

MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Meeting
January 21, 2025; 6:30 pm; Church Library

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Present: Fred Albert, Monica Baker, Jason Cornell (Treasurer), Kevin Dahl, Karen Hansen, Skip Harrison, Megan Hutton, Becky Schaefer, Ken Swanson, Bob Yost

Zoom: Thomas Careaga, Mary Beth Dahl, John Meagher

Absent: None

Staff: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Deacon Traci Vatne

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Megan Hutton in the MVLC Library at 6:35 pm. She then asked Council members to introduce themselves to Deacon Traci Vatne who was recently hired to serve as Interim Deacon through August 14, 2025 (or until a pastor is called).

OPENING PRAYER

President Megan led the Council in devotions related to Ecclesiastes 3, "To everything there is a season...."

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 17, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Approve the minutes as posted.

Made By: Fred Albert

Second: Kevin Dahl

Action: Passed

WRITTEN REPORTS

The written reports were reviewed.

Motion: Approve the reports as posted.

Made By: Bob Yost

Second: Fred Albert

Action: Passed

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Eric

Councilmembers reviewed the report submitted by Pastor Eric while he updated Council on a variety of items. He reported that \$700,000 had been received through 114 pledges received during the Season of Generosity. Although the number of pledges is slightly lower than those received last year, the total amount pledged was higher. He also reported that a successful Men's Retreat with men from Grace Lutheran Church had just concluded; and many connections were formed between the men from both churches. Pastor Eric also reported that the funeral service for longtime member Linda Peterson has been delayed due illness in the family.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jason Cornell presented a financial update for the month of December as well as providing year-end numbers.

He reported that December's income was \$90,481 with expenses of \$86,617 leaving \$3,863 to the positive for the month. He reported that total giving in 2024 was \$872,973 with the annual benevolence payout at \$86,325 (1.1 percent higher than projected). The Living Hope funds total \$61,087 at the end of 2024. Some dollars were used from this account to fund the new banners that have been added to the Sanctuary.

ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES

2024 Benevolences

Treasurer Jason reported that the amount of the benevolence payout left \$975 available for Council to disperse.

Motion: Roll the 2024 benevolence overage of \$975 into the 2025 benevolence disbursements.

Made By: Bob Yost

Second: Kevin Dahl

Action: Passed

Purchase of a Christmas Tree

President Megan discussed the installation and decorating of the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary that she and her family and others have participated in for several years. She pointed out the difficulty and safety concerns that exist around the annual Christmas tree installation and decorations. Due to these issues as well as her concern that the number of volunteers has decreased, she purchased an artificial tree to be used in the Sanctuary in future years.

Motion: Approve the purchase of a pre-lit, artificial tree and skirt in the amount of \$335.78 with funding for this purchase to be taken from Council Allocated funds.

Made By: Kevin Dahl

Second: Bob Yost

Action: Passed

Update on Lease for Mountain View Community Center

Pastor Eric reported that the lease for the NOURISH Food Bank is completed while the lease for the Community Center is in process. He alerted Council members to be watching for a draft lease for the Community Center to be sent soon via email.

Discussion on Process for Capital Planning/Future Needs

President Megan began a discussion on the need for a schedule for the replacement of capital equipment and other large equipment and systems within the church. Council members discussed the types of equipment that would be listed on the plan, schedule of replacement, possible sources of funding, and other things.

Fred Albert reported that Property Committee, under the direction of Henry Peck, has been working on the development of a 1-3 year plan for the maintenance and/or replacement of equipment and other large projects within the Church properties.

Discussion followed regarding the need for a 1-3 year, more immediate plan as well as a summary of replacement and high-cost maintenance items within the next 5-10 years. He is hoping to bring a draft plan to Council in February where Council members can resume their “high-level discussion” of the plan.

COUNCIL REPORTS

President Megan surveyed Council members on their plans to remain on Council for the 2025-2026 year.

Council members reported on the following committees/activities:

- Property Committee: Fred Albert’s report from the Property Committee is attached to the minutes. Fred will update Council on a capital project report at the February meeting in hopes of bringing it to the Congregation at their meeting in May.

