

**MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**February 18, 2025; 6:30 pm; Church Library**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Zoom: Becky Schaefer

Absent: Thomas Careaga

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.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Fred Albert discussed his thoughts and impressions regarding the film, No Other Land, now playing at the Grand Cinema in Tacoma. He encouraged other Council members to view the film.

Kevin Dahl led Council in an opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 21, 2025 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:* Fred Albert

*Second:* Mary Beth Dahl

*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 the Mission Endowment Team is planning a Spring MEF Banquet to raise awareness for MEF Funding which they hope will become an annual event. The Team is hoping to showcase various projects as well as to raise awareness of MEF Funding in estate planning. Pastor Eric indicates that the new member process is beginning, and there are approximately 15-18 new member units/households being invited to be a part of the cohort. New members will be joining the Church during the Easter Vigil. Among other topics, he discussed the potential for a partnership with the PB&J for the Homeless group which has asked to use the MVCC gym on a weekly basis to make sandwiches for the homeless. Pastor Eric also expressed gratitude for his one-week "stay-cation" from which he has recently returned.

### Deacon Traci

Deacon Traci reviewed her report to Council and called attention to the various Faith Formation Mini-Retreats scheduled over the next few months.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jason Cornell presented a financial update for the month of January.

He reported that we fell a little short of our giving target for the month, but revenue (specifically rental income) made up for the shortfall. January's Tithes & Offerings income was \$84,308 as compared to the budgeted amount of \$95,000. Expenditures were approximately \$6,000 less than budget resulting in a net operating revenue of -\$964.

Other items discussed included funding for the 2027 Youth Gathering, designated funding for the Gathering, MEF Funding, and various church accounts. He reviewed the benefits of various funding accounts.

*Motion:* Request Treasurer Jason Cornell to direct funds up to the amount of \$120,000 to be placed in accounts yielding maximum benefit to Mountain View Lutheran Church.

*Made By:* Bob Yost

*Second:* John Meagher

*Action:* Passed

## **ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES**

No additional items presented for action.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council members reported on the following committees/activities:

- Property Committee: Fred Albert reported that the Committee is working on a spreadsheet for capital improvements and hopes to have something for Council review at the next meeting.
- Quilters: Mary Beth Dahl reported that there are nine active quilters.

## **INFORMATIONAL/OPERATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Extended Study Leave (Sabbatical ) Program Guidelines**

Council members discussed the proposed Extended Study Leave (Sabbatical) Program Guidelines. These Guidelines were developed by the Staff Advocacy Team and are based on information provided by the Synod office. Council members discussed various questions which President Megan will review with the Staff Advocacy Team. Their final recommendations will be posted to the Google Drive prior to the next meeting when Council members will vote on the Guidelines.

### **Sanctuary Improvement Items for Consideration**

Mary Beth Dahl reported on a conversation she had with Director of Music Amy Boers. There is a need for storage for instruments and related items. President Megan asked that a proposal be submitted to Council for review. Mary Beth will submit that request to Amy.

### **Lease for Mountain View Community Center/Update**

Bob Yost reported that discussions are ongoing.

### **Council Membership 2025-2026**

The Constitution states the Council should consist of 8-12 members. Currently, eight existing Council members plan to continue their service. Council members discussed the addition of 1-3 new members. President Megan will reach out to the Nominating Committee to see who has indicated past interest in serving.

### **Council Representation/MEF Committee 2025-2026**

Bob Yost currently represents Council on the MEF Committee. As Bob plans to conclude his Council service at the end of this term, there is a need to appoint a replacement. President Megan requested that those who will be staying consider serving as a representative to the MEF Committee.

### **Council Representation/Nominating Committee 2025-2026**

Ken Swanson currently serves as the Council Representative to the Nominating Committee.

## **NEXT MEETING**

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

- Devotions: Kevin Dahl
- Closing Prayer: Bob Yost

## **OTHER**

Pastor Eric announced that next Sunday is Food Bank Sunday, and Sue Potter, Chief Executive Officer of Nourish Pierce County will be our guest at Worship.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Closing prayer was led by Skip Harrison.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Karen Hansen

