

Virginia Beach United Methodist Church
Church Leadership Council
August 15, 2018

CLC Chair, Chris Everly, called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Those present: Chris Everly, Bart Folta, Terry Jenkins, Michael Key, Oral Lambert, Beth Lantz, Fred Metz, Mark Miller, Jack Shephard, Michael Snow, Brenda Stahl, Heyden Wittmann, Martha Jo Wilson. Also present were Crystal Colohan, Rosalee Jewell, Charlie Greiner, Jamison Rasberry, Sue Shephard, and Bill Shephard.

Chris talked about how nice Pastor Mark's presentation was on the subject of conflict. She mentioned Psalm 133:1- *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

New/On-going Projects:

18.27 Pastor's Report- Pastor Mark gave a report on behalf of the Pastors. Mark reminded CLC that he has been at our church for just over a year. His goal in this first year was to get to know the church and its people. In looking at attendance numbers, VBUMC had been in a season of decline for some time. While a decline isn't unusual when compared with UMC churches nationwide, our church experienced an above average decline from 2014-2017. This has led to several problems, most notably financial issues.

On a positive note, the church has experienced a growth of about 50 people in worship attendance. We currently need a lot of work on facilities- new roof, organ maintenance, etc. Other things such as the children's areas, entry ways, restrooms, and parking, all need to be addressed because these are important things to young families. Trustees have ID'd all of these areas and are working toward solutions.

Pastor Mark also noted that the staffing number was more appropriate for the church as it existed in the 1990's. Some staff changes are now occurring naturally, and it will be a great time for changing and re-aligning. We are also in a season of financial challenge. Mark went over the numbers with Dustin Cooper, who was a consultant for VBUMC for the capital campaign, and he was very pleased. While we are only a year into the campaign, almost 50% of the funds have been collected. In regards to overall general giving, it's not a healthy situation because we are worse than the 80/20 rule for churches. Since some of the larger givers have passed away or moved away, we need to work hard on stewardship. He is encouraged by the work that the Stewardship Committee is doing, and new people are starting to give. In regards to budget, we are experiencing about a \$100K difference. There are two places to make major cuts- personnel and apportionments. The budget has also been carefully studied to make it as efficient as possible.

There is also a season of uncertainty when it comes to the UMC and human sexuality. We are expecting a lot of press early next year, and we need to be ready for it. In regards to the parking challenges and venture opportunities, he believes that God does his best work in the midst of these challenges. We are gaining positive momentum and renewed energy. We are

experiencing some new staff changes- Chuck, Justin, Crystal, and Brenda are transitioning into their new roles nicely. Good things are happening!

18.28 Missions and Outreach Board- Charlie Greiner gave a report on the status of the Missions and Outreach Board. Earlier in the year, CLC voted to form a Missions Grants Committee. With Jennifer Vaughn retiring, we need to have more than a temporary committee to oversee the amount of \$ coming in from the capital campaign tithe. When the Board of Missions and Outreach was formed, they needed a purpose and mission statement.

While the church will still support current ministries, the board would like to see the focus shift toward helping working poor families with dependent children- helping those thrive and not just survive. We would like to help them change the trajectory of their lives, giving hand-ups and not hand-outs.

Charlie then distributed a hand-out with the draft of the Mission Purpose Statement and the proposed Charter. Charlie is seeking to form an ad hoc committee until members can be put into place on the board at the charge conference. It is noted that the Associate Pastor will remain a part of missions, serving as the clergy representative. He/she can report to CLC on their behalf.

*****There is a motion presented to allow Charlie and the Board to form the ad hoc committee, and to accept the Mission Purpose Statement and Charter as presented. The motion receives a second and passes unopposed.**

18.29 Seaside Board- Jamison Rasberry, chair, gave a report on behalf of the 8 member Seaside Board. Before the board was formed, there existed only an advisory committee that had no governing authority. Through a CLC electronic vote, the bylaws of Seaside School were presented and accepted several months ago. The board has been meeting monthly, and reporting back to CLC. Their first meeting was in July, and they went over prior, as well as proposed, budgets. Currently there are 66 enrolled for the fall, with 37 of those expressing interest in extended care. The school has money in the bank, and he is very optimistic about the future. They have received approval from the Trustees to allocate some funds to build a new playground on 18th street. The approximate cost for the playground is \$42K. There has been an issue of rainwater coming into the SS classrooms, but the new roof should fix those issues. Because of the water issues, the flooring in the classrooms is currently being replaced. Seaside seems to be headed in the right direction!

