

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 22 October 2019 • 6: 30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Jason Cornell, Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Mary Beth Peterson, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg.

Absent: Michael Brauhn, Julie Williams.

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

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Mary Beth Peterson led devotions based upon passages from *Shades of Light* by Sharon Garlough Brown and Psalm 139:1-6. The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 08 October 2019 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Pastor's report

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Thirty-three women attended the Mathetria Women's Retreat. Pastor Bri especially appreciated the intergenerational aspect of the retreat and the power of small group conversations during the weekend.
- The upcoming high school "Faith Stories" Retreat, with a Rite of Affirmation on Sunday 11/17.
- Will be away for a week of continuing education to focus on content creation for Advent with kids, the January class she is leading, and more.

Pastor's report

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- The upcoming “Death and Dying” caregiving retreat with the Deacons.
- “Fellowship of the Light” events—10/27 Reformation Sunday, with lay homilists preaching and the 11/3 Consecration Breakfast between services and commitment cards brought forth during the offering.
- The next stewardship theme: “Living Hope: Past, Present, and Future,” as well as cottage meetings in January 2020.
- Staff evaluations.
- Some general giving concerns right now, since, for the first time this year we are behind last year's giving. This past weekend's giving was slightly better than the prior week, but we are still behind last year's comparative giving.

2020 Spending Guideline

The 2020 Spending Guideline was reviewed once again, with special attention paid to areas of increase and/or decrease from the prior year.

2020 Benevolences

The 2020 Benevolences were discussed, with Pastor John making the following suggestions for decreases and increases.

DECREASES

-\$2,100 • China Partners Network (Global Mission). *Decreases this line item to \$0.*
-\$2,500 • Associated Ministries (Holistic). *Decreases this line item to \$2,500.*
-\$2,400 • Grace Place (Global Mission). *Actual discussion was to decrease this line item by \$5,000 since it was a one-time event, but then later to add \$2,600 back in for the Grace Place for ecumenical events, which decreases this line item to \$2,600. (Hopefully that makes sense.)*

Total decrease of \$7,000.

INCREASES

+\$1,000 • International Center of Bethlehem (Global Mission). *Increases this line item to \$8,000.*
+\$1,000 • Churches for Middle East Peace (Global Mission). *Increases this line item to \$3,500.*
+\$1,000 • Lutheran World Relief (Global Mission). *Increases this line item to \$7,500.*
+\$1,000 • Habitat for Humanity (Housing). *Increases this line item to \$5,800.*
+\$1,000 • ELCA World Hunger (Hunger). *Increases this line item to \$11,200.*
+\$2,000 • Southwestern Washington Synod (SWWA Synod/ELCA). *Increases this line item to \$38,500.*

Total increase of \$7,000.

It was M/S/P to accept the 2020 Spending Guideline and the 2020 Benevolences and recommend the same to the congregation at the Sunday 17 November 2019 Congregational Meeting.

Congregational Meeting lunch

Sonja Dahl will take the lead on the lunch, with Mary Beth Peterson and Bob Linden assisting her.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 05 November 2019 in the Library. Karin Weberg leads devotions.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary