

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Thursday 13 September 2018 • 6:30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Jason Cornell, Sonja Dahl, Becca Duskin, Ken Swanson, Emily Thompson, Pastor John Vaswig, Lynn Wadnizak, Karin Weberg, Julie Williams.

Absent: Bob Linden.

Staff: Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle.

Call to order

President Sonja Dahl called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Emily Thompson led devotions based upon Isaiah 64:8-9, as well as the related notions of (a) our straying and returning; and (b) God always present in our lives, even when we're absent. The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 07 August 2018 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Financial update

President Sonja Dahl provided a summary of recent financial information from Church Administrator Phil Edlund including the following highlights:

- The reserves will most likely dip “into negative territory until Sunday’s offering posts,” since they are only at \$11,577 after paying out third quarter benevolences and payroll and bills still need to be paid.
- Absent the benevolences, we are operating under some fairly conservative financial restraints.
- Giving to the *Former Things, New Things* capital campaign is about 102% of pledges, but general giving is a constant struggle.
- Is having a fully staffed “staffing model” right now causing us some financial struggle?

- Approximately \$38,000 in annual giving “disappeared” with the thirty funerals we’ve had in the past twenty months.

Pastor’s report • Associate Pastor

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Meeting with area ELCA youth directors.
- Preparations for Trunk or Treat are moving forward, including some imaginative invitation.
- The upcoming Acolyte Retreat (9/23) and subsequent Acolyte Rite (9/30).
- Her meeting with Thrivent representative Cathy Kostelecky to discuss the possibility of “Money Matters” events with kids, youth, and younger families of MVLC.
- The first children’s ExALT class did not go well and Pastor Bri needs parents or other adults to partner with her so there are additional adults in future ExALT classes.

Pastor’s report • Senior Pastor

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- There is a gap between the strength of attendance for our adult education at MVLC (both Sundays and Wednesdays) and the less well attended children’s education, but we are working to address the latter.
- The tepid response of the congregation to “God’s work. Our hands.”
- Meeting with MVCC Executive Director Jesie Holden every two months to discuss, first, financial stability, and, then, imagining new programming.
- The upcoming Deacon Retreat on Saturday 9/15.
- The upcoming baptism of his granddaughter Lucille.

“Raise a Glass of Hope” request.

The Mountain View Community Center requested the ability to serve alcohol at its upcoming “Raise a Glass of Hope” event.

It was M/S/P to allow alcohol be served at the 2018 “Raise a Glass of Hope” event, with the caveat that servers cannot consume alcohol.

Council retreat

Karin Weberg and Ken Swanson agreed to serve on a council retreat planning team with Pastor John.

The intent of the retreat was discussed, which is to focus on relationship, prayer, and fellowship. Conversations will center on the challenges of being a leader at church, while in the mutual consolation of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Supporting parents

The Church Council discussed how to support parents in raising a child in the faith. Some of the items discussed included:

- The power of parents sitting in a room together for conversation, as at the recent meeting of parents of high school youth.
- The importance of intergenerational opportunities at MVLC, such as Advent Adventures.
- The additional “burden” of parenting a child *in the faith* (above and beyond the “burden” of simply parenting a child).
- The need for a retreat for parents?

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 25 September 2018 in the Library. Pastor John leads devotions based upon chapter 1 of *Interrupting Silence* by Walter Brueggemann.

Adjournment

President Sonja Dahl “prayed us out.”

Troy Kehm-Goins

Recording Secretary