leader

Hillarye Hightower, Staff Parish Relations Chair

Matt Devine, Finance Chair

Wesley Potter, Chair of Trustees

Tiffany Harlow, Secretary/Minutes

Dan Sepdham

Susan Francis

Bernadette Ealy

Cassandra Williams