



SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024

1. The regular meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7 PM, with all members present in person, except for Susan Frances, Hillarye Hightower and Dan Sepdham. This constitutes a quorum of voting members.
2. James Kunke led the group in a devotional around the hymn “Here I Am,” and opened the meeting with prayer.
3. Discussion Items:
 - a. Church Family Meeting - Sunday, April 7: The council discussed setting an agenda for the upcoming Church Family Meeting. Items included:
 - i. Single Worship Service: Revisiting the conversation around the move to a single service, including music.
 - ii. General Conference: Educate the congregation on General Conference and open space for conversation and questions.
 1. April 10 – Zoom for Sr. Pastors and Lay Leaders
 2. What we are likely to see: “regionalization” or the term used for the legislative proposal that would create different regions of the UMC, that would be able to vote to have different polity in our contextualized areas.

- a. This would be a constitutional change; and would require approval at General Conference and then require approval at the annual conference level.

3. Bernadette Ealy requested that we have available Bishop Saenz's bio and background.

- iii. Financial Update: Finance Chair Matt Devine to take the congregation through our current financial status.

b. Future Discussion Topics:

- i. Work teams – overlap and gaps: James requested approval for a community outreach work group to help organize the various outreach ministry teams.
 1. Wes Potter motioned to approve the requested work team; Angie Christoffersen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ii. Requested a No Smoking sign or designated outdoor smoking area – Wes and Bill Burden to make a recommendation.
- iii. Reminder for the Council to join the Church Workday.
- iv. Update on Unification: Unification will still happen, but they will not be redrawing the district lines. Our District Superintendent will remain in our district through 2026. See minutes from February 2024 for details of Unification.
- v. Mission Trip for our Youth: Austin in June; Fundraiser starts Sunday, March 24.

4. Pastor's Report:

- a. Starting Point Brunch Recap/Joining Sunday: Five visiting guests are joining the church; two are not quite ready to join but are likely to join in the future.

b. Financial Update:

- i. Matt Devine took the council through the Statement of Financial Position and P&L for February.
 1. P&L: As of February YTD, Net Income excluding Depreciation is favorable by \$4,545. However, the favorability is the result of time lag expenses such as Health/Pension, Apportionments and CCA - 1% tithe.

2. TMF: Identified 38 invoices related to capital expenditures to present to our District Superintendent (totaling \$108K); if approved, we will be able to lift the restriction and transfer the funds into our general bank account.
3. Other designated funds: more work is needed to make a recommendation for future plans for expired designated funds.
 - ii. Insurance deductible buy down (\$5,500) – due Apr 1. This payment would take our wind and hail deductible from \$50K to \$10K; and funds are budgeted. Wes Potter will need to sign off. No formal vote was needed since it's a budgeted item and the budget was previously approved.
5. Staff Parish Relations:
 - a. No SPRC items were discussed, and no formal votes were recorded.
6. Next SLC Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2024
 - a. Church Family Meeting: April 7, 2024
 - b. Launch + Learn for General Conference: April 21, 2024
7. Karen Meeks led the council in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8 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, Trustees Chair

Tiffany Harlow, Secretary/Minutes

Dan Sepdham

Susan Francis

Bernadette Ealy

Cassandra Williams