

**Virginia Beach United Methodist Church  
Church Leadership Council  
November 30, 2016**

CLC Chair, Doug Knapp, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Those present: Steve Burich, Janice Cagle, Chuck Cassidy, Jacob Davis, Chris Everly, Bart Folta, Carolyn Fried, Joanne Griggs, Michael Key, Doug Knapp, Oral Lambert, Beth Lantz, Heather McEntee, Benson McGlone, Fred Metz, Lisa Miller, Tracy Miller, Edrie Pfeiffer, Ralph Rowley, Michael Snow, Brenda Stahl. Also present were Rosalee Jewell, Laura Ezell, Bill Shephard, Sue Shephard, Ron Dyer, and Jean Dyer.

Chris Everly gave the opening devotion in preparation for this evening's presentation of the Vision Task Force. It was based on scripture from Luke 1:37. <sup>37</sup> *For nothing will be impossible with God.* Chris referenced the book *Daily Splashes of Joy* by Barbara Johnson. In the book, there is a story about Charles Lindbergh's daughter, Reeve Lindbergh, who was invited to the Smithsonian to attend a commemoration of her father's record setting journey across the Atlantic, in the airplane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*. She was invited along with her young son to come before the ceremony for a close up look at the plane suspended from the ceiling. They were raised up in a cherry picker. Reeve reverently touched the handle of the plane, thinking of her father's great feat and said to her son, "Isn't it amazing". Her son replied, "Yeah, it is amazing to be in a cherry picker". This story and scripture reminds us that we may all have differing perspectives on what is amazing, but all things are possible with God.

**New/On-going Projects:**

16.46 Vision Presentation- Chris Everly gave a little background on the formation of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Church Leadership Council (CLC). The goal of the EC was to be able to meet in a small group and discuss large, complicated issues and report their findings back to the larger CLC group. Initially, Seaside School was the main topic of conversation, and some of the other larger issues had to be put aside at the time. However, in the summer, the EC began to focus on completing the next steps that had never been addressed following the establishment of the Vision Framework several years ago. The Executive Committee asked the Ministry Directors to join the process of developing a vision, priorities and strategies that would fit within the parameters of the Vision Framework. The EC and Ministry Directors called their work group, the Vision Task Force.

This group held three retreats in October and November. They began their work by doing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis of our church and the Ministry Directors each provided numbers and trends in their ministry areas as a baseline of the current state. The final outcome of the three sessions was the creation of a road map for the future. Prior to the CLC presentation, Chris reported that she gave a preview of the work of the Vision Task Force to two members of the Vision Framework Committee, Karen Millman and Jeff Andrews. Laura Ezell and Brenda Stahl, who had also been members of the Framework Committee, were active participants in the Vision Task Force and provided valuable insight into the prior work of the Vision Framework team. Chris presented the slideshow to the CLC.

After much prayer and discussion, the Vision Task Force agreed the vision statement should be: We Envision a Community Where People Connect to the Life Changing Love and Hope of Jesus. This vision passed all of the required tests of possessing clarity, consistency with the Vision Framework, alignment with our current state and being forward looking. After articulating in the vision what kind of Church we aspire to be, the remainder of the slideshow focused on Priorities and Strategies established by the Executive Committee and Ministry staff to carry out the Vision.

**PRIORITIES:** (What are the most important items that kept rising to the top as we evaluated how to be a vibrant congregation?)

- Connect young adults/families to VBUMC ministry
- Engage disconnected and unchurched with the VBUMC community
- Equip the congregation to be the life changing agents of Jesus

**STRATEGIES** (How will we accomplish these priorities?)

- Pilot a worship service designed to attract disconnected people with VBUMC ministry and reenergize existing worship services (time, location, focus all to be determined)
- Expand mission opportunities for families with children
- Expand Life Groups for those who are disconnected or unchurched
- Utilize special events to engage and strengthen congregational connections

It was stressed that the CLC needs to actively participate in the process as work plans are developed by the Ministry Directors to implement the priorities and strategies. The Vision Task Force asks the CLC to support the message to the congregation that the changes are extremely positive for the future of the church.

Following the report presented by Chris, CLC Chair Doug Knapp presented the following motion:

**\*\*\*If you believe that this Vision, Strategies and Priorities as discerned and presented by our CLC Executive Committee and Ministry Directors reflects God's will for Virginia Beach United Methodist Church, will you show your hands.**

**The motion receives a second, and the floor is opened for discussion.**

In the discussion, it is clarified that the vision statement is to "fill in the gaps" of the vision framework put into place several years ago. The model allows for change and adaptation, and it is expected that the priorities and strategies be re-examined every 3-5 years. It is also pointed out that the vision, priorities and strategies will be very helpful for SPR in the hiring process for the new Children's Director. Ron Dyer noted that a good place to look at the current priorities of the church is to look at the current budget- every program that is done has a line item and a dollar amount. By using the proposed three priorities, it will become clear to see the "low hanging fruit" that is no longer important. These resources can be redistributed to help in other areas. Current ministries can be looked at to see if they are succeeding, keeping in mind that some areas many need to be cut. Doug asked CLC members to spend a few minutes in prayer to make sure that we are on the right path in endorsing the vision, priorities and strategies.

**Following the prayer, the motion is voted on by show of hands. It passes unopposed.** A special “Thank You” is given to Terry Jenkins (in her absence) for her hard work and the incredible job that she has done in facilitating the retreats of the Vision Task Force.

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

- 16.47 REACH Report- Brenda S. gave the quarterly REACH report. This is to get a sense of how attendance 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 different people we are actually ministering to consistently, the REACH numbers are presented on a 6 week basis. The report is broken down by services, reporting the attendance based on age and the number of services attended by active members and prospects in that time period. In order to compare, Brenda is asked to provide 6 week periods from the previous year. She will try to have this information included in the next report.
- 16.48 Stewardship- Beth Lantz gave the report on Stewardship. Good News!!! As of yesterday, we have received 8 additional Estimates of Giving to bring the total to 309- this amounts to \$1,181,835, or 67% of the budget being covered. Our 2017 Estimate of Giving goal was \$1,314,116 (or 75% of the FY 2016/17 budget of \$1,752,154), and we are currently \$132,281 short of the goal.
- 16.49 SPR- Tracy Miller gave a report on behalf of SPR. Just as VBUMC was ready to put into place items that dealt with the new labor law, a judge in Texas put a stop to the changes. So, everyone will stay in their current state of employment for the time being.
- 16.50 Finance- Joanne Griggs gave a report on behalf of the Finance. A year-end financial report for 2016 was presented by Joanne from the CPA firm of McPhillips, Roberts, and Deans, PLC. While the report is not as thorough as a full audit, a lot of work is performed to prepare for the review. Last year was the first year that VBUMC was reviewed and given a financial statement. Joanne wanted to recognize Ron Dyer for his work in checking behind the CPA firm, keeping them on their toes! It is noted that the Domino’s property note was paid off after the report was submitted.
- Joanne then presented the VBUMC YTD Receipts and Expenses report. We were expecting to be \$74K in the red, but are currently \$104K for a difference of \$30K. She is pleased to report that Seaside School has a balance of \$15,739. The Oversight Committee of Seaside School will present their marketing ideas for next year at February’s CLC meeting. CLC is asked to send specific questions regarding Seaside to Doug or Chris so that they may forward them to Jamison, the Oversight Committee Chair, to include them in the presentation.
- 16.51 Trustees- Oral Lambert reported on behalf of the Trustees. Oral wanted to express a thank you to everyone who participated in the Clean Up day on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a fun and productive day! Oral also reported that Potter’s House is now labeled as part of VBUMC. He expressed a special thank you to Ken and Heather- it is a nice addition!

16.52 Second Century Committee- Pastor Ralph gave an update on the behalf of the SCC. The SCC is focused on working with the architect. They had a face to face meeting with him to develop 3 different alternatives at different funding levels. The 3 levels (\$4.5M, \$5.5M, \$7.0M) will allow the project to move forward no matter how the capital campaign works out. There will be 10% set aside for capital requirements for outreach ministries. Future meetings will be held to work out the main priorities at each level of funding.

The Capital Campaign is underway in the pre-launch phase. Dustin Cooper was here last night, and will be here more after the first of the year to hold multiple meetings to train people. We are in the process of assembling the core leadership team, and the first meeting of potential individuals was held last night- there are still a few vacancies to be filled. Doug Wilbourne will be the Chairman, and Amy Arrington will be the project manager. Ralph is very grateful for all of those who have committed to take on this important role!

16.53 Pastor's Report- Pastor Ralph gave the report on behalf of the pastors. First, a prayer concern...A long standing member, Jim Harris, passed away yesterday, so please keep his family in your prayers. Jim was a former professor at Virginia Wesleyan, and his memorial service is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 6 at 11:00 am.

Currently, VBUMC has 4 at large delegates to the Virginia Annual Conference- Brenda Stahl, John Clarke, Katie Tomlin, and John Puvogel (alternate).

Pastor Ralph gave a special word of thanks to those who have been a part of CLC during this past year. For those who are rotating off, thank you for your leadership in the last year. He presented certificates of appreciation to those who will be rotating off. He is looking forward to next year's group with a good mix of returning seasoned folks and some new faces with fresh ideas and energy.

There being no more business, Pastor Ralph closed the meeting in prayer at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Key, Secretary