

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 8, 2020

The Common Table met on May 8, 2020 by Zoom teleconference to comply with Virginia's Executive Order Number Fifty-Three (2020).

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. Lyle Morton (Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and
Advocacy Representative)

Ms. Unsil Choi (2020)

Rev. Jonathan Page (2020)

Dr. Carlos Liceaga (2021)

Ms. Kimberly Young (2023)

Rev. Megan Saucier (2023)

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

Also present were Rev. Tom Joyce , Assistant to the Bishop; Ms. Carol Draper, Treasurer's Office; Mr. Steve Brown, Annual Conference Chancellor and Ms. Shirley Cauffman, Chair of the Personnel Committee.

Not present were Rev. Ashley Isernhagen, Rev. Harold White and Ms. Susie Wolf.

The meeting opened at 11:05. The Bishop requested prayers for Rev. Harold White who is ill. The Bishop prayed over the gathering.

Bishop asked if the Common Table could move into executive session.

Mr. Steven Brown defined confidential. He stated the meeting is to be protected by attorney client privilege because the Bishop is seeking legal advice. The Conference is the client and we, the Common Table, by extension are also Mr. Brown's clients.

However, if members of the Common Table speak outside of the meeting, confidentiality will have been breached. It was unanimously agreed that the meeting would be confidential.

Mr. Warren Harper made a motion to move the Common Table meeting into Executive session. It was seconded. The motion passed.

Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster made a motion that as of May 1st, 2020, Ms. MaryKaye Cochran transitioned to the position of Interim Director of Congregational Excellence.

In this transition, the previous position of Administrative Assistant remains vacant. The motion was seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

It was agreed that the following next steps would be taken:

1. Ms. Cauffman and Rev. Smith will contact the affected staff on Friday, May 8th to inform them of changes made and ask them to meet in person or by Zoom, if preferred, on Saturday, May 9th.
2. Meetings with staff members affected by recent Common Table action will be set up and take place on Saturday, May 9th beginning at 11 am. The meeting will take place in the Cabinet Room and social distancing will be observed.

The meeting was then adjourned.