



SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes June 30, 2024

1. The regular meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Sunday, June 30, 2024, at 11:15 a.m., with all members present, except for Wesley Potter, Hillarye Hightower, Dan Sepdham, and Cassandra Williams. This constitutes a quorum of voting members.
2. James Kunke led the group in a devotional and opened the meeting with prayer. Karen Meeks asked the council to share joys and concerns.
3. Pastor's Report:
 - a. UM Army Mission Trip Recap: Our youth group was one of the largest groups represented on the trip. Reverend Ashley Anne described them as a "beautiful representation of belonging and inclusivity" and feels that they serve as a reminder of how we, as a church, can be that for new people.
 - b. Youth Sunday: Scheduled for July 14, with our youth leading with their testimonies.
4. Discussion Items:
 - a. Amendments to Guiding Principles Document: James Kunke made proposed edits to the Guiding Principles documents. The council discussed each item and made recommendations for a finalized draft. The list of discussion items was as follows:
 - i. Adding language for the Leadership Development Committee/board selection and clarifying the staggering/class system/roll-on, roll-off timing.
 - ii. Refining responsibilities of the SLC, referencing the Book of Discipline.
 - iii. Structure updates to include a possible Youth member.

- iv. Clarifying members and positions.
- v. Meeting structure: adding approval of minutes and committee reports, as well as language for “special meetings” and email votes, where votes are taken on business between regular meetings.
- vi. Clarifying work groups.
- vii. Creating a process for amending the document.
- viii. Retaining the language on reporting to the congregation in the form of churchwide meetings every 6 months.
- ix. Recommended adding language to assign council members as individual liaisons to church staff.
- x. Next steps to include:
 - 1. James will update the document to share in an upcoming Vista newsletter for the congregation to view before the next SLC meeting, where the Council will vote on the proposed changes.
 - 2. A need to create separate documentation for a directive/job description for each of the three Standing Committees and Chairs: Finance, Trustees, and SPRC.

b. Worship Attendance/Membership Brainstorm

- i. Reviewed average worship attendance monthly from 2023-24
- ii. Reviewed new members and ongoing guest list from 2023-24
- iii. Retention Committee (Engagement Team) - how can we be better about sharing the information that the staff receives with a group of congregants to better connect with new visitors? Bill (attendance), Laurie (emails), Rev. AA (welcome emails), Greeters (new faces).
- iv. Do we need a second level of greeters at the sanctuary doors to welcome new visitors?
- v. SLC needs to define the visioning and our Why.
- vi. Do we also need to send a churchwide survey?

5. Future Discussion Topics

- a. Process to help focus, simplify, and define our WHY.

6. Finance Report:

- a. Finance Chair Matt Devine took the council through the May financials (Profit & Loss and Statement of Financial Position.) As reported, the indication is that we are about \$18,000 under budget. We have not brought over the TMF interest. That will get us even year-to-date (favorable \$919).

- b. Giving is down in both Pledged and General.
- c. Opportunity - How to change the idea of the local church being run on tithes only and to use our church property as a base for a nonprofit. Are there other opportunities to use our assets (our building) to generate revenue? To add to the agenda for future discussion.
- d. Pledge Campaign - Discussion around the annual pledge campaign where the congregation possibly commits not just dollars but hours.
- e. Worship Director Andy Harrison submitted a written report laying out an opportunity to purchase a Hammond B3 organ from a private vendor for \$7,500 + \$200 for moving fees.
 - i. After a discussion, Matt Devine proposed to use \$7,700 in designated funds to purchase this organ and transportation.
 - ii. Motion passed; not unanimous

7. Trustees Report

- a. Bill Burden reported on building updates:
 - i. The Korean congregation that was meeting in the portables is no longer meeting as of June 1.
 - ii. Three small air conditioner issues were repaired.
 - iii. Refrigerator and fan motor were repaired.
 - iv. One of the front doors has a hydraulic leak and needs to be repaired.
 - v. The home school music group will be coming back for the new school year on Monday afternoons.
 - vi. Sound at the front of the building – from the cry room to the nursery – needs to be reviewed by an outside vendor.
 - vii. Safety Team:
 - 1. Wes and Bill are meeting with other churches to determine the needs and structure that other congregations are using.
 - 2. As part of the ongoing improvements to safety, the church doors and automatic locks are being tweaked for Sunday morning worship.
 - viii. New Landscaping: Chris Rose, Rev. Ashley Anne, and Bill to discuss using native plants to use less water and less maintenance, as well as being aesthetically pleasing.

8. Staff-Parish Relations Report:

- a. No updates on SPRC items.

9. Next SLC Meeting: Sunday, July 28, 2024, at 11:15 a.m. in person at VRUMC.

10. Matt Devine led the council in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

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