

**Virginia Beach United Methodist Church**  
**Church Leadership Council**  
**November 29, 2017**

CLC Chair, Chris Everly, called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Those present: Steve Burich,–Janice Cagle, Chuck Cassidy, Ron Dyer, Chris Everly, Bart Folta, Carolyn Fried, Terry Jenkins,–Kaylee Henderson, Michael Key, Oral Lambert, Beth Lantz, Heather McEntee, Fred Metz, Ken Miller, Mark Miller, Scott Poteet, Matthew Potter, Kristen Sheely, Jack Shephard, Amy Simpson, Michael Snow, Brenda Stahl.—Also present were: Laura Ezell, Rosalee Jewell, Chris Lane, Jacob Litzenberg, Bill Shephard, Sue Shephard, and Jeff Andrews

CLC Vice Chairman Scott Poteet gave the opening devotion, referencing *The Upper Room* and scripture from Matthew 22:34-40. <sup>34</sup> *Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.* <sup>35</sup> *One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:* <sup>36</sup> *“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”* <sup>37</sup> *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.* <sup>38</sup> *This is the first and greatest commandment.* <sup>39</sup> *And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’* <sup>40</sup> *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* The devotion referenced a football team that had just been through a season ending loss. As expected, they returned to the locker room very dejected. Soon thereafter, they saw on the news that many people had been killed in the Paris bombings. All of a sudden, their loss wasn’t as devastating when compared to those who had lost their loved ones in a great tragedy. This is a lesson on what is really important. In looking closely at Jesus’s second greatest commandment to love your neighbor, it is interesting to see that the passage doesn’t specify who your neighbor actually is. If we are to follow His teachings, we are to love those who are hard to love, not turning our backs on anyone. Scott closed the devotion with a prayer.

**New/On-going Projects:**

17.38 Worship Media Ministry Update- Chris Lane and Jacob Litzenberg gave a presentation on their proposal for a new Media Ministry. Chris and Jacob went to the Trustees about a month ago, asking for their blessing for upgrading the worship experience for those experiencing the service online. Currently, VBUMC is only recording audio portions of the service and posting them to the website. The proposal is for a live, more immersive experience. Given that a lot of potential visitors check out the service online before visiting in person, this is an important step forward.

The new media ministry would like to start off by recording audio and video of the sermons and broadcast it live to YouTube and the website. While the future might involve the entire service, copyright issues need to be investigated if the praise band is to be included. Chris and Jacob presented a proposal for the equipment needed to carry out the proposed upgrades- the total cost for the equipment, shipping, and installation totals \$10,917.22.

The second part of the presentation was given by Jacob to ask for the formation of the Audio/Visual Ministry. Because of the extra help that will be needed on Sunday mornings, there will need to be more volunteer participation. In order to fill the gaps, Jacob suggested that our program be used by local schools for internships. This would give VBUMC qualified, interested individuals to help run the equipment. The goal is to be up and running by Ash Wednesday, and fully up by Easter on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The upgrades will allow the church to track the number of people that are watching the live stream- locally, nationally, and globally. It will be great for college students to remain connected to VBUMC while they are away, and it will allow for military families to “visit” our church before moving to the area. In the event that the sanctuary becomes full for Sunday service or special events, this will also allow an overflow plan to broadcast the service live to other parts of the building (Fellowship Hall).

Lastly, SPR will need to consider revising the hours of the AV coordinator position. Currently the position is 15 hours per week, but might need to be raised to 25 in order to handle the extra duties.

**\*\*\*A motion is brought forward to allow the formation of the Media Ministry and to allow the ministry to purchase and install the equipment needed for live audio and video streaming. The motion receives a second, and passes unopposed. It is noted that SPR and Finance will have to take a look at the Media Ministry Coordinator position to approve the proposed increase in hours.**

- 17.39 Safety and Security Update- Jeff Andrews gave an update on the deliberation of the hiring of an off-duty police officer for Sunday mornings. This was discussed in length at the last CLC meeting, and members were asked at that time to think and pray about whether or not this is something that is needed at VBUMC. It is noted that the off duty police officer and proposed security team would not interfere with the proposed Welcome Ministry.

Jeff continued, asking about how it would fit in with the mission statement of our church. There is somewhat of an implied element that we want to provide a safe and secure church service, so no conflict is perceived.

While the off-duty police officer might provide little protection against a mass shooter, the bigger issue that is faced is combating the one off shooter- someone that is armed and seeking to harm a certain person or persons (pastor, ex). While an unarmed safety team might be able to diffuse a violent person, they would do little to stop someone who is armed. In either case (mass or one off), a uniformed police officer would be a visible deterrent, potentially preventing both from occurring in the first place.

How would it be perceived by the congregation? Jeff sees it as making a strong commitment to safety and security within our walls. We have the communication tools to present the decision in a positive light, rather than a negative one. The officer would be a visible and proactive signal that we care about the congregation’s welfare for a safe worship environment.

The cost would be \$40 per hour per officer. This would involve a cost of \$120 per Sunday morning. Again, the motion is tabled for future discussion. It is suggested that CLC hold a special meeting in January to come to a final decision.

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

- 17.40 Finance- Ron Dyer gave a report on behalf of Finance. Even though we are currently (10/31/17) running a deficit in the General Fund of \$70K, that is \$65K less than the anticipated deficit and \$34K less than last year’s deficit. We are looking forward to a huge month of giving in December; historically December giving has been in the \$250-300K range. Ron then passed out a report prepared by the outside accounting firm showing our Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows. This report, which combines all of the church’s funds (General, Parking Lot, Seaside, Foundation, etc.), shows the beginning cash balance, the activity for the year, and the ending cash balance. Even though the church paid off the Domino’s loan of \$631K, our ending cash position increased by \$47K.

There was an error in recording the pay-off of the Domino's loan. The closing fee of \$31K was misapplied in moving the funds between the parking lot, general fund and Dominoe's accounts. Instead of the expected yearend surplus of \$10K in the General Fund, there was actually a deficit of \$21K. Ron noted that finding this error is exactly why we perform an independent review. A new financial control has been instituted by creating an inter-fund transfer account to more readily detect errors in the future involving complicated transfers between funds.

- 17.41 Stewardship- Beth Lantz gave a report on behalf of Stewardship. As of yesterday, 200 estimates of giving cards had been received. We are right on par, with 57% of the budget being covered with pledges. Both Pastor Mark and the Stewardship Committee would like to hear any feedback on the sermon series and videos from the Stewardship campaign.
- 17.42 SPR- The lone item from SPR is that Jacob Litzenberg is now on paid staff for his AV duties.
- 17.43 Trustees- Oral Lambert gave the report on behalf of the Trustees. The only item this month is concerning the organ. Given that it is an instrument that is worth around \$1M, it is important that we take special steps to ensure that it stays in good working condition. As part of the SCC, Kevin Kwan was recruited as a consultant to submit a report of the current condition and offer any advice on maintenance and repair. His findings will be reported in the near future.
- 17.43 Second Century Committee- Terry Jenkins gave the report on behalf of the SCC. They have been vetting several companies in search of hiring the General Contractor for the North Wing project. Four companies have been interviewed, and they hope to have a decision in December. At that point, the GC will begin to work with our architect (HBA) moving forward.
- 17.44 Pastor's Report- Pastor Mark gave a report on behalf of the pastors. On December 10 there will be a combined Charge Conference held at The Gathering at Scott Memorial. There will be a brief video about how churches are making disciples. Items on the agenda will include approval of pastoral salaries and the Nominating Committee's slate of Lay Leadership positions for the coming year.

There being no more business, Pastor Mark closed the meeting in prayer at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Key, Secretary