

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 09 October 2018 • 6: 30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Jason Cornell, Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Ken Swanson, Lynn Wadnizak, Karin Weberg, Julie Williams.

Absent: Emily Thompson.

Staff: Phil Edlund, Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle, Pastor John Vaswig.

Call to order

President Sonja Dahl called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Lynn Wadnizak led devotions based upon the question: *What are “our” texts, the scripture passages that are written on our hearts?* The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 25 September 2018 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Proposed 2019 Spending Guideline

Church Administrator Phil Edlund gave the Church Council an overview of the recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding the 2019 Spending Guideline, including the following:

- Pastoral category of \$253,544 / 15.2% increase from 2018.
- Administration category of \$299,480 / 3.0% increase from 2018.
- Benevolence category of \$171,500 / 0.4% decrease from 2018.
- Program category of \$89,989 / 12.0% decrease from 2018.
- Property category of \$121,600 / 5.3% increase from 2018.
- Debt service category of \$131,544 / 11.3% decrease from 2018.
- Total Spending Guideline of 1,067,657 / 1.8 % increase from 2018.
- A very conservative proposed Spending Guideline.

- Throughout the Spending Guideline categories, included are 5% raise for the Custodian, since she was hired in her first year in the middle of the year; no raise for Pastor John at his request; and 2.5% raises for the rest of the staff.
- The decrease in Program and increase in Pastoral categories reflect the shift from a Director of Family Discipleship (Program) to Associate Pastor (Pastoral).

Financial update

Church Administrator Phil Edlund spoke regarding the following:

- We are meeting our expenses, but we aren't meeting our 2018 Spending Guideline, which means that our "giving gap" has continued to grow, tapping the money that sits in our reserves.
- We paid an additional \$10,347 on the mortgage principal this month, which brings our outstanding principal balance down to \$1,927,952.
- Money is being set aside for future replacement/repair of the Education Building roof, which will cost around \$89,000.
- We have lost approximately \$55,000 per year in giving due to the large number of deaths we have experienced over the past 20 months—\$37,000 due to deaths of members and an additional \$18,000 due to shifting of resources by a surviving spouse.

Pastor's report • Associate Pastor

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- The need for more people to sign up to host trunks for Trunk or Treat.
- The high school Rock Ministry *Dialogues* curriculum, which focuses on refugees.
- The upcoming high school lock-in and youth serving at the Seeds of Change community meal.
- The upcoming worship retreat for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students and their families.
- Practical lessons in the midst of short attention spans for ExALT classes.
- Stewardship classes with Rock Ministry students.

Pastor's report • Senior Pastor

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- Kudos to our mission and ministry at MVLC, as exemplified by the number of agencies and organizations that request our presence at their special events—Nourish Pierce County fundraising lunch; Helping Hand House annual breakfast; ELCA World Hunger representatives meeting

with Pastor John; Jon Buuck of Lutheran World Relief teaching adult education and preaching during worship.

- Continued good attendance for ExALT classes.
- We have a wonderful vision for Rock Ministry. *How do we en flesh it and enact it? How do we make that vision happen?*
- The upcoming memorial service for Cass Fauber.

Council retreat

The upcoming council retreat will focus upon relationships of the members of council with one another, with other members of the congregation, and with members of the congregation with one another.

Council member needed

The Church Council is still searching for a replacement for Becca Duskin's position, as well as someone from the Council to serve in the role of Secretary.

Grace Place

The idea of MVLC as a "Grace Place," an educational epicenter of faith formation for Pierce County, was discussed, especially in light of our congregation's participation/hosting of events such as "Can We Talk?" and "Faith Over Fear."

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 23 October 2018 in the Library. Pastor John leads devotions.

Adjournment

Bob Linden "prayed us out."

Troy Kehm-Goins

Recording Secretary