

The Common Table for Church Vitality

The Virginia Annual Conference

*The mission of the Virginia Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.*

May 27, 2020

The Common Table met on May 27, 2020 by Zoom teleconference. Members taking part in the meeting were:

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis (Bishop)

Rev. Ted Smith (Director of Connectional Ministries and Chair)

Mr. Warren Harper (Conference Lay Leader)

Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster (Cabinet Representative)

Mr. John Dunning (Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries)

Mr. David Domnisse (Conference Treasurer)

Rev. Jonathan Page (2020)

Dr. Carlos Liceaga (2021)

Rev. Ashley Isernhagen (2022)

Rev. Meghan Saucier (2023)

Ms. Kimberly Young (2023)

Rev. Susan Reaves (Annual Conference Secretary, without vote)

Also present were Ms. Bev Myers, Executive Assistant in the office of Director of Connectional Ministries and Ms. Shirley Cauffman, Chair of the Personnel Committee.

Unable to attend were Ms. Unsil Choi, Rev. Lyle Morton, Rev. Harold White and Ms. Susie Wolf.

Director of Connectional Ministries, Ted Smith opened the meeting at 1:06 pm. Bishop Sharma Lewis asked the group to pray for Rev. Harold White and Ms. Unsil Choi. Ms. Kimberly Young led the group in prayer and shared a devotion focused on the verse,

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds” from Hebrews 10:24. She noted that Jesus provoked the woman at the well into transformation and since her bucket was empty she was able to receive what Jesus offered her.

Bishop Lewis asked for prayer as she deals with many interruptions in the midst of crafting a message to the Annual Conference. She offered her thanks to those gathered today for the meeting. The words that came to her while praying over the Common Table were spiritual formation, trust, team building, role clarifying and governance. She asked people whose time of service on the Common Table would normally end in June to remain thru September. She said the people who are slated to come on as members of the Common Table in July will join the group in June. Rev. Jonathan Page will stay on with the group until January 2021. She also mentioned that Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster is retiring at the end of the appointment year and it is up to Rev. Overby Webster whether she want to continue with the group until September or not. Winchester District Superintendent Steven Summers will be the new cabinet representative.

Rev. Jonathan Page shared that the team will be reading Patrick Lencioni’s *The Advantage* and discussing it at bi-weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 1 pm. The next meeting will be on June 10, 2020 at 1 pm. Rev. Page shared a schedule for reading and discussing the book. This includes revising the charter of the Common Table on July 8, 2020. The meetings will be around 75 minutes long except for July 8 and July 22 which should last approximately 90 minutes.

The Bishop reminded the group that we will each get out of this experience what we put into it. The link for the upcoming zoom meetings, will remain the same as today’s link.

Rev. Smith shared that Rev. Harold White is feeling well enough to rejoin Common Table meetings. The Bishop prayed. Everyone joined her in reciting the Lord's Prayer and Bishop Lewis dismissed the meeting at 1:59 pm.