

The Common Table for Church Vitality
The Virginia Annual Conference
July 8, 2020

The Common Table met on July 8, 2020 by Zoom video conference. Members present were:

Bishop Sharma Lewis (Bishop)

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

Mr. Warren Harper (Conference Lay Leader)

Mr. David Domnisse (Conference Treasurer)

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

Mr. David Domnisse (Conference Treasurer)

Ms. Unsil Choi (2020)

Dr. Carlos Liceaga (2021)

Rev. Harold White (2021)

Rev. Ashley Isernhagen (2022)

Ms. Susie Wolf (2022)

Rev. Megan Saucier (2023)

Rev. Don Jamison (2024)

Ms. Terry Bain (2024)

Ms. Shirley Cauffman (Chair, Personnel Committee)

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

Not present today were Rev. Steven Summers, Rev. Lyle Morton, Rev. Jonathan Page and Ms. Kimberly Young.

Chairperson Ted Smith opened the meeting at 1:01 pm with a word of welcome. Dr. Carlos Liceaga prayed.

Critical question 1, “Why do we exist?” from Patrick Lencioni’s book, *The Advantage* was discussed. This led into a discussion of the Charter of the Common Table, particularly Section I. Purpose.

Mr. Warren Harper highlighted what he found to be the most important words of that section to define the Common Table’s purpose: “The Common Table coordinates and prioritizes ministries for Common Table designated resources. The Common Table nurtures, interprets and promotes the vision of the conference and upholds the mandates of the *Book of Discipline*.”

Rev. Harold White, suggested that the Common Table exists to make people’s lives better, and Ms. Shirley Cauffman added “by resourcing the local church.”

Rev. Smith proposed dividing into groups to work on individual sections of the charter and assigned everyone to one of four groups. He also pulled up ¶ 608.1-4 Connectional Ministries, *Book of Discipline*, so everyone could see the *Discipline*’s mandate for connectional ministries.

Rev. Ashley Isernhagen volunteered to compile everyone’s answers to the five critical questions in Lencioni’s book *The Advantage*. Everyone should email their answers to her by Saturday, July 11. Groups will work together through google docs and the Common Table will meet on July 22nd at 1 pm to work on the proposed edits to the Charter.

On August 5, 2020 the group will meet and finish Lencioni’s book. .

Meghan Saucier led the group in prayer. Rev. Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:08.