

Common Table Meeting

March 31, 2022

Those present on Zoom were Terry Bain, Don Jamison, Steve Summers, Kim Young, Martha Stokes, David Domnisse, Aaron Fitch, Ryan LaRock, Megan Saucier, and Bev Myers. Unable to attend were Bishop Lewis, Joshua King, Eduardo Carrillo.

The meeting opened at 10:00 am with a devotion and prayer by Ryan LaRock, based on John 12.

Steve Summers brought greetings from Bishop Lewis, noted that CM staff is covering Nickie's responsibilities during her maternity leave. Annual Conference planning is going well. He proposed acceptance of or alterations to the report that he will submit for the *Book of Reports* on behalf of the Common Table.

Martha Stokes explained her suggested wording in one section of the Common Table report. She reported that Kay Kotan will be addressing the Laity Session at Annual Conference. There is also examination of training for District Lay Leaders.

The minutes from January 13, 2022 were approved without amendment.

David Domnisse reported on the 2023 budget which the Council on Finance and Administration will present at Annual Conference. No requested funds for the 401 apportionment were lowered, but Church Extension's request for an additional \$100,000 was not approved.

RJ Jun joined the meeting to report on All God's Children and Camp Rainbow Connection. He shared the schedule for the camps for this summer.

He made note that although Lori Smith has resigned as coordinator of All God's Children camp, we have developed a contractual relationship with her. He reviewed AGC website, noted registrations to date, discussed partnering organizations.

RJ has met with the Core board for Camp Rainbow. He noted that there are no clergy members involved in the board. James River district has assisted in obtaining musicians for the camp, and will pay those honorariums. CRC needs: 1) updated website; 2) strengthening of connections with partnering organizations and with our conference churches.

3) Online donation link. David agreed that we should have online donation link for both AGC and CRC.

RJ noted that the CRC board is currently functioning as an operational team, not really a visioning board.

As a former staff member who worked with Camp Rainbow, Martha noted that the Heart Havens connection had been complicated; that involvement of clergy has come and gone; that we need to look at the Safe Sanctuaries policy in connection to the camp.

RJ noted that work is being done to gain covenant churches for the camps, as well as other Advance Specials.

Ryan LaRock reported that there were a number of tragic and troubling circumstances which have occurred on our campuses.

He reported that BHECM is working with consultant Michael McCord to evaluate and improve our campus ministries. A survey is being developed to assist in this process.

He made note that:

- Campus ministers will be meeting with HR consultant to address questions.
- BHECM will be awarding Francis Asbury award at Annual Conference, both last year's and this year's winners.
- The hire for a new campus minister at UVa is being finalized. Dwayne (with Nickie's consultation) will work with Cabinet in making the appointment of the person to be hired.
- Dwayne and Ryan met with Jasmine Graham and the President at Virginia State University.

Kim Young discussed the JEDI listening sessions, what was gained. Hopefully will be able to report on takeaways and next steps soon.

She asked the Common Table's permission to begin recruiting for Bev Myers' position, to allow for plenty of time for training of a new person. Kim made the motion and Don Jamison seconded the motion to allow the search to begin.

Don Jamison reported for the Grants Committee. A proposal was submitted to provide youth members of Annual Conference an orientation session and activities. The amount requested was \$3,000. The amount was approved unanimously.

Steve Summers raised the proposed Rules change request from the Board of Ordained Ministry. There was discussion about the request to remove the Common Table from Rule V.C.14. There was consensus that the language should remain the same, and that we should find out how the Common Table can be more effective in collaborating on this issue.

Don Jamison raised the question of having Common Table members elected to more than one term. The Common Table will discuss this in our May meeting; or it can be raised from the floor of Annual Conference.

Steve Summers raised the question about what involvement the Common Table might have in the District Initiative. Steve has been given information, but no input, about the process. Should the Common Table stay out of it, or should we lend support to it? Don Jamison noted that the districts are becoming their own entities. How does that affect how boards and agencies relate to the districts? Is this going to make more silos? Ryan suggested that at this point in time there may be a lack of bandwidth to be able to be involved in it. The discussion ended with the thought that the Common Table leadership does have responsibility for unity, alignment, healing, etc.

Martha closed the meeting in prayer at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Myers (for Joshua King, secretary)