

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Thursday 23 January 2018 • 6: 30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Michael Brauhn, Jason Cornell, Sonja Dahl, Walt Freed, Pastor John Vaswig, Karin Weberg, Julie Williams.

Absent: Becca Duskin, Ken Swanson, Keith Wright.

Staff: Troy Kehm-Goins.

Call to order

President Sonja Dahl called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Sonja Dahl led devotions based upon the “Martha and Mary” story in Luke 10 and John 12, focusing on the notion of distractions—upon what are we focused, Jesus or distractions? The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Thursday 11 January 2018 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

MVLC financial update

President Sonja gave a financial update: year-to-date giving is approximately \$10,000 below the 2018 Spending Guideline, but approximately \$11,000 above comparable 2017 year-to-date giving. Right now is a good time to focus on stewardship, since there is an awareness of giving right now, especially in light of the good news in regard to overall 2017 giving.

Pastor’s report

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- There is a need to enlarge the membership of the various ministry groups; expand their “on the ground” ministry; and explore the larger conversation between them.

- The chairperson of a ministry group should be the primary recruiter for members of that group; with members of the Church Council as secondary recruiters; and Pastor John as tertiary recruiter.
- There has been a lot of recent pastoral care and response, including “Commendation of the Dying” for a member on a day off.
- With staff in a time of transition, there is a need to try to define/re-define the roles and functions of clergy, staff, and laity.
- Anticipating the addition of new Parish Worker Marlene Wright to the staff.
- Receiving new members into the congregation at the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Transfiguration of Our Lord (2/11), after the 1/31 and 2/7 ExALT classes on “Lutheranism as a Way of Life.”
- The MVLC staff serving the 1/25 “Seeds of Change” meal at the Mountain View Community Center.
- MVCC Interim Executive Director Dave Coleman will take a decrease in his overall annual salary and increase his time in the office from 2.5 days per week to 4 days per week, after conversations between leadership of both MVLC and MVCC.

Congregational health survey, Faith Community Nurses, Deacons
 The recent “congregational health survey” conducted by the MVLC Faith Community Nurses reveals overall membership that is in some level of turmoil, due to drug/alcohol addiction; sexual addiction/deviancy; isolation, loneliness, and depression; and the like. Some of the questions to consider, in light of such results, include:

- *How do we expand the Deacon Ministry at MVLC?*
- *Are there ways that Deacons can encompass additional bedside and/or graveside responsibilities?*
- *Would there be a way to add Stephens Ministries as one of our “health care ministries,” joining Deacons, Care Team, and the Faith Community Nurses?*

Associate Pastor Call Committee update

Associate Pastor Call Committee chairperson Michael Brauhn gave an update on the status of the committee, its work, and candidates for the position, including the following:

- After two formal interviews and visits with many members of MVLC by the most recent Associate Pastor candidate, the Call Committee’s recommendation is not to call her.

- Michael will announce to the congregation on Sunday about the decision to not call the current candidate.
- The process has been difficult at times, but waiting and listening has been a necessary part of that process.
- Another candidate has emerged and will be brought to MVLC in the next few weeks for a visit and interview.

“Faith Over Fear”

Pastor John distributed material about the “Faith Over Fear: Standing with Our Muslim Neighbors Roadshow” and asked members of the Church Council to read it and see if there is interest in hosting such an event, as well as the need for a planning team if there is.

Septic system update

Michael Brauhn spoke about issues with the septic system installed as part of the new Administrative Offices. It appears the septic designer for the building project did not account for the showers and the volume of water that would be generated. Church Administrator Phil Edlund has been tasked with collecting “order of magnitude” estimates to rectify the problem.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 06 February 2018. Becca Duskin leads devotions.

Adjournment

Walt Freed “prayed us out.”

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary