

## Common Table of Church Vitality Minutes

The scheduled meeting of the Common Table of Church Vitality was held on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:01 A.M., by Zoom Conference.

For the record those present are as follows: Rev. Steven Summers (Director of Connectional Ministries and Chair), Bishop Sharma Lewis (Resident Bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area), Ms. Martha Stokes (Conference Lay Leader), Bev Myers (Executive Assistant in the office of Connectional Ministries), Mr. John Dunning (Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries), Rev. Lyle Morton (Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy Representative), Dr. Carlos Liceaga (2021), Rev. Harold White (2021), Rev. Aaron Fitch (2022-interim), Rev. Don Jamison (2024), Rev. Joshua King (Annual Conference Secretary, without vote)

David Dommissie (Conference Treasurer) came in late and was able to still offer his report

Those who were unable to attend: Rev Wayne Snead (Cabinet Representative), Mr. Ms. Kimberly Young (2023), Rev. Megan Saucier (2023), Ms. Terry Bain (2024)

Resigned: Ms. Susie Wolf (2022)

A devotion was offered by Rev. Steve Summers from Colossians focused on orientation and a prayer offered by Rev. Joshua King.

Bishop Lewis officially welcomed Steve Summers as the Director of Connectional Ministries as this was her first meeting with the Common Table of Church Vitality since Rev. Steven Summers became DCM. Also, Bishop Lewis welcomed Rev. Aaron Fitch as an interim at large member position and Rev. Joshua King as the interim Annual Conference Secretary. Bishop Lewis shared the conference vision, the theme of the upcoming Annual Conference (United as One) and added clarification of the importance of this committee and its work toward the Annual Conference.

Chair of the Common Table, Rev. Steven Summers presented the minutes from the February 20, 2021 meeting with minor corrections prior to the meeting of the Common Table for Church Vitality. They were approved as distributed with those minor corrections.

Conference Treasurer, David Dommissie was not present at this time. Chair, Steven Summers moved on with the hope of receiving later a written report. (David Dommissie did show up later in the meeting and his report can be found at the end of the meeting).

Chair of the Grants Committee, Dr. Carlos Liceaga reported that there was an update to the application for the Benevolence Grants. The updated due date for those grants is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Ms. Bev Myers, by request, mentioned that there have been very few grant applications received at this time. Ms. Bev Myers has also requested for the Grants Committee to address

the difference between the Benevolence Grant and the Special and Sustaining Grants as it seems the two often are confused between one another. Chair of the Grants Committee, Dr. Liceaga took a moment to share that he will be coming off Common Table per the end of his term and Common Table of Church Vitality will need to find a new chair for this committee.

The Chair of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Mr. John Dunning, has provided the written report that is attached below (Attachment A). In his verbal report, Mr. Dunning mentioned that the Board of Higher Education will be partnering more with the Campus Ministers Association. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries is structured into six teams. One of those teams has been restructured as the Trustees of Campus Ministries. In addition, three of the local boards are in need of restructuring due to COVID-19 and this will be prioritized work in the coming year. There is also a need in these local boards to have effectiveness training done. And finally, there was a need to address some property issues that will require further funding through fundraisers and other “self-help challenges”. The properties included ODU, Longwood (\$200,000), and Virginia Tech (just over \$1,000,000.)

The Director of Connectional Ministries and Chair, Rev. Steven Summers, distributed the written revised Charter of the Common Table of Church Vitality (Charter) which is attached to the minutes below (Attachment B) and also included is the Charter revisions with rationales to the changes attached below (Attachment C). Rev. Summers states that these changes have been vetted by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee would like to separate the Charter from the Standing Rules but are ok with them being an appendix. The Common Table of Church Vitality took no action on this recommendation.

Rev. Summers shared the rationale document via Zoom and the Common Table of Church Vitality verbally discussed and approved each one. Throughout the discussion the significant portions of conversation are notated below:

Considerable attention was discussed about the rationale of number 11, specifically, “The proposed revision provides for a member to serve two four year terms.” Rev. Summers will do some follow up discussion with the Rules Committee to appropriately define the interpretation of how this will be interpreted.

There was discussion on number 12 about the meeting space being open by providing a link to the meeting to all interested parties. Language was added to reflect the digital nature of our current meeting space. That language was: “In the event it is determined that the Common Table will be held electronically, the Director of Connectional Ministries shall use all reasonable means to ensure the opportunity for participation by all interested individuals.”

Further discussion on number 12 was about the word “open” and participation of non-members of the Common Table. Language was again added to state: “Non-members of the Common Table may attend without voice and vote unless granted voice by the meeting presider.”

There was much discussion on section VII of the Charter for the Common Table about the election and/or nomination of the Director of Connectional Ministries. No changes were made at this time. Vice Chair and Conference Lay Leader, Martha Stokes led the portion of the conversation that sought any changes to this section.

Conference Treasurer, David Dommissé joined the meeting around 11:40 PM.

Finally, in the conversation about the Revised Charter, Dr. Liceaga picked up on the fact that there was a reference to the 2016 Book of Discipline in the finance section that will be changed appropriately.

The Directory of Connectional Ministries and Chair, Rev. Summers shared that the communications team is recommending Common Table send these changes for the Charter to the Conference Director of Communications, Madeline White, for recommended changes to its wording and grammar. In addition, he stated that the communications team requests that Ms. White set up listening posts or a google document that would allow for transparency and the body of Annual Conference to ask questions prior to Annual Conference. This was approved by consent.

Since the Conference Treasurer, Mr. David Dommissé was able to make it from an earlier meeting, Mr. Dommissé shared a financial report through sharing his screen on Zoom. He stated that we are tracking with last year's numbers pre-pandemic. This is a positive result for the conference. The Conference Finance and Administration is proposing a budget to the Book of Reports reflecting a 11.2% increase. This should not be alarming as a good chunk of that increase is a reflection of the District Alignment Team's work. It is more of a shifting of apportionments and should not show any change to our local church apportionments. Mr. Dommissé did highlight a 1.4 million dollar increase in the General Conference apportionment due to a judicial council review. This review instructed the General church to apportion Annual Conferences based on the 2016 General Conference budget from Portland. There is quite a bit of uncertainty about this budget item and a hope that this will fix itself prior to Annual Conference. He states that this was not planned, but at this time will be included in the budget. The Common Table budget includes a new staff member and so reflects an increase in the Common Table budget for the next year.

Mr. Jamison raised a question about the apportionment formula in showing the reflection of churches using statistics from during the pandemic time. Mr. Dommissé said that that CFA had not discussed this subject at this time. In addition, there will not be a prioritization of apportionments for the 2022 year.

Dr. Liceaga raised a question to see if Conference Finance and Administration would reconsider the prioritization to adjust for the unexpected Judicial Council's decision to re-use the number from 2016 General Church Apportionment. Mr. Dommissé responded by saying Conference and Finance Administration has not yet discussed this but will be discussing this and have a plan ready for Annual Conference.

Mr. John Dunning, Chair of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, asked about a rationale for how the Virginia Education Fund budget is requested, do they submit a budget justification form from the colleges? Mr. Dommissé replied that at this time, there is no form. However, Mr. Dommissé mentioned that there is a plan to reduce and eventually eliminate the Virginia Education Fund budget in four years.

The Conference Treasurer, Mr. David Dommissé shared the news that a contract has been signed with the General Council on Finance Administration and their Human Resources Department. Beginning in May, their Human Resources Department are going to come and help the Virginia Conference put together a Personnel policy, a handbook, and set up the technology needed to implement. The cost of this contract has already been approved and paid.

Rev. Harold White shared a personal message of gratefulness for the opportunity to serve on Common Table as this will be his last meeting. Dr. Carlos Liceaga also added his thanks as well.

Director of Connectional Ministries and Chair, Rev. Steven Summers closed the meeting with some general announcements about upcoming meetings. They are as follows:

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 – 7:00 PM (Wednesday) – Meet with the Committee on Episcopacy

July 8, 2021 – 10:00 AM (Thursday)

September 23, 2021 — 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)

October 21, 2021 — 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)

December 2, 2021 — 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 with the Bishop closing us in prayer.

Joshua King, Secretary

Attachment A  
**Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM)**  
**Report to Common Table**  
**Preparing for AY 2021-2020**

The following actions are being taken to ensure that Academic Year 2021-2022 will be one of the most successful to date, and the challenges presented by the pandemic and the lessons learned will be used to strengthen our ability to expand our outreach to the campus and community.

The Campus Ministry Association (CMA). The Campus Ministry Association (CMA) is the collection of the Virginia Conference campus ministers and chaplains at United Methodist-related schools. Throughout the pandemic, they met more regularly, completed a virtual retreat, and offered support for one another's ministries and finding ways to collaborate. The CMA and BHECM will strengthen their relationships and work together in planning, training and problem solving.

BHECM Structure. The board consists of six teams or committees. Two have been restructured in the past year (WF, Inc. Board of Trustees and Personnel Committee) and a priority will be placed on rebuilding the Local Board Assessment Committee and the Technology Committee.

The Wesley Foundation at ODU (IGNITE). Because performance standards were not being met, the BHECM and District Superintendent are in the process of interviewing for a new full-time campus minister and working to rebuild the local Wesley Foundation board.

Local Board Effectiveness Training. Local boards are the foundation for building and sustaining an effective campus ministry. Of our eight full-time Wesley Foundation boards, three need additional board members and training to meet expected standards. This will require on-site visits and training. This will be conducted over the summer months. Of our four Ecumenical Campus Ministry boards one will require assistance in managing outreach and fund-raising.

Property Management. As reported in February, the BHECM has been working with local boards and their property committees to enable all seven of the Wesley Foundation properties to become financially self-sustaining through the use of the CFA Capital Improvement Grants that were approved for that purpose. Four of the properties at have achieved this objective. The reduction in capital grant funding for FY 2020 and FY 2021 have presented significant "self-help challenges" for the remaining three properties. We will continue to work on alternatives and utilize Wesley Foundation, Inc. annual property maintenance funds to strengthen property management.

*Submitted by John Dunning, Chair, BHECM  
April 7, 2021*

## **CHARTER FOR THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY**

**Effective Jan. 1, 2006**

**Amended August 19, 2020**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Common Table for Church Vitality exists to resource mission and ministry to fulfill the conference mission and vision. As a diverse body of representatives, the Common Table coordinates with Boards and Agencies, assists in the disbursement of ministry and program grants, and oversees the personnel of the Annual Conference offices that are under its guidance. The Common Table supports the Director of Connectional Ministries to fulfill the requirements in the Book of Discipline.

#### **A. MISSION**

The mission of the Virginia Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

#### **B. VISION**

The vision of the Virginia Annual Conference is to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.

#### **C. VALUES**

- Integrity in the work.
- Good communication.
- Diversity of voices at the table.
- Creative thinking to benefit the whole.
- Advocate for justice and non-discrimination for all.

### **II. MEMBERSHIP**

The Common Table provides spiritual leadership for the Conference to carry out the Purpose of this Charter. It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference. The Common Table includes the following 12 voting positions and 3 non-voting positions:

#### **A. Voting Members**

1. Presiding Bishop
2. Conference Lay Leader
3. Director of Connectional Ministries
4. Cabinet representative assigned by the bishop
5. Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy representative (in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*)
6. Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*)
7. Six at-large members equally divided between clergy and laity in annual classes,

including two young adult/youth representatives, as elected in III

#### **B. Non-voting Members**

1. Representative from Council on Finance and Administration assigned by the Council on Finance and Administration
2. The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference shall serve as Secretary for the Common Table.
3. Representative from contributors such as the United Methodist Women to Grants committee only.

### **III. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS**

1. All Members of the Common Table at-large (3 clergy and 3 laity) are nominated by the Conference Nominations Team in consultation with the Bishop and elected by the annual conference. Two of these at-large members must be young adult/youth representatives.

### **IV. TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

At-large members serve up to two four year terms and are placed in annual classes. If a person is elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less, that person is eligible for reelection to a full four-year term. In the event that a member resigns or dies during his/her term, a replacement shall be nominated by the Conference Nominations Team or the Bishop, according to method of nomination, and elected by the Annual Conference with the replacement serving until the end of the original term. Any at-large member of the Common Table who is absent from two meetings without excuse or from three consecutive meetings for any reason shall automatically cease to be a member of the Common Table.

### **V. MEETINGS**

Common Table will prioritize the work that needs to be accomplished in a timely manner. We plan to meet as often as we need to complete this work, meeting at least quarterly. Quarterly meetings would include a time for team building and operational issues. Meetings shall be open, consistent with the provisions of The Book of Discipline. In the event it is determined that the Common Table will meet electronically, the Director of Connectional Ministries shall use all reasonable means to ensure the opportunity for participation by all interested individuals. Non-members of the Common Table may attend without voice and vote unless granted voice by the meeting presider. The Common Table will move to closed executive meetings to discuss confidential information when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Common Table. Approved Common Table minutes will be on the conference website for public viewing.

### **VI. OFFICERS**

The Bishop, Conference Lay Leader and Director of Connectional Ministries will lead the Common Table in interpreting the Conference vision. The Director of Connectional

Ministries is the Chairperson. The Conference Lay Leader is the Vice Chairperson. Meetings may be led by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or a designated meeting presider. The Secretary of the Annual Conference is the Secretary of the Common Table, without vote.

## **VII. COMMITTEES**

### **A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Common Table shall appoint a Personnel Committee annually from within its members to assist with the selection and employment of all Conference program staff, both lay and clergy. The Common Table shall appoint the chair of the Personnel Committee from within its members. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall serve as an ex officio member of this committee without vote.

### **B. GRANTS COMMITTEE**

The Common Table may appoint a Grants Committee annually from among the members of the Conference to advise the Common Table on the following:

1. Grants for connectional ministries beyond the local level, funded through the Conference Benevolence apportionment, and
2. Program grants for local ministry projects funded through the Conference Benevolence apportionment, the United Methodist Women, and the Church Extension Fund.
3. Ministry programs that advance the conference vision, funded through Conference apportionment.

### **C. OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Common Table may designate such other committees as are necessary for its functioning.

## **VIII. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF**

A. The Annual Conference shall elect annually upon nomination of the Bishop, and in consultation with the Common Table an executive officer to be known as the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Director shall serve a maximum tenure of eight years in keeping with the Appointive Cabinet practice. The responsibilities of the Director of Connectional Ministries shall be but are not limited to the following:

1. To serve as the Chairperson of the Common Table and Co-chairperson, with the Conference Lay Leader, of the Conference Leadership Development and Discovery Team.



2. To be a communication link between the Conference program agencies and Jurisdictional and General Conference program agencies.
  3. To facilitate communication among the Conference program agencies, laity, clergy and the local churches.
  4. To serve as a resource person Virginia Conference Appointive Cabinet, Districts, clergy, laity, local churches and Conference ministries to include program planning, ministry evaluation and Conference vision implementation.
  5. To serve on other Conference agencies as determined by the Annual Conference, Bishop and/or by the Common Table.
- B. Each staff person shall be nominated annually by Common Table in consultation with the Bishop and appropriate resourced Boards and Agencies.
- C. The Business Manager/Treasurer of the Annual Conference shall serve the Common Table- in direct support of their work and shall have oversight of financial operations of the Common Table. In that capacity, the Business Manager/Treasurer shall coordinate this work with the Director of Connectional Ministries.
- D. All Connectional Ministries program staff shall be employed by and amenable to the Common Table. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall be responsible for the oversight and supervision of the program staff.
- E. Administrative/Technical/Professional Staff of the Common Table shall be employed by the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Director of Connectional Ministries will give oversight to and supervise the Administrative/Technical/Professional staff in accordance with the personnel policies and the staff manual.

