

Virginia Beach United Methodist Church
Church Leadership Council
January 24, 2018

CLC Chair, Chris Everly, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Those present: Steve Burich, Janice Cagle, Chuck Cassidy, Ron Dyer, Chris Everly, Bart Folta, Terry Jenkins, Michael Key, Oral Lambert, Beth Lantz, Heather McEntee, Fred Metz, Ken Miller, Mark Miller, Matthew Potter, Kristen Sheely, Jack Shephard, Amy Simpson, Michael Snow, Brenda Stahl, Heyden Wittmann, Martha Jo Wilson. Also present were Rosalee Jewell, John Haynes, Laura Ezell, Harriet Doub, Jean Dyer, Sue Shephard, Bill Shephard, and Jeff Andrews.

Chris welcomed all in attendance, especially those new members joining CLC for 2018- Heyden Wittman (SPR Chair) and Martha Jo Wilson (At Large)

This evening's devotion was given by Ron Dyer. He started by posing the question, "Why did God create us?"- for a relationship, for his pleasure? Ephesians 1:5 tells us: ⁵*He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.* Given that our creation gave Him great pleasure, we should bring pleasure to Him. God smiles when we are using our God-given abilities to serve Him- not just during spiritual activities, but also in other facets of our lives. He delights in every detail! We are to serve God with an attitude of praise, and when we do, He is smiling 😊

New/On-going Projects:

18.01 Safety and Security Update- Originally brought up in November, Jeff Andrews, representing the Safety and Security Implementation Committee, revisited the idea of hiring an off-duty police officer. The original motion was tabled in November, and CLC members were asked to think and pray about the best solution for our church.

Jeff went on to explain that the off-duty police officer would only be one part of the proposed security plan, integrating with the safety ministry. We are an urban church in a tourist destination, and we are much more likely to have a situation arise. Unfortunately, we aren't capable of handling an overly violent person, particularly if they are armed. It is simply too much to ask a church volunteer to confront these persons. While originally discussed with the intent of the officer to remain inside, the new idea is to have the police officer serve predominantly outside, directing traffic and patrolling both lots. He/she would only be coming inside for restroom breaks, to get a snack in the fellowship hall, or to respond to an incident. Lastly, the police officer would serve as a visible deterrent, hopefully making a would-be threat think about carrying out his deed elsewhere.

Jeff presented the written motion to CLC:

The CLC approve the hiring of uniformed off-duty police officers on a trial basis to assist with traffic and safety issues on Sunday mornings and other church events, as the need arises.

- **The police officers would be primarily stationed in their vehicle or roaming the parking lots, with building entry for occasional coffee breaks and restroom usage, as needed, or as called upon to respond to an actual emergency.**
- **If adopted, this decision would be reviewed by the Trustees and the CLC after six months to determine if it should continue.**

The floor was then opened for questions. The first question involved insurance, and whether or not the church would be able to be given a rider for the police officer. Ken Miller explained that the rider had already been put into effect after a police officer was used for the Community Christmas Walk in December. The second question involved communication, and it was pointed out that the major communication would be handled through church radios.

*****Following discussion, the motion was officially given by Fred Metz, and receives a second by Steve Burich. The motion passes unopposed.**

Following the passing of the motion, Jeff shared that the Safety and Security Implementation team is in the final stages of selecting a vendor to install the security updates for the North Wing. Also, Jeff pointed out that the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) has been totally re-written, updating the original 2003 document. It is noted that the new EOP, when adopted, will need to be revisited on a yearly basis to ensure that it stays current. It will take extensive investment on the part of the staff and congregation to ensure its success. Heather will be including information about the police officer in the upcoming Open Door communications.

18.02 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. It is noted that usher counts are approximately 20-25% higher than those counts in Shelby. It is encouraging to see numbers beginning to rise! Many thanks to Gail Gordon (volunteer) who works tirelessly on these reports!

Administrative Reports and Other Business:

18.03 Finance- Ron Dyer gave a report on behalf of Finance. We are 6 months into the fiscal year, and things are looking very positive! December was a very strong month in terms of year-end giving, much higher than anticipated- \$325K. Part of it was due to inspiration, and part could have been due to tax law changes. To date, \$903K has been received, which is over \$43K higher than was budgeted. Expenses are also \$43K less than anticipated, which leads to a surplus of \$86K. Last year at this time, the surplus was \$46K. Temporarily Restricted Receipts and expenses are also looking positive at this time.

In looking at Seaside, they are coming in very strong with a \$47K surplus. Talks have begun with Jamison and the Seaside Advisory Committee on how to allocate the surplus funds. The Capital Campaign is still on track and in the same ballpark as the last time figures were presented. Should a new flat roof and HVAC systems be needed for the South Wing, those costs would be in addition to the estimated \$300K difference as of June 2020 between projected funds available and the cost of the North Wing. An application could be made for a loan to cover the shortfall.

Lastly, a Grants Committee has been formed. It will be a 5 member team co-chaired by Charlie Greiner and Pastor Matt. They will be defining the mission and goals, and aim to be completely transparent with the congregation on their work.

- 18.04 Stewardship- Beth Lantz gave a report on behalf of Stewardship. As of right now, 252 estimates of giving cards have been received, with 67% of the budget being covered. This is slightly down from last year's numbers of 336 and 72%, but there are higher giving units per pledge this year. Beth also noted that there have been a few deaths of large donors over the last year.
- 18.05 SPR- Heyden Wittman gave a report on behalf of SPR. She is sad to report that Janice Cagle will be retiring the end of June. Several members of CLC expressed how she has gone over and beyond the call of duty- she will be missed! Her position will be discussed at the next SPR meeting. Heyden is looking forward to a great year on SPR! Along with Janice's position, SPR will also be discussing the Missions Coordinator and Organist positions.
- 18.06 Trustees- Oral Lambert gave the report on behalf of the Trustees. The January meeting was cancelled because of the snow, so they will be meeting for the first time in 2018 on the first Wednesday of February. The only item to report is that the flat roof on the South Wing is reaching the end of its life. They will be meeting with SCC to coordinate its replacement during the new construction.
- 18.07 Second Century Committee- Terry Jenkins gave the report on behalf of the SCC. The main focus of the architectural process right now is the site plan. The church has hired MSA to handle the site design, and they will be meeting with them in HBA's office in the near future to discuss moving forward. Mike M. of HBA was here about 10 days ago, meeting with all of the ministry staff- he took in a lot of good ideas. He is hoping to come back by the end of February to present updated drawings, and will be working toward the next big step to present to the church in late spring. The contractor for the project has been chosen- ET Gresham.
- 18.08 Pastor's Report- Pastor Mark gave a report on behalf of the pastors. In all 3 sermons this past Sunday, Mark presented the "State of the Church" to all in attendance, and that sums up his report for the week. The next CLC meeting will be held on February 21st with Wayne Snead, District Superintendent, in attendance.

There being no more business, Pastor Mark closed the meeting in prayer at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Key, Secretary