## PASTOR'S REPORT

### Pastor Eric

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

- Mission Endowment Fund Team is beginning planning for a Spring MEF Banquet. The purpose of this banquet will be to identify folks who have already included MEF in their estate plan, thank these folks, and educate and invite more to add MEF to their estate plan. This Spring MEF Banquet will also invite grant recipients to share progress and stories about their grant funded project. We want to cater for this banquet and make it feel fancy. We also feel serving wine at this event would be appropriate and will ask Council for approval of this. The goal of this annual MEF banquet will be to heighten awareness, grow the donor circle of folks including MEF in their estate plan, and expressing deep gratitude for past and future gifts. We are beginning to brainstorm members to ask to serve on this MEF planning team.
- Feb 9 is Scout Sunday
- Feb 9 will be the baptism of Wyatt Dean Anderson. His parents are Stewart and Kaitlyn Anderson. Stewart is the son of Kevin and Barb Anderson.
- The new member process has begun. The process begins with a one-on-one meeting with the pastor. Then the New member class will be on Sunday, April 6, and will also include current members. Then New members will join on Easter Vigil, Sat, April 19. We have about 16 family units we are inviting into this new member process.
- Six MVLC women attended the women's retreat at Holden Village. They had a wonderful time. My wife and two other ladies connected with them at Holden. There were 75 total women at this women's retreat, from several states across America.
- We're reaching out and activating the Nominating Team: Wendy Neptun, Cindy Jones, and Brooke Gustafson, plus two Council members. Their job is to recruit for any open positions on the Council, Nominating Team, and MEF Team.
- I will be on vacation Feb 10-16. Thank you for this gift of special time with my wife.
- A baby shower for Sonita Kargar (Afghan Refugee Mom) was a success. Much thanks for the women that showered this mom with love, gifts, and welcome.
- I'm distributing the LEAF scholarship materials to graduating seniors and the Bauritcher Scholarship materials, as well. Pastor Bri used to administer this process, but Pastor Eric will be administering the scholarships moving forward. A cool possibility is that the Bahista Zahir is graduating from Puyallup High School and is strongly considering PLU. I would be cool to support her with a LEAF scholarship.
- PB&J for the Homeless is a non-profit with a simple mission, make as many PB&J sandwiches on a Monday evening and give to the Tacoma Mission for distribution. Every Monday they average 800-1000 sandwiches and they've been doing this for 12 years. Kaylee is the director of this group and they are in need of space. We talked and MVLC will host them in our gym on Monday's, beginning in March, from 5:30-6:30. The Scouts are aware and excited about this potential partnership. I also hope that our members will show up on Mondays and make some PB&Js.
- The staff advocacy team (Jesie Holden, Julie Williams, and Carol Powers) have drafted up a sabbatical policy for pastors because we currently do not have a policy in place. Please review this draft. The Council will need to vote to approve this as our official policy.

## Deacon Traci

### Deacon Traci's Report for the February 2025 Council Meeting:

What a gift and a joy it is to serve at Mountain View Lutheran Church. Here is what has been keeping me busy.

- With the assistance of Deborah VanderLey (who is an absolute God-send), I set up our Faith Formation Mini-Retreats for the next few months.
  - Sunday, Feb 3, 9:30-10:30, 3rd-5th graders and parents: Baptism
  - Sunday, March 9, 9:30-10:30, K-3rd graders and parents: Prayer
  - Sunday, March 23, 9:30-10:30, 7th-12th grades and adults: Baptismal Covenant
  - Saturday, March 29, 6-10 pm, 6th-19th grades: The Apostles Creed
  - Sun, May 4, 9:30-10:30, PreSchool, Kindergarten, parents: Welcome to Worship!
  - June 7-8, 8th-12th grades: Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Sexuality Retreat
- I preached on Sunday, January 26. Pastor Eric and I set up a preaching schedule for the next few months
  - Sunday, February 16
  - Sunday, March 16
  - Wednesday, March 19
  - Wednesday, April 2
  - Maundy Thursday, April 17
  - Sunday, April 27
  - Sunday, May 18
- I'm scheduled to lead the Adult Ed class a couple of times in the next month or two.
  - Sunday, February 16: What is a Deacon? We will explore Scripture, history, roles and responsibilities, and my own personal journey to Word and Service ministry.
  - Sunday, March 23: Intergenerational class with the 7th-12th grade youth. A discussion about what it means to live into our Baptismal Covenant.
  - Sunday, May 18
- Deborah and I have been planning for summer:
  - Vacation Bible School: July 14-18
  - Lutherwood Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade: July 27-August 1
  - Idaho Servant Adventures Camp for High School youth: Aug 2-7
- Other:
  - Staff meetings and weekly meetings with Deborah
  - Rock mentor Zoom meetings (I'm so grateful for these folks)!
  - I met with Jesie and had a tour of the Community Center
  - I enjoyed a