

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 • 6:30 p.m.
Online meeting (via Zoom)

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Dan Neptun, Gerry Philipsen, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg. Treasurer Jason Cornell.

Absent: Mary Beth Peterson.

Staff: Pastor Mike Greenwalt, Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Kim Latterell, Pastor Briana Merkle.

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, January 5, 2021 meeting.

Financial update

Treasurer Jason Cornell provided a financial update, which included the following highlights:

- The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness paperwork was submitted.
- Reviewing the documentation on the second round of PPP loans, it is likely that MVLC is eligible. Once the Church Council knows the amount available then it will decide if we proceed forward.
- The 2020 benevolences, even with the reduced amounts disbursed in the fourth quarter, are approximately 16.5% of actual giving.
- The Stewardship Ministry Group will send out a follow-up letter to those households that have yet to pledge/commit toward 2021 giving.

Benevolences

After discussion, **it was M/S/P to base 2021 benevolence giving on 13% of the receipts of congregation giving at the conclusion of each quarter.**

Bob Linden will write a letter to be sent all of our benevolence recipients, notifying them of the same.

Pastor's report—Pastor Briana Merkle

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Planning and preparing Lent devotional and soup recipes for Rock Ministry families.
- Recommending Lenten almsgiving toward Exodus Housing and ELCA World Hunger.
- Lenten catechesis “challenge” for Middle Rock families using *Grace Alone* as a study guide.
- Meeting with the Rock Ministry Discernment Team, which consists of Pastor Bri, Jesie Holden, Carianne Kehm-Goins, and Wendy Wadnizak. The team is examining the needs of Rock Ministry, followed by identifying the priority of those needs.

Pastor's report—Pastor Kim Latterell

Pastor Kim Latterell spoke regarding the following:

- “The Forgotten Luther” adult education with Pastor Paul Wee.
- Encouraging members of the Council to read the ELCA’s “social message” on Government.
- Reactivating the Women’s Bible Study as a weekly afternoon study, each Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
- Lifting up the ALIVE Team’s “Report to the Congregation” as the “gold standard” of such documents. It will also be presented during adult education on Sunday 1/31.
- Inviting all households to participate in the 1/31 and 2/7 transition discussions.
- Planning the “Park and Ponder” Lenten midweek worship services.

Pastor's report—Pastor Mike Greenwalt

Pastor Mike Greenwalt spoke regarding the following:

- Continuing to meet with Julie Williams in her role as chair of the Staff Advocacy Committee, working on staff advocacy initiatives and reviewing position description updates.

- Acknowledgment of the hiring anniversaries and birthdays of staff members as “staff building” exercises.
- Setting up a meeting with Scout leaders for conversation.

Housing allowances

It was M/S/P to approve a housing allowance of \$25,000 per year, for the current year, and future years, from regular compensation plus any year-end bonuses for Pastor Briana Merkle.

It was M/S/P to approve a housing allowance of half of Pastor Kim Latterell’s monthly salary each month, from February 2021 until the end of his contract, toward his ELCA Pension Fund.

It was M/S/P to approve a housing allowance of \$2,000 of Pastor Mike Greenwalt’s monthly compensation package each month, for each month of 2021 until the end of his contract.

Congregational Meeting debrief/discussion

Members of the Council discussed the well-attended and well-presented Congregational Meeting of Sunday 1/24.

Return to Worship update

Sonja Dahl, chair of the Return to Worship Team spoke regarding the following:

- The team is meeting weekly once again.
- They have established a formalized process for all usage requests.
- Once MVLC returns to in-person worship, then we will allow Scouts to restart their outdoor activities on campus.
- Any updates on when we can return to in-person worship will be published in the MVLC E-news.

Congregational Constitution Review Committee

Any recommendations on members to serve on this committee should be emailed to President Carol Powers and/or Pastor Mike Greenwalt.

TLRC Covenant Agreement

MVLC has been invited by Pastor Ron Kempe, president of the board of Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community, to be a “covenant congregation” of the TLRC. Pastor Kempe will present information at an upcoming adult education class about what such would entail.

2/9 homework assignment

President Carol Powers assigned the following questions to members of the Council, in order to have a discussion about a vision for MVLC at the Tuesday, February 9, 2021 meeting.

- *How are we as leaders communicating the story of the congregation to the congregation?*
- *What do we imagine is unfolding for us as MVLC?*
- *What do we want to see changed before the new pastor arrives?*
- *What am I willing to contribute to effect the change?*

Devotions

Carol Powers led devotions based upon Psalm 139 and the reminder that God is in control, even amidst the chaos and challenges of our lives. The council prayed together.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Emily Thompson leads devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary