

Roanoke/Staunton District Initiative Team Meeting #3
November 1, 2021 – 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Dr. N.L. Bishop – Roanoke Chair of Common Table
Debbie Brown – Roanoke Leadership Chair
Rex Buel – Staunton District Trustees Chair
Rev. Joe Cailles – Staunton DCOM Chair
Larry Creamer – Staunton Lay Leader and
Leadership Team Chair
Donna Desper – Staunton District Admin
Rev. Jennifer Fletcher – Roanoke DCOM Chair
Anita Jackson – Staunton Superintendency Chair
Rev. Lauren Lobenhofer – Roanoke At Large

Cindy Martin – Roanoke Admin and Bookkeeper
David Mawyer – Staunton District Treasurer
Chuck Neeley – Roanoke District Finance Chair
Rev. Doug Paysour – Roanoke Superintendency
Chair
Jim Pearman – Roanoke District Treasurer
Rev. Won Un – At Large Member
Rev. Dr. Dale White – Staunton Director of
Congregational Excellence

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Reports from One-on-One Conversations

We heard, from Doug Paysour and Anita Jackson, representing the Superintendency committees.

Report on first clergy and lay leader listening sessions

Ask those present to share reflections: Dale, Lauren, Joe, Won, Cindy, Donna. What are ways to improve communications and receive feedback. What are our best options? What else can we do? Suggestions included:

- Videos of clergy with encouraging words
- Short video series to “paint a picture” of the new district to ease anxieties
- Develop an “elevator pitch”
- More cluster meetings: better communicate in advance dates and times

District boundary update

The Cabinet has decided that at this point, we will only focus on the existing district boundaries, removing the line that divides them. We wanted to limit the amount of change we are introducing into the system at once. Since we can redraw boundaries without taking it to AC, we can make adjustments in the future, perhaps after GC.

Update from the District structure subcommittee

The subcommittee looking at the structure of the new district consists of Won Un, Debbie Brown, Cindy Martin, and Dale White. They have met once last week and will meet again next week via Zoom.

Ongoing Items: African American Churches

Doug Forrester discussed a conversation with Rev. Patricia Jones at Asbury in Christiansburg. She is going to meet with the Bishop and other African-American clergy next week about ways to strengthen and support African-American churches. She and I are going to discuss this conversation after her return from Richmond.

Closing Prayer