INFORMATIONAL/OPERATIONAL ITEMS

Winter Social

Council member Skip Harrison reported that he has reserved some tables at the Lazy Ballerina, 319 South Meridian in Puyallup for an informal Council Winter Social on Wednesday February 5, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Council members and guests are invited.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

- Devotions: Tomas Careaga
- Closing Prayer: Skip Harrison

CLOSING PRAYER

Closing prayer was led by Karen Hansen.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Karen Hansen

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Eric

Pastor Eric's Report for the January 2025 Council Meeting:

- Thanks and gratitude for the end of year bonus that you gave me.
- Deacon Traci Vatne has started as our interim minister. She started on January 14 and her first Sunday was January 19. Deacon Traci will work 15 hours a week and will focus on worship leadership, Rock Ministry oversight, and leading monthly stepping stones of faith retreats. Deacon Traci will preach on February 16 for the first time at MVLC.
- Christmas Eve worship attendance in 2024 was 177 at 5pm and 191 at 7pm for a total of 368. Total Christmas Eve attendance in 2023 was 344.
- The Men's Retreat was an all-around success. We had 40 guys in attendance, 20 from each congregation. Lots of positive feedback was spoken out loud as guys were leaving on Sunday afternoon.
- I attended a pastoral leadership retreat in Arizona February 6-10. The retreat leaders covered Human Resources best practices, the church and social media, leadership styles, Enneagram, and technology and the church, including AI. I really connected with wonderful pastoral colleagues from around the country. When they shared about their congregations and I shared about Mt View, I realized how special our congregation compared to other ELCA congregations. We have young families, we have great music, and our campus partnerships are such an advantage for connecting with the wider community.
- Wyatt Anderson is the grandson of Kevin and Barb Anderson. Wyatt's baptism will be at MVLC on February 9. He parents are Stewart and Caitlin.
- February 9 is Scout Sunday and the Scouts are hosting a pancake feed during Adult Ed.
- The new lease with the Edgewood foodbank is all done and signed off by us and Sue Potter. Sue Potter will also be coming to MVLC for Foodbank Sunday on February 23.
- The new lease with MVCC is close but we still have a couple details to come to agreement about. I am hopeful that the MVCC lease will be ready for Council approval soon and this may need an email vote of the Council. Please pay attention to your email for this possible Council vote on approval of the new MVCC lease, which will also be attached to the email.
- Thanks to Pastor Loren Leapoldt for preaching and presiding while I was away at the Men's retreat.
- We had two significant deaths in the congregation, Linda Petersen and Barb Edmonds. Linda's memorial will be Saturday, February 8 and Barb's memorial will be Saturday, January 18.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MVLC Property Committee Minutes January 7, 2025 Submitted by Fred Albert

In attendance:

Bill Kohler
Carolyn Dahle
John Dahle
Henry Peck
Rick Hansen
Fred Albert

The committee discussed the following items: **Update in RED**

Preventive, Repair and Safety.

: **Recommendation on the bids should be made at the next February property committee meeting (Feb 11) for council considerations on chapel windows, chapel painting and west side of sanctuary**

Repair:

- Replacement of the window frames on the south side of the chapel and include the replacement of the fascia and gutter ends on the west side of the sanctuary. The thought is to combine both repairs into one bid. Henry is reaching out for three bids. **To date we've received 2 bids and are waiting for 4 bids. The first two bids were from carpentry companies, the next set are from glass companies and painting companies.**

Preventative:

- Painting the chapel. The last time it was painted the prep work was substandard resulting in the paint chipping and blistering around the building. This to address the rot and checking that has already occurred – primarily on the south side of the building. Henry is gathering bids.
- Hiring a company to treat the chapel, MCCC and MVLC sanctuary roofs for moss and provide an estimate as to the condition of these roofs so we can prioritize and schedule replacement in future years (2026, 2027, etc.)

Safety:

- Install a handrail at the back of the altar in the sanctuary. **Materials were assembled but the installation was shelved at the request of the Altar Guild chair. The concern was that the railing would actually be in the way and pose a greater risk for the guild members because they have to use both hands to carry the sacraments.**

The committee will continue to review and refine the major projects list. Henry will create a property folder on Google drive for the committee to work from, with the council having read rights to that folder.

Future discussions:

What to do with the property north of the sanctuary
Parking light fixtures (in progress)