

**Virginia Beach United Methodist Church  
Church Leadership Council  
January 20, 2016**

CLC Chair, Doug Knapp, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Those present: Janice Cagle, Chuck Cassidy, Jacob Davis, Chris Everly, Carolyn Fried, Joanne Griggs, Terry Jenkins, Michael Key, Doug Knapp, Oral Lambert, Heather McEntee, Benson McGlone, Ken Miller, Tracy Miller, Edrie Pfeiffer, Ralph Rowley, Michael Snow, Brenda Stahl. Also present was Laura Ezell

Chris Everly gave the opening devotion, with scripture from Psalm 127:1. <sup>1</sup> Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In December of 1903, the Wright brothers finally succeeded in their first flight. When their sister heard of the news, she told the local newspaper, "They achieved the first human flight, and they will be home for Christmas." The listener was overjoyed that they would be home for Christmas, but missed the important news about the first flight. We are often guilty of this, missing the big things because we focus too much on the small things. We are to keep our eyes on the important task, which is to bring others to Christ. We are to ask for his wisdom to carry out His work.

**New/On-going Projects:**

16.01 Recognition of New and Returning CLC Members- Pastor Ralph gave a special welcome to the new members of CLC. There are 4 places in the Bible that mention spiritual gifts. Ralph quoted from a book written by Bill Hybels, founder and Senior Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. In his book, he talks about the importance of the church, saying it is the "hope of the world." Going further, he explains that the future of the church rests in its leaders. With those given the spiritual gift of leadership, we are to work together and make a difference, giving God the credit for it all!

Ralph followed by an official CLC installation service. Following the installation, everyone introduced themselves and stated their roll on CLC.

16.02 Recommendation- Overall Missions Strategic Planning Team- CLC chair Doug Knapp gave a brief explanation on the reasons for creating the CLC Executive Committee. In the future, the EC will meet on a monthly basis, and the whole CLC will meet quarterly. However, CLC members are to leave the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month available in case of called meetings. Future dates for both the EC and CLC were given on the agenda.

One item brought from the EC involved the current Missions at VBUMC. Between international, regional, and local ministries, they are a big part of our church. To better establish direction for our church, it is suggested by the EC that a small team of 5-6 people be formed to discuss the future of missions. Their purpose will be to gain information and determine the best course of action.

They will also determine if a full/part time staff member will be needed. Given that 15% of the general budget is devoted to missions, it is important to take a close look and gain direction. It will be important to look at how other churches of similar size handle missions. It will also be wise for them to look at the things the city is doing as well. Lastly, they will need to determine how the new North Wing building plans might be affected.

**\*\*\*A motion is brought forth to allow the EC to form a team of 5-6 members to gain information and determine the best course of action for the future of missions at VBUMC. They will report their findings and recommendations to the EC and ultimately to CLC as a whole. The motion passes with no opposition.**

### **Administrative Reports and Other Business:**

16.03 Stewardship- Beth Lantz gave the report on Stewardship with Ken Miller's assistance. There were 3 goals for the Stewardship Committee- 1. Receive more pledges than last year 2. Cover 75% of the budget 3. Raise \$50K more in pledges than last year. All of these goals were met! 347 pledges were received totaling \$1.28M, which was \$83K more than last year. Given that the nationwide trend is moving away from pledged giving, it is a real testament to how our church has stepped up!

16.04 Finance- Joanne Griggs gave a report on behalf of Finance. For the first time in 100 years, our financial statements were reviewed by an outside accounting firm. Given the hard work of Dusty, Ken, and Ron Dyer, the books and records were finally at a good state to accomplish this task. We received a favorable letter of opinion from the accounting firm of McPhillips, Roberts, and Deans. Their services totaled \$6,500, which is much less than a potential audit that would cost substantially more. It is noted that Ron, Ken, and Dusty compiled a lot of the literature for the financial report, saving the church substantial cost for the review. During the process, a careful examination of the church's property was done dating back to the original purchase in 1912. A full report of the historical cost of the properties and renovations is included in the report.

It was suggested that a financial statement review be conducted annually to keep the finances of the church in good standing. Although the UMC Discipline recommends internal auditing procedures, it is suggested that because of the size of our church and the complexity of its budget, an annual review by professionals is needed.

**\*\*\*A motion is brought forth to charge the Finance Committee to put together a financial statement review process. They are to develop an official policy for an annual review to be brought back to CLC for approval. The motion passes unopposed.**

It is suggested that the document from M, R, & D be made available to the congregation. Heather M. suggests that this can be put on the church website and *Open Door* publication.

Joanne continued to update CLC on December financials. It was a good month! While the actual giving was slightly less than the budget, expenses were substantially less. It was anticipated that we would run a deficit of \$19K, but we finished \$24K in the black for the month.

Joanne then discussed Seaside School. The projected year end deficit for the school was anticipated to be \$59K, but that amount has increased to \$83K. The extended care for the school did not get enough students to make it profitable. Also, the Summer Splash program has been cancelled. Registration is currently underway for the Fall. Tim Miller has volunteered his time to look at the current state of Seaside and determine a break-even attendance number for the school. His work will also include putting together a viable business plan. Given that a large portion of the new building is dedicated to the school, a good business plan is essential. Once his report is complete, a decision can be made for the future of Seaside School.

- 16.05 Trustees- Oral Lambert gave a report on behalf of the Trustees. The moveable chairs that will replace some of the current pews in the sanctuary have been manufactured. They are on a delivery truck and are anticipated to arrive on Monday at 8:00AM. Volunteers are needed for unloading! There have been reports of security concerns within the congregation, and the Trustees are addressing the issue. They called on the VBPD Crime Prevention Unit to conduct a security survey of our church facilities. The report and recommendations will be given in a briefing to the Trustees at their February meeting. Trustees are also working on a facility use policy for non-church related groups. Once approved, anticipated in February, it will be forwarded to the CLC. Lastly, Oral also gave an update on the 18th street property. The proposal submitted by the developer remains in place. However, the developer and city officials are not yet prepared to entertain a firm contract pending their finalizing plans for the Dome Site and other planned development in the immediate area.
- 16.06 Second Century Committee- Terry reported on behalf of the SCC. The committee presented to the congregation the building plans for the new north wing and renovation of parts of the south wing on January 13, 2016. Mike Molzahn, architect for HBA, reviewed the form, function and flow of the space, and copies of the building plans were provided to participants. The plans are also available on the church's website for those who were unable to attend the meeting. The SCC will meet on January 27 to review comments and feedback provided to the committee. They will then schedule a series of additional discussion/feedback opportunities.

16.07 Pastor's Reports- Pastor Ralph gave a report on behalf of the pastors. On behalf of the Nominations Committee, he presented 3 new At Large members of the Finance Committee for CLC's approval. They are: Phil Cockrill (Class of 2016), Jerry Tomlin (2017), and Bev Boyer (2018). These members were elected as presented. He and Janice Cagle attended the District Leadership Training Day last Saturday. At the Training Day, Bishop Cho met with the representatives of churches that are participating in the Prayer Covenant. Lastly, Ralph attended the Annual Gathering of Large Church Lead Pastors last Tuesday. Gil Rendle was the featured speaker, and spoke about staffing and supervision. He also talked about the difference between inputs, through puts, and outputs as measures of performance.

There being no more business, Pastor Ralph closed the meeting in prayer at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Key, Secretary