



SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes November 20, 2024

1. The regular meeting of the VRUMC Servant Leadership Council (SLC) was convened on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 7 PM online via Zoom video call, with all members present. This constitutes a quorum of voting members.
2. James Kunke led the group in a devotional and opened the meeting with prayer.
3. The meeting minutes from October 22, 2024, were approved with one clarification from Matt Devine, Finance Chair. The 1-year CD from Texas Methodist Foundation was misstated by TMF at 6.5%; however, it is only guaranteed a rate of 4.6%. TMF has agreed to move it from a 1-year CD to a 4-month CD with the adjusted rate.
4. Pastor's Report:
 - a. Widen the Welcome Update: The stewardship campaign is progressing well with five new pledges and 10 raised pledges so far. Leadership was encouraged to submit pledges promptly.
 - b. Recognition of Outgoing SLC Members: Recognition of outgoing/incoming SLC members will take place during worship on either January 12 or 19. (Through subsequent email exchanges, the date was confirmed for Sunday, January 19.)
5. Finance Report:
 - a. Matt Devine, Finance Chair, took the council through the most updated Statement of Giving. Financials: Preliminary October financials show a negative margin of <\$11K>, but flat to budget, meaning we expected to be negative this month. Year-to-date adjusted is <\$7K> margin, however \$26K positive vs. budget.
 - b. 2025 draft budget shows a <\$17K> deficit; 2025 pledge projections conservative at \$409K; total 2025 projected revenue \$497K, expenses \$514K, resulting in \$17K deficit; Insurance premiums are expected to increase ~20% in 2025.
 - c. Matt will share the final budget to be approved via email vote.

6. Trustees Report:
 - a. Building Maintenance Concerns: 35-year-old building facing various maintenance issues.
 - b. No formal 5-year maintenance plan in place.
 - c. Major repairs (e.g. leak in foyer) deferred due to budget constraints.
 - d. City requiring parking lot re-striping to avoid fines.
7. Discussion Items:
 - a. Church Family Meeting Recap: no major concerns expressed by congregation. Please reach out to any SLC member to bring concerns to the committee.
 - b. Church Calendar:
 - i. Nov. 24 - Hanging of the Greens (11 AM-1 PM)
 - ii. Dec. 1 - Cluster Charge Conference (3-5 PM)
 - iii. Dec. 7 - Single Ladies Christmas Party
 - iv. Dec. 19 - Blue Christmas Community Service (with other churches)
 - v. Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service (7 PM)
 - vi. James to finalize 2025 outreach calendar for January SLC meeting approval
 - vii. Leadership encouraged to participate in upcoming church events
 - c. Fall Food Drive Results: More than 2,000 items and \$500 cash collected; Half of the volunteers were first-time participants; 5 volunteers were non-members invited by church members; strong community interest in service opportunities observed.
8. Staff Parish Relations (Closed Session):
 - a. A Staff Christmas Love Gift will be accepted in the church Welcome Center and online through the end of December.
9. Next SLC Meeting will be in January. Dates also need to be set for the 2025 SLC Retreat (typically a Saturday).
10. Hillarye Hightower led the council in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

SLC Membership:

Karen Meeks, Chair

Angie Christoffersen, Lay Member Annual Conf

Hillarye Hightower, Staff Parish Relations Chair

Wesley Potter, Chair of Trustees

Dan Sepdham

Bernadette Ealy

Ashley Anne Sipe, Lead Pastor

James Kunke, Lay Leader

Matt Devine, Finance Chair

Tiffany Harlow, Secretary/Minutes

Susan Francis

Cassandra Williams