

## Common Table of Church Vitality Minutes

The scheduled meeting of the Common Table of Church Vitality was held on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 A.M. via Zoom.

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. Bev Myers (Executive Assistant in the office of Connectional Ministries), Mr. David Dommissé (Conference Treasurer), Mr. Eduardo Carrillo (Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy Representative), Rev. Ryan LaRock (Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries), Rev. Megan Saucier (2023), Ms. Terry Bain (2024), Rev. Don Jamison (2024), Rev. Aaron Fitch (2025), Rev. Joshua King (Annual Conference Secretary, without vote)

Those who were unable to attend: Ms. Kimberly Young (2023), Ms. Martha Stokes (Conference Lay Leader), Rev. Douglas Forrester (Cabinet Representative)

Rev. Summers called the Common Table to order at 10:02 AM and opened us with a word of welcome.

### **Devotion and Prayer, Rev. Steve Summers**

Rev. Summers related the busyness that COVID-19 causes to the early life of Israel. In response to this busyness, Rev. Summers read Psalm 46. We then spent two minutes of being still in God's presence. Bishop Lewis then led us in prayer.

### **Rev. Steve Summers presented the minutes for approval as attached to the agenda**

Minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer Report, Mr. David Dommissé**

### **Episcopal Report, Bishop Sharma Lewis**

Bishop Lewis reported for the Cabinet. Beginning next Tuesday cabinet will begin meeting for making appointments. There will be a time for spiritual formation prior to their cabinet meeting. They will be praying and fasting on Sunday morning beginning at 7:00 AM. Dr. Cecilia Brookes, new District Superintendent being appointed to the cabinet, will be in attendance.

### **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (BHECM), Rev. Ryan LaRock (Chair)**

The BHECM voted to reinstate partial funding to Christopher Newport University. Their leadership has changed and are a more forthcoming with connection with the BHECM. There are some conditions that will be required for that funding to continue.

The College of William and Mary has not had a functional board in the last year and half. At this time BHECM is waiting for some paperwork to finish allocating funding.

Rev. LaRock reported that there was a good meeting to look over the structure of our campus ministries and how they relate to the Conference. In addition, the University of Virginia (UVA) will be looking for a new campus pastor and that process for posting this job has begun.

#### **Personnel Committee, Ms. Young (Unable to attend)**

Rev. Steven Summers reported on Ms. Young's behalf. Staff from the Conference Center are doing well and have been able to be flexible in working from home and from the office. The new HR policy has been deployed within the conference center. Overall, the staff has appreciated the clarity that this new policy provides. The technology portion has been well received by staff as it has empowered them to be more aware of their own benefits.

Rev. Summers also noted that Lori Smith, Director of All God's Children Camp, has officially given notice to leave her position.

At the last Annual Conference, the membership voted to allocate funding for a new position in regards to diversity and inclusion. This new position is currently being referred to as the Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion or JEDI. Conference leadership is building a team to support this new area of ministry and new director hire. To hire this new director, there is a plan to have townhall engagements around the conference. The purpose of these townhalls is to hear from the Annual Conference what their idea of justice and diversity looks like, and then use that vision to hire this new director's position.

Finally, Rev. Summers announced that Kay Lorelike, the new connectional ministry administrative assistant, has begun working.

#### **Conference Camp Ministries, Mr. David Dommissé**

Mr. Dommissé began by mentioning that the Virginia Conference is unique in that the districts own the camps but are still under the umbrella of Common Table. However, Mr. Dommissé reports that there are discussions to study the future of our camp ministries as many of our camps are struggling financially.

#### **Other Items**

Rev. Summers mentioned to be mindful of the called Annual Conference meeting announcement that went out this morning regarding the Boy Scouts of America.

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 pm with Mr. Carrillo closing us in prayer.

Joshua King, Secretary

