

Virginia Beach United Methodist Church
Church Leadership Council
September 16, 2015

Doug Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present: Dick Andrews, Janice Cagle, Chuck Cassidy, John Clarke, Chris Everly, Carolyn Fried, Charlie Greiner, Terry Jenkins, Michael Key, Doug Knapp, Heather McEntee, Benson McGlone, Ken Miller, Lisa Miller, Tracy Miller, Edrie Pfeiffer, Fred Poteet, Emily Ruppert, Josh Seager, Brenda Stahl, Jennifer Vaughan. Also present were Rosalee Jewell, Laura Ezell, Jean Dyer, and Ron Dyer (substituting for Joanne Griggs)

Chris Everly gave the opening devotion, telling about how God is entrusting His vision to His people. We are never too late to seek God's vision, and that He rewards his faithful servants. And we are also entrusted to be good stewards of His vision.

Pastor Ralph is absent this evening, as his wife Marcia had to be taken to the hospital for further testing. Please keep him, Marcia, and their family in your prayers.

New/On-going Projects:

15.37 REACH Report- Brenda S. gave the quarterly report. Per CLC's request, she and Gail G. have added in a "count by worship service" to the report. This is to get a sense of how the numbers compare to previous years. The REACH report also differentiates between usher counts and Shelby counts. In order to get a good sense of how many people we are actually ministering to consistently, the REACH numbers are presented on a 6 week basis. Brenda asks the question, "What do we actually do with the data that REACH is able to obtain?" It is noted that the data could be very helpful in the building campaign, and it could also be used to help identify where we are and where our target market is. Even though REACH shows that attendance is down in comparison to previous years, giving is up! This might be attributed to electronic giving, allowing the congregation to give financially even when they are unable to attend worship.

15.38 CLC Executive Committee Proposal- Doug K. re-presented the Executive Committee (EC) proposal that was discussed last month. A group of potential EC members met and addressed concerns raised at the last CLC meeting. They made several adjustments to the proposal, including a language change to clarify the authority of decision making. The EC may act on the behalf of the CLC, but only when authorized by the CLC to do so. The EC will tackle issues, and bring them to CLC to discuss and approve.

Committee reports will be shared electronically to streamline meetings, and the frequency of CLC meetings can be reduced. The new proposal is also more understandable in terms of scope. Ministry directors and others may be invited to add input to the EC meetings. Minutes will be kept and basic agenda minutes will be shared with the CLC. However, as this group will likely discuss many ideas, some which may never come to fruition, discernment must be considered concerning issues that are publically posted.

A motion is brought forth to accept the CLC Executive Committee proposal as presented. It is voted on and is endorsed unanimously by CLC.

15.39 Endowment and Foundation- Currently the VBUMC Foundation has funds totaling between \$150 and \$200K. The current Foundation has a board and by-laws. The Endowment would help members create a legacy within their church, similar to a university style model. This could be handled while the person is alive or within their estate after their death. The proposal would combine the Endowment with the Foundation. This necessitates the current board structure and by-laws be revised.

A motion is brought forth to accept the VBUMC Endowment proposal as presented. It is voted on and is endorsed unanimously by CLC.

Administrative Reports and Other Business:

15.43 Stewardship- Charlie Greiner gave a report on Stewardship, reminding CLC that Stewardship Sunday is coming up on October 25th. In the 4 Sundays leading up to the 25th, testimonies will be given by lay persons starting on September 27th. Brenda S. has suggested to Sunday school leaders to look at studying a devotional book provided by *Giving Rocket*. The cost will be \$2 for the book, but new members will be given one for free. Matthew 6:21 says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Charlie encourages all of us to pray about the upcoming Stewardship events.

15.44 SPR- Tracy M. gave a report on behalf of SPR. A kitchen coordinator has been hired from within the church. Nancy Clark, who is currently the Ministry Administrative Assistant, was chosen due to her experience in this area (she developed Courthouse UMC's kitchen). It will be a 10 hour per week position, and we are delighted to have her on board. Tracy also announced that Emily R. will be the new worship leader for the Friday night youth service, and we are delighted to have Emily in that position as well!

15.45 Finance- Ron Dyer gave a report on behalf of Finance, and it is good news! Giving is up when compared to the last 3 years. The church purposely runs a deficit through the year, knowing that December is a large giving month. There will be some adjustments made to the budget because of some timing issues on operations. For example, the door replacement was scheduled for August, but didn't actually occur until September. It will all even out at the end of the year.

15.46 Trustees- John C. gave a report on behalf of the Trustees. There were a lot of issues raised in this month's meeting due to not meeting over the summer months. Some of these issues included playground and city regulations, but there wasn't any issue that required immediate action. A former business manager had begun to create a church facilities document, outlining how to use the facility (fees charged for events, etc.) Pastor Ralph has asked that it be looked at again.

We want to recognize Pat Bridges and Dave Lundquist for their dedication and hard work on the grounds as a part of the Garden Party. Dave will retire as leader, and so far nobody has stepped up to take his place. The Trustees would like to put up a plaque outside honoring the Garden Party. This was approved by the Trustees.

15.47 Second Century- Terry Jenkins gave a report on behalf of the SCC. They have been meeting frequently with the architect. Recently, the SCC met and looked at his recommendations for the location of ministries in the North wing. They will come back with more refinement at next month's CLC meeting. After the building campaign estimates are reviewed, the architect can give further and more concise direction.

John C. is a bit concerned because of uncertain market conditions at the moment. He pointed out that the success of a drive is directly related to the economy, and we would hate to have another failure because of it. Timing is critically important. *Horizons* has been hired to handle the capital campaign, and their fee is structured on an incremental basis. Should something drastic happen with the market, payments to them may be stopped. We also have the ability to get out of their contract if that needs to be done at any point.

15.48 Pastor's Reports- Pastor Benson gave a report on behalf of the pastors. We are to keep Pastor Ralph and his family in our prayers with Marcia's health issues. He wanted to give praise to Brenda S. for all of her hard work and effort she put into the LIFE groups- the leadership team has already met. There are lots of good things going on in the life of the church right now- there's a lot to celebrate! He is excited to see how things will continue to move forward.

There being no more business, Pastor Benson closed the meeting in prayer at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Key, Secretary