

**Virginia Beach United Methodist Church  
Church Leadership Council  
December 16, 2015**

CLC Assistant Chair, Chris Everly, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Those present: Dick Andrews, Janice Cagle, Chuck Cassidy, Chris Everly, Joanne Griggs, Terry Jenkins, Michael Key, Heather McEntee, Benson McGlone, Ken Miller, Lisa Miller, Tracy Miller, Edrie Pfeiffer, Fred Poteet, Ralph Rowley, Emily Ruppert, and Brenda Stahl. Also present: Rosalee Jewell, Laura Ezell.

Chris Everly gave the opening devotion, with scripture from Galatians 5:13-14. <sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Since we are studying the 5 Love Languages, this scripture is especially appropriate. We are to live a life of service, paying special attention to the genuine needs of others. We came to be due to the sacrifice of countless others, so we are to do the same for each other. Jesus was the ultimate example of serving others, and it is our task to emulate him in this way.

**New/On-going Projects:**

15.62 Recognition of rotating CLC members- Pastor Ralph gave a special word of appreciation for those rotating off CLC, and he has a certificate for each: Lennox Boggs, John Clarke, Phil Cockrill, Charlie Greiner, Fred Poteet, Dick Andrews, and Jennifer Vaughan. Given that Jennifer is a volunteer, Pastor Ralph expressed the importance role that volunteers play.

**Administrative Reports and Other Business:**

15.63 Stewardship- Ken Miller gave a report on Stewardship. There were 340 pledges received totaling \$1.26 million. This is an increase of 5% from last year, and covers 74% of the operating budget. A \$50K increase was set as a goal, and that goal was met and exceeded, totaling \$65K more than last year.

15.64 Finance- Joanne Griggs gave a report on Finance. As of November 30, Pledged giving totaled \$429K and total receipts totaled \$590K. With expenditures totaling \$689K, that leaves a deficit of \$99K. However, it was estimated that the deficit would be \$120K, so we are \$21K ahead of budget. December is an important month financially for VBUMC, and hopefully will put us in the black. Collections have been very good in the last few weeks, and we are hopeful to carry that through the winter.

Urban Ministries has a balance of \$47,833, and Seaside's deficit increased from \$5K to \$39K. Emily R. and Heidi B. attended the last Finance Committee meeting, and gave an updated projection for this year and next. In order to help with enrollment, they requested advertising money to assist with marketing. \$2,330 has been requested, with \$350 of that being set aside for a new sign to place out front. This was approved by Finance.

**A motion is brought forth to allow Seaside School to utilize \$2,330 for marketing efforts. The motion receives a second, and passes with no opposition.**

- 15.65 United Methodist Market- Ken M. gave a report concerning the UMC Marketplace. By using a special link while shopping online, a percentage of the sale comes back to the church. This is an excellent free opportunity to make money. Dusty has received approval, and has already set up the system.
- 15.65 Trustees/Second Century Committee- Terry J. gave a combined report on behalf of the Trustees and SCC. Earl Slattum, John Clarke, and Joan Helm are rotating off Trustees. They have been faithful servants and will be missed. Terry gave a brief description of the types of issues that Trustees deal with. Some include HVAC issues, ceilings, roofs, water heaters, the parsonages, insurances, investments, and other misc. building concerns.

No further discussion has taken place on the 18<sup>th</sup> street property. The arena project has taken precedence in the city discussions as of late.

It is the plan of the SCC to present their recommendations on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will take place in the Fellowship Hall, and Terry has been working with Heather to make the congregation aware of the event. A tentative time of 7:00 has been set, and the architect will be in attendance to present the findings.

- 15.66 Pastor's Report- Pastor Benson informed CLC that he and a group of singers led by Ted Tignor and Laura Lawver will be caroling on Monday at 6:00. All are welcome to attend! The church buses will be used, and any overflow will be transported in cars.

Pastor Ralph represented VBUMC at the annual Beach Borough Community Thanksgiving Service a few weeks ago. He was a little disappointed in the turnout from our church- there were less than 5 in attendance. Ralph has been given the responsibility of getting the clergy of the Beach Borough churches together for lunch once a month. Ted David handled this in the past, and now Ralph will take the reins.

Pastor Ralph was asked to lead the VB City Council invocation on December 8. It was a packed house, because it was the night when voting took place for the Arena. The large crowd gave Ralph and our church great visibility! There is UMC District training that will take place on January 8, 2016. There will be several workshops for Finance, Trustees, SPR, etc., and Bishop Cho will be in attendance as well. The hours are from 8:30-2:30, and are all invited to attend! After the first of the year, the installation of the new CLC members will take place. There will be special recognition for John Clarke and Earl Slattum for their longtime service. It is recommended that they become Trustees Emeritus, and we want to make the congregation well aware of that great honor.

There being no more business, Pastor Ralph closed the meeting in prayer at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Key, Secretary