

**Virginia Beach United Methodist Church**  
**Church Leadership Council**  
**September 21, 2016**

CLC Chair, Doug Knapp, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Those present: Steve Burich, Chuck Cassidy, Jacob Davis, Chris Everly, Joanne Griggs, Michael Key, Doug Knapp, Oral Lambert, Beth Lantz, Heather McEntee, Benson McGlone, Ken Miller, Lisa Miller, Edrie Pfeiffer, Ralph Rowley, Michael Snow, Brenda Stahl. Also present were Rosalee Jewell, Laura Ezell, and Bill Shephard

Chris Everly gave the opening devotion, with scripture from Ephesians 2:14-16. <sup>14</sup> *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.* <sup>15</sup> *by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,* <sup>16</sup> *and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.* In Max Lucado's book *Cast of Characters*, Max tells a story about an American soldier traversing through a city destroyed by a nuclear bomb. Amidst the rubble, the soldier came upon a Methodist church. Upon returning the following Sunday, he found himself to be the only American surrounded by Japanese congregants. They greeted him by the only English word they knew- "brother." They welcomed him and he was able to share in communion with them. This is a true example of how Christ is able to make two groups one, destroying even the strongest of barriers! Chris closed in prayer.

**New/On-going Projects:**

16.24 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.

16.25 Foundation Committee Annual Meeting Date Change Request- Pastor Ralph explained that the bylaws set the annual FC meeting to occur on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in September. The only exception is when that day falls on a holiday. Because of the special called meeting regarding the feasibility study, there needs to be an alternate date. Also, the bylaws need to be addressed to allow a little more flexibility in the date.

**\*\*\*A motion is brought forth to allow the Foundation Committee to change the meeting date for 2016. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion passes.**

16.26 Annual Charge Conference- Pastor Ralph informed CLC that the next Charge Conference will be held on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. Although the District Superintendent was present last year, an ordained elder, Dr. Steve Jones, will be presiding over the meeting this year. He is recently retired from the ministry and is well versed in large churches, so he should do a fine job.

- 16.27 Mission Proposal- Pastor Benson did a presentation of the Mission Overview here at VBUMC. Benson is the head of a committee that was formed to look at the current state of missions in the church and set a plan for the future. The committee has contacted several large churches in order to get a feel for how they handled missions. He briefly discussed the current state of the major missions within the church, highlighting the major 7. He also explained how the current system isn't working and the various reasons why. The committee has determined that a paid staff position is needed to oversee missions, and that SPR is currently working to draft a job description. Although there is money set aside currently, it is for a part time position. SPR is currently working with the Finance Committee on the details, and will present their recommendation to CLC in October.
- 16.28 Called CLC Meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>- Doug informed CLC that we will be meeting in October. The primary reasons are to revisit the Mission Proposal and to receive the recommendations from the Trustees regarding the church security findings.

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

- 16.29 Stewardship- Beth Lantz gave the report on Stewardship. Everyone in the church will be receiving their estimate of giving in October. She encouraged us to listen to God and pray for the congregation to consider in what areas they can serve, both with their time and finances.
- 16.30 Finance- Joanne Griggs gave a report on behalf of Finance. In looking at the year to date figures, the General Budget is currently running a deficit of \$48,833. We were expecting to run a deficit of \$34,957, so we are \$13,877 in the red. Currently Seaside School has a balance of \$9K. There are 56 students- 26 of them returning and 30 are from new families. Having extended care has been a real asset, and there is a strong chance that Seaside will have a positive balance at the end of the year.
- 16.31 Trustees- Oral Lambert gave a report on behalf of the Trustees. While they don't traditionally meet in the months of July and August, they were able to get a lot of issues passed through email voting. These included a new roof for the sanctuary and other operational issues (AC, hot water heater, etc.). Oral is pleased to announce that the project involving new screens and projectors has been completed and has received positive feedback.

The Police Department Crime Prevention Unit came to VBUMC to inspect the property and present their recommendations. Some of the items can be done right away, but others will be more long term. A small committee led by Jeff Andrews has been formed to look at the recommendations and present solutions to the Finance Committee and CLC. They will be presenting their report at the October CLC meeting. Lastly, we are to leave October 8<sup>th</sup> free on our calendars, as the church will be holding a Saturday morning landscape cleanup day. All are encouraged to bring their gloves and tools and join in!

- 16.32 Second Century Committee- Pastor Ralph reported on behalf of the SCC. There is a special meeting called next Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00, where Tom Malzone will present his findings on the feasibility study he conducted. All CLC members are encouraged to attend.

- 16.33 Communications Report- Heather M. gave an update on the communication project to reach 250 new families to the area. 250 mailers went out to those families in July, and Heather wants to follow up with personally delivering welcome bags to them. She has collected coupons from local businesses and Forbes Candies. There is also a "Connect" card inside that would help them connect with our church via social media (Facebook, etc.). Heather would appreciate volunteers that would help deliver the bags to those new families. Please let her know if you are available to help!
- 16.34 Bishop Lewis Welcomed- Pastor Ralph noted that Bishop Sharma Lewis was officially welcomed on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Reveille UMC in Richmond. There is a two hour recorded version of that ceremony available on line, but there is also a 15 minute version that focuses on her remarks. Pastor Ralph encourages us to listen to those remarks.
- 16.35 Pastor's Report- Pastor Ralph gave the report on behalf of the pastors. We are in the midst of a sermon series, *5 Commitments That Will Change Your Life*, where each one builds upon another. Pastor Benson has been focusing on growth. This was exhibited, with over 70 people expressing interest in LIFE groups in the informational tent outside the Sanctuary. Future sermons will focus on the commitments to serve, to share our faith, and to give. They are looking forward to the rest of the series.

The Nominating Committee is meeting each Monday leading up to the Charge Conference, with the focus on getting persons into positions for the first of the year. Ralph has been encouraged by the email responses, and it's not too late for those who haven't had a chance to do so. He noted that there are a lot of people that are scheduled to rotate off CLC in 2016. In order to have about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> or less rotate off at one time, he is encouraging some to extend their term. The NC is aware of this anomaly, and they are working to correct it.

There being no more business, Pastor Ralph closed the meeting in prayer at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Key, Secretary