

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 14 January 2020 • 6: 30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Michael Brauhn, Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Mary Beth Peterson, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Julie Williams.

Absent: Karin Weberg.

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

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Julie Williams led devotions based upon weathering doubt and fear amid turmoil and trauma, as well as Luke 21:25 and other biblical texts. The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 03 December 2019 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Financial update

Treasurer Jason Cornell spoke regarding the following:

- December's giving was extraordinary with the last two weeks of gifts of \$32,228 and \$36,688 respectively.
- December's total of \$129,913 surpassed the expected monthly giving level by more than \$5,000 and brought our year-end total to \$1,023,437. While still not quite hitting our 2019 spending guideline of \$1,051,260, it is now the second year in a row that we have received over \$1 million toward the general fund.
- The increased giving in December was attributed to multiple large year-end contributions made by various members, several members catching up to their annual pledge, and a \$5,000 contribution from a private family foundation.

- Expenses were about \$15,000 higher than budgeted for the month of December. Year-to-date expenses finished high than budgeted year-to-date by \$31,711.

Pastor's report

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Preparing for educational offerings in Winter 2020.
- Good feedback from participants in the "Loneliness" class.
- The Rock Ministry high school youth are talking about race, using the same curriculum they did when they discussed refugees.
- The Holy Communion Retreat for third and fourth graders. Eight kids, plus parents and mentors, were present for hands-on activities (baking communion bread for worship) and active theology.
- Lenten planning.
- Summer camp/trip planning.
- Vacation Bible School planning.
- Attending the Bishop's Convocation next week.

Pastor's report

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- The first cottage meeting on Sunday, with many more to follow, which provides an opportunity to talk about mission and ministry.
- Talk with your spouses about your "Living Hope" commitment.
- "Living Hope" dinner preparations.
- Considering earlier worship times for Christmas Eve in 2020. Perhaps 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- The "Fellowship Hour" focusing on WELCA, as the MVLC chapter disbands.
- Carol Cacciola, Diane Nelson, and Lynn Wadnizak will take on the role of reception coordinators for memorial services.
- Terry Freed retired from her role as MVLC Faith Community Nurse, as of 12/31/2019.

Housing allowances

It was M/S/P to approve housing allowances of (1) \$35,000 per year, for the current year and future years, from regular compensation plus any year-end bonuses for Pastor John Vaswig; and (2) \$25,000 per year, for the current year and future years, from regular compensation plus any year-end bonuses for Pastor Briana Merkle.

Cell phone tower

Members of the MVLC Church Council unanimously consented to proceed forward with the location of the cell phone tower behind the Chapel and take such recommendation to a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 9, 2020. The meeting will be announced during worship services on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

Council retreat

The need for a council retreat was made known. Once availability at the St. Placid Priory Spirituality Center is determined, then additional details will be discussed.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 11 February 2020 in the Library. Bob Linden leads devotions.

Adjournment

Michael Brauhn “prayed us out.”

Respectfully submitted,
Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary