

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 September 2018 • 6:30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

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

Absent: Bob Linden.

Guests: Ben Wadnizak, Pili Wolfe.

Staff: Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle.

Call to order

President Sonja Dahl called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Pastor John led devotions based upon the first chapter of *Interrupting Silence* by Walter Brueggemann, helping the leaders of “Friends in Faith” small groups find a way to lead discussion of this material. He focused upon Brueggemann’s notion of (a) orientation; (b) disorientation; and (c) reorientation.

Orientation. Summarize chapter one, without any questions posed by anyone. Visit the Exodus text (2:23-25). Read it aloud. Notice the action words attributed to God: *heard, remembered, looked, took*. The divine responds to the groaning of his people. Expand upon the text by looking at Exodus 3:13-15 and Exodus 5:15–6:14.

Disorientation. Everyone loves to talk about an Egyptian empire, but doesn’t want to talk about a 21st century empire. Discuss these and similar questions as a group, transferring text into context.

- *Who is the empire? Who is the emperor/pharaoh today?*
- *What marginalized people are “building bricks” today?*
- *What is it like to live in our contemporary empire?*
- *Where is our next Exodus?*
- *How do we embrace the priorities of the empire?*

This is a time of “interrupting the silence,” disrupting the narrative. There will be “push back.” But Jesus can show up in the disorientation! In this framework of disorientation, of disruption, love the people in your group without defensiveness. Everything you say gets us closer to relationship with one another in Christ, in congregational life. Be more of a participant and guide than a provider of information.

- *Where is Jesus showing up in the world?*
- *Can you identify some of these places and spaces?*

Reorientation. During this time the watchword is *hope*. Other texts can help to flesh this out. Galatians 5:1. Romans 8:31-30. Romans 6:1-11. Hope is in these moments: the cry arose; God heard the cry; the prophet responded.

Group rules. Here are a few guiding principles for faithful conversations in small groups.

- Love deeply those you disagree with.
- Listen attentively, intently, intensively. And without distraction.
- Consensus is not an option. Everyone doesn't have to agree with one another.

The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Thursday 13 September 2018 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Financial update

Church Administrator Phil Edlund spoke regarding the following:

- Giving was lower than the previous week (\$11,987 versus the weekly budgeted amount of \$14,783 for September.)
- We will need to average about \$24,000 per Sunday for the remaining 14 Sundays of the year to reach the adopted Spending Guideline amount. (Or, approximately \$105,000 per month.)
- We are still in need of a Treasurer for the congregation.
- There is \$22,762.45 available for 2018 grants from the Mission Endowment Fund.
- The Church Administrator has been in talks with Temple of Praise Seventh Day Adventist Church about using the Chapel for worship and education from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays. They would pay

\$600 per month in facilities usage fees, with a \$100 per month reduction in those fees for cleaning the space after use. They would also be allowed broader use of the campus for 2 larger events per year.

It was M/S/P to approve the Mission Endowment Fund Committees recommended allocated amount of \$22,762.45 for 2018 and accept grant applications.

It was M/S/P to enter into a lease with Temple of Praise Seventh Day Adventist Church for use on the Chapel on Saturdays, for a 90-day probationary period, and if there are no problems at the end of the probationary period, to enter into a one-year lease for use of the Chapel as spelled out in the lease agreement.

It was M/S/P to amend the motion with language in 1.2.1 of the lease agreement to read: “Landlord requires use of the Chapel for a small funeral/memorial and reception, whereupon the Landlord will attempt to accommodate the Tenant with alternate space.”

Pastor’s report • Associate Pastor

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- The ExALT class for the kids in grades 1-7 went better than the initial week. On the fourth week of each month, the ExALT class will help pack Kid Power Packs for the Mountain View Community Center.
- Acolyte training went well. There will be four new acolytes, who will be commissioned to serve at the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday 9/30.
- Rock Ministry attendance is up.
- The upcoming 1-6 grade fellowship event.
- The upcoming event where MVLC high school youth will attend a “hang night” with the youth of Messiah Lutheran Church of Auburn.
- The Trunk or Treat event on Wednesday 10/31 during ExALT.

Pastor’s report • Senior Pastor

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- While attendance at Sunday worship, Sunday education, and the Wednesday ExALT meal/classes is up, stewardship is down.
- Last Saturday was the Deacon Retreat, with about 20 participants.

Council retreat

Pastor John will meet with Ken Swanson, Karin Weberg, and Julie Williams to plan the 10/20 Council Retreat.

Supporting parents

Council members were encourage to sign up for and/or participate in the following events in life together.

- “Can We Talk?” Lutheran-Catholic dinner and dialogue on Thursday 10/11.
- “Fellowship of the Light” stewardship/discipleship breakfast on Sunday 10/28.
- The Mountain View Community Center’s fundraising dinner on Saturday 11/3.
- Consecration Sunday on Sunday 11/4.
- “Faith Over Fear” event on Wednesday 11/14.
- Congregational Meeting to adopt the 2019 Spending Guideline on Sunday 11/18.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 09 October 2018 in the Library. Lynn Wadnizak leads devotions.

Adjournment

Vice-president Jason Cornell “prayed us out.”

Troy Kehm-Goins

Recording Secretary