18.30 Children's Ministry- Crystal Colohan, Director of Children's Ministry, gave a report on the current state of Children's Ministry here at VBUMC. Since coming into her position, Crystal has worked hard on branding the ministry and adopting the appropriate curriculum. She presented a pie chart, which showed that the ministry has experienced growth over the last few years. She has read a book by Thomas Reiner that describes what attracts Millennials to church. His teaching says that they seek quality of worship, authenticity, and rich/theological content.

Crystal is working on raising the bar with the Cove and Cape Faith. Starting in September at the 9:30 and 11:00 service, the children will be leading the congregation with the song that they've been learning as well as lead the Lord's Prayer. This will be a test to see how the new curriculum is being received by children and parents. She stresses that the children are still going to sing! She is shifting from the concept of "teaching music" to "teaching praise and worship. She is excited about new things to come, and welcomes everyone to provide feedback to her!

- 18.31 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 encouraging to see numbers beginning to rise- approximately 50 people per Sunday! It is noted that the new system will be unable to provide figures based on age, but all other reports should be generated without issue.

Administrative Reports and Other Business:

- 18.32 SPR- Heyden Wittman gave a report on behalf of SPR. She says that she is blessed to work with such an incredible staff! Ken Miller will be moving to Michigan next week, and his last day is Tuesday. He has been an incredible servant, and he is very excited for his new family opportunity. Amy Arrington will be taking his position as the new Director of Business Operations. She comes with over 26 years of experience at Bank of America. She has been working at the church for a while in different position, and we are fortunate to have her! Also Justin Talk has been hired as the new Youth Director. He is delightful- please go meet him!

Heather McEntee is taking another position at a company in Norfolk, so her last day is August 31st. Heyden and SPR are working with the staff to come up with a good job description. As we already know, Jennifer Vaughn is retiring. We will be honoring her on September 16th in all 3 services for her many years of service. A decision was made to do away with Wednesday night choirs and move all children's music to Sunday mornings. We can't say enough about what Susan and Charlotte have done through their years of ministry. We will be honoring them on September 23rd in all 3 services to celebrate their time at VBUMC.

Heyden distributed an organizational chart showing the new structure at VBUMC. The biggest change involves the addition of Terry Jenkins as the Executive Director. The ED position and responsibilities came about by looking at the organizations of other churches. Over the last few months, many of the administrative responsibilities have been shifted away from Pastor Mark and transferred to Terry, so that he could focus on preaching and teaching. Heyden wanted to say how the staff has really stepped up to the plate in support of the new structure. It is suggested that the organizational chart be posted to the website.

18.33 Trustees- Oral Lambert gave a report on behalf of the Trustees. He is happy to report that the new roof on the south wing is finally being replaced, and that it should be finished soon. Some new Jack and Jill bathrooms are being built on the 3rd floor for Seaside School. Also, the classrooms on the third floor are getting new flooring- tile replacing water damaged carpet. This should give a nice, fresh start for Seaside and Sunday school classes this year.

In regards to the Venture proposal, they are currently running behind schedule. As of yet, no further details have been negotiated. The schedule was to have the initial concept finished by July, but that didn't happen- they have received more information and more feasibility studies from the city council. They are 30-60 days behind coming up to their first preliminary concept, and they are hoping to receive approval before moving forward to the next phase.

Potter's House- Jennifer Vaughn came to the SCC to give a brief update on the Potter's House. One of the main things is the need for new cabinets. There was an attempt to move the refrigeration system from the Fellowship Hall to the Potter's House, but it didn't work because of electrical issues. There was a question about the 17th street proposal from several years back. Oral reminded CLC that there was a developer who expressed interest in purchasing the air rights over the 18th Street parking lot property, but no formal offer has been presented to the church.

18.34 Finance-In Ron's absence, CLC members are asked to review the attached documents from Finance, and to let him know if there are any questions. It is also noted that the parking lot income is \$38K less than anticipated due to an extremely rainy month.

18.35 SCC-Terry Jenkins gave a report on behalf of the Second Century Committee. They are currently focusing on the second floor renovation for the youth. HBA has asked the SCC to put together a finishes committee to meet with their interior designer. The committee met with HBA today, and they came away with a lot of good choices. They will meet again tomorrow to discuss how the new youth space will work in regards to praise band wiring, appliances in the kitchenette, etc.

Terry warned CLC that we may begin to see some clutter collecting in the Fellowship Hall. It is quite a process to determine what to keep, what to throw away, what to give away, and what to sell. Given that the FH is our only large space to store items, there will be very limited use of it over the next few months. The tentative demolition date for the north wing is scheduled for after the first of the year.

There being no more business, Pastor Mark closed the meeting in prayer at 9:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Key, Secretary