



SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes August 27, 2024

1. The regular meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 6 p.m., with all members present in person, except for James Kunke. This constitutes a quorum of voting members.
2. Karen Meeks led the group in a devotional and Cassandra Williams opened the meeting with prayer.
3. The meeting minutes from July 18, 2024, were approved.
4. Finance Report:
 - a. Matt Devine, Finance Chair, took the council through the July Statement of Giving. Appears that July was a fantastic month for giving. We have yet to bring over the Texas Methodist Foundation; YTD July \$9,800 to the positive against our budget. The church was projected to be down \$62K for the year; now expected to be down \$26K. Expenses continue to trail the budget. Great news!
 - b. A smaller group of the SLC met with an investment company, but do not feel like it's a good fit. We will continue to look for a liquid option for our additional cash accounts with higher rates of return than a savings account, but with fewer fees.
5. Pastor's Report:
 - a. Advanced Pastoral Leadership: Rev. Ashley Anne recently returned from the first meeting with her cohort and feels it will bear a lot of fruit for leadership.
 - b. Unified Conference: Scheduled for next month. Angie and AA will go to Abilene on behalf of VRUMC; will vote for Horizon Texas Conference unification to begin January 2025; Clergy retreat will also be included in this meeting.

- c. Cluster Charge Conference: VRUMC has been asked/chosen to host the Cluster Charge Conference on Sunday, December 1, at 3 p.m. at VRUMC; 12 churches will attend for their charge conference; SLC leadership team strongly encouraged to attend; hosting, cookies, coffee, greeters at every door. Opportunities for youth to serve/participate.

6. Discussion Items:

- a. United Methodist Men/United Women in Faith formation in progress
- b. Visioning Brainstorming: Potential Action Items for 2025 Vision:
 - i. Multiply Followers
 - ii. Focus on Children/Youth
 - iii. Care and Healing
 - iv. Personally Ask and Encourage
 - v. Diversity Initiatives
 - vi. VRUMC Story
 - vii. 5th Sunday of Service
- c. We want to be KNOWN in the community for creating pathways to compassionately serve and for bringing people into a relationship with Jesus.
 - i. How are we not known in our community?
 - ii. How are we not bringing people into a relationship with Jesus?
 - iii. We are already serving and being known for serving our neighbors at Rockbrook and CCA
 - iv. How are we creating pathways for others to compassionately serve?
 - v. Are there opportunities to invite teachers to serve alongside us?
 - vi. Let's start some of our discipleship – symbiotics – pray for and listen for where the spirit is leading, where are the needs, etc.
 - vii. Hillarye shared a story of Denton Country Friends of the Family; how do we follow up?
 - viii. How do we identify one positive step to take with each of our core partners?

- d. Rockbrook: How do we create pathways for the teachers to serve? How do we partner with them to come to us? What's the second contact? We have 24 volunteers with Rockbrook.
 - i. Focus has been on supporting the teachers and staff.
 - ii. Is there an opportunity to support the parents via the PTA?
 - iii. Future opportunity: Spring Break Camp
 - e. Denton County Friends of the Family: There are other volunteer opportunities; how do we bring those opportunities to our congregation?
 - i. Build the partnership
 - ii. Create a care team for DCFOF employees
 - f. Keep Lewisville Beautiful: Nan Moser and Chris Rose are heading up an idea for an ecological community area/campus location.
 - g. Love Thy Neighbor: Possible discussion as a 5th community partner
 - i. Meeting with church staff this coming week
 - ii. Needs include graphic design and website work
7. Opportunities/Future Discussion Topics:
- a. More publishing the way that we serve – service opportunities
 - b. Re-evangelism discipleship training – be continuously teaching people who are here, how are you every time you are serving, listening to the spirit, inviting people into a relationship with Jesus
 - c. Opportunities to do this together, i.e. 5th Sunday Services
 - d. Future discussion of services: prayerfully examining opportunities for service growth
8. Trustees Report: Wesley Potter, Chair of Trustees, took the council through the following report.
- a. Keep Lewisville Beautiful has offered for us to house the recycled bench earned from Bags to Benches since our church generously donated the bulk of the plastics. Dan Sepdham made a motion to approve receiving the bench; Cassandra Williams seconded. SLC agreed to place it near the back playground.

- b. Workday on September 7, from 7 a.m. to noon – tree-trimming equipment and workers are needed
- c. Replace the monument sign on Highland Drive, which is outdated; to be paid for by a family. Approved unanimously
- d. Will be replacing the air conditioner that cools the back of the church/rehearsal room – Cost \$4,800

9. Staff Parish Relations:

- a. Closed session. No votes were recorded during the discussion.

- 10. Next SLC Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 6 p.m. in person at VRUMC. An online Zoom link will be provided if an SLC member needs to attend online.
- 11. Church Family Meeting: Sunday, September 22, 11:15 a.m. to noon.
- 12. Rev. Ashley Anne led the council in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 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