## **IX. FINANCES**

The Common Table shall present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration to cover the expenses for the work of the Common Table and the boards and agencies, committees, commissions, task forces and other groups for which it is responsible. The right of the Annual Conference boards and agencies to be heard by the Council on Finance and Administration shall not be denied, as provided by *The Book of Discipline*.

## **X. MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS**

Semi-annual (or as often as necessary) meetings of Chairs (or designated representatives) of Conference Program Boards and Commissions that are under the oversight of Common Table will be held for the purpose of aligning conference program and mission

with the vision of the Conference. A report of the Chairs' meetings will be provided to Common Table to assist in its responsibilities for its purpose of coordinating and prioritizing the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference. The boards and commissions that are amenable to Common Table are:

- Board of Church and Society
- Board of Communications
- Board of Discipleship
- Missional Ministries Board
- Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
- Board of Laity
- Church Development Team
- Commission on Disabilities
- Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy
- Commission on Status and Role of Women

Other Attendees

- a. Conference Staff serving as primary staff resource to these boards and commissions will attend these meetings with voice but without vote.
- b. The Presidents (or designated representatives) of the Conference United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women will be encouraged to participate in these meetings.
- c. Chairs (or designated representatives) of Conference Administrative Boards that are not under the purview of the Common Table will be encouraged to participate in these meetings.

The Director of Connectional Ministries shall chair these meetings.

## **XI. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the charter not in conflict with The Book of Discipline may be made by a majority vote of the Annual Conference and originate as follows:

- (1) upon recommendation of the Common Table, or
- (2) upon petition of a member of the Annual Conference at least 60 days prior to the next annual conference session.

The Common Table shall review the petition(s) and submit its recommendations to the Annual Conference together with the proposed amendment.

## **XII. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER**

The Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality shall become effective July 18, 2021.

## Attachment C

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding the Charter of the Common Table:

**RATIONALE:** *As the most recent version of the Charter of the Common Table for Church Vitality was created over fifteen years ago, in 2020 the Virginia Conference Common Table for Church Vitality completed an in-depth review of the January 1, 2006 Charter, and additional revisions in 2013 and 2015, for the purposes of updating and modernizing the Charter. While the changes are not significant in nature, the proposed amended Charter addresses issues raised by members of the Annual Conference and provides additional clarity in several areas. This revised Charter was introduced at the 2020 Annual Conference and is now before the 2021 Virginia Annual Conference for approval. Please note that The Common Table Charter is not a part of the Conference's Standing Rules, but it is normatively presented as an appendix to the Rules for ease of reference. The proposed amendments require a simple majority vote of the Annual Conference.*

1. Section I, PURPOSE - in the first sentence, strike “serves to coordinate and prioritize the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference. It nurtures, interprets and promotes the vision of the Conference, as well as the mandates of *The Book of Discipline* which relate to Conference work. The Common Table lives out the values of the Conference (stated below in **I.B.**) in its own work, and advocates for the presence and observance of those values in the work and ministry of the Conference.” and insert “exists to resource mission and ministry to fulfill the conference mission and vision. As a diverse body of representatives, the Common Table coordinates with Boards and Agencies, assists in the disbursement of ministry and program grants, and oversees the personnel of the Annual Conference offices that are under its guidance. The Common Table supports the Director of Connectional Ministries to fulfill the requirements in the Book of Discipline.”

**Rationale for Purpose Amendment:** *This amendment provides a greater clarity of purpose for the existence of the Common Table as a resource for the fulfillment of the Conference mission and vision. Additionally, it highlights its intentionally diverse nature, its responsibility for personnel oversight, and its support of the Director of Connectional Ministries in compliance with *The Book of Discipline 2016*.*

2. Section I.A. – strike “by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

**Rationale for Mission Amendment:** *This language is deleted because it relates more to purpose and method, not mission. Additionally, it is redundant as methodology is addressed in the language of “Section I, PURPOSE.”*

3. Section I – Add new section B. titled VISION. Insert the following text: The vision of the Virginia Annual Conference is to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.

**Rationale for Vision Statement:** *The Vision of the Virginia Annual Conference was not written in the 2006 Common Table Charter with the 2013 and 2015 revisions. While many references are made to the “vision,” the vision is never explicitly stated for clarity and alignment in relation to the rest of the Charter. In the power of the Holy Spirit visions are living words, subject to change to remain contextually relevant while biblically grounded, but any vision needs articulation to appropriately connect to values and expressions of implementation.*

4. Section I – Add new section “C.” to encompass revised “Values” which were previously contained in Section B. The amended text strikes “The Conference shall embody the following values as it endeavors to assist all churches in the task of *making disciples*:

Be led by the Holy Spirit.

Grow spiritually and numerically.

Serve the local church.

Connect with and equip the local church for ministries of welcome, nurture and transformation.

Develop and live out ministries to the poor.

Strive for excellence.  
 Model servant-leadership at all levels.  
 Honor diversity and teach inclusivity.  
 Practice simplicity.  
 Communicate effectively, that others might also.  
 Focus on ministry.”  
 The revised Values would be as follows:  
 “-Integrity in the work.  
 -Good communication  
 -Diversity of voices at the table  
 -Creative thinking to benefit the whole  
 -Advocate for justice and non-discrimination for all”

**Rationale for Values Amendments:** *After extensive prayer, discernment, and conversation The Common Table has determined that these Values reflect our current context, and we have covenanted to uphold these Values.*

5. Section II, MEMBERSHIP – Move the last sentence in Section 2 that reads “It is both desirable and consistent with our Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our Conference” So that it becomes the second sentence in the first paragraph, after “...carry out the Purpose of this Charter.” In the next sentence, change “14” to “12” and “2” to “3” with regards to voting and non-voting positions
6. Section II.A.7 – change “Eight” to “Six” for the composition of the at-large members.
7. Section II.B – add “2.” Before “The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference....” Strike “without vote” at the end of that sentence.
8. Section II 2.B – add “3. Representative from contributors such as the United Methodist Women to Grants Committee only” as a category of non-voting members.

**Rationale for Membership Amendments:**

*Through this minor change, The Common Table feels this rebalancing of membership will assist in its decision-making effectiveness. The other changes provide clarity, conciseness, and greater representation on the Grants Committee.*

9. Section III, SELECTION OF AT-LARGE COMMON TABLE MEMBERS – strike “1. Four” and add “All members”, replace “2 with “3” clergy and replace “2” with “3” laity; strike “Leadership Discovery and Development Team” and add “Nominations Team in consultation with the Bishop” so that the sentence reads “All Members of the Common Table at-large (3 clergy and 3 laity) are nominated by the Conference Nominations Team in consultation with the Bishop and elected by the annual conference.”
10. Section III – strike “2. Four of the Common Table at-large members (2 clergy and 2 laity) are nominated by the Bishop and elected by the annual conference.”
11. Section IV, TERMS OF SERVICE FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS – in first sentence, after “At-large members serve...” add “up to two”. In the third sentence, replace “Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team” with “Conference Nominations Team” and strike “or the Bishop, according to method of nomination” and add “in consultation with the Bishop”.

**Rationale for At-Large Members Amendments:** *The Charter changes the language “Leadership Discovery and Development Team” to “Nominations Team” in alignment with the action of the 2020 Annual Conference. In addition, the Charter changes the Bishop’s role in selecting membership to Common Table to be consultative. The proposed revision provides for a member to serve two four-year terms.*

12. Section V, MEETINGS – strike the first and second sentences and replace with “The Common Table will prioritize the work that needs to be accomplished in a timely manner, and will meet as often as necessary to complete this work, meeting at least quarterly. Quarterly meetings would include a time for team building and operational issues.” The sentence, “Meetings shall be open, consistent with the provision of the Book of Discipline” shall remain. Add after the next sentence, “In the event it is determined that the Common Table will be held electronically, the Director of Connectional Ministries shall use all reasonable means to ensure the opportunity for participation by all interested individuals. Non-members of the Common Table may attend without voice and vote unless granted voice by the meeting presider.” Then, at the end of the paragraph, add “The Common Table will move to closed executive meetings to discuss confidential information when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Common Table. Approved Common Table minutes will be on the conference website for public viewing.”

**Rationale for Meetings Amendments:** *The revisions provide for the needed frequency and structure of Common Table meetings to fulfill its responsibilities. In addition, it makes allowances for a process whereby closed executive sessions can be held for confidential matters.*

13. Section VI, OFFICERS – after the third sentence, add a new sentence, “Meetings may be led by the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or a designated meeting presider.”

**Rationale for Officer Amendment:** *This Charter revision allows for flexibility in leadership for meetings.*

14. Section VII, COMMITTEES – under A, Personnel Committee, add “from within its members.” to the end of the second sentence so that this sentence reads, “The Common Table shall appoint the chair of the Personnel Committee from within its members.”
15. Section VII, COMMITTEES - under B, Grants Committee, add, “3. Ministry programs that advance the conference vision, funded through Conference apportionment.”

**Rationale for Committee Amendments:** *Proposed Amendment VII.A. provides clarity of language. Proposed Amendment VII.B. provides for the Grants category of “Ministry Programs.”*

16. Section VIII, SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF – Section A. in the first sentence, strike “Table’s Personnel Committee and the Cabinet,” And in its place insert “Table” and continue the remainder of the original sentence. Add a new second sentence, “The Director shall serve a maximum tenure of eight years in keeping with the Appointive Cabinet practice.”
17. Section VIII.A.3 – after “...program agencies”, insert “laity, clergy” and continue original sentence.
18. Section VIII.A.4 – strike all existing text and replace with “To serve as a resource person for Virginia Appointive Cabinet, Districts, clergy, laity, local churches and Conference ministries to include program planning, ministry evaluation and Conference vision implementation.”
19. Section VIII.A.5 – Strike all of this existing section - “To supervise the Conference program staff persons.”
20. Section VIII.A.5 – Old Section 6 becomes new Section 5 and to the following sentence, add “Bishop” after “ the Annual Conference,” and continue original sentence.
21. Section VIII.B – strike the entire section and replace with “B. Each staff person shall be nominated annually by Common Table in consultation with the Bishop and appropriate resourced Boards and Agencies.”
22. Section VIII.C. – strike all of the existing text of this section
23. Section VIII.D, becomes the new Section C – in first sentence, strike “and all of the boards and agencies; then later in this sentence replace “oversee the” with “have oversight of”.
24. Section VIII.E, becomes the new Section D – in the first sentence, strike “Conference”; and, in the second sentence, replace “administration and direction” with “oversight and supervision”.
25. Section VIII.F becomes the new Section E – in the first sentence, strike “in consultation with the appropriate elected staff member as may be requested and as provision for same is made by the Common Table.” In its place, insert “The Director of Connectional Ministries will give oversight to and supervise the Administrative/Technical/Professional staff in accordance with the personnel policies and the staff manual.”

**Rationale for Selection of DCM and Staff Amendments:** *The proposed Amendments to Section VII provide for:*

- a. The annual election of the Director of Connectional Ministries by the Annual Conference.*
  - b. A maximum term limit of eight years for the Director of Connectional Ministries to align with the maximum term limit of District Superintendents per The Book of Discipline 2016.*
  - c. Clarity, definition, and processes in areas of personnel matters.*
26. Section X, MEETINGS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION CHAIRS – under “Other Attendees” at section C add “the” before “Common Table”.

**Rationale for Meetings and Commission Chairs Amendments:** *Grammatical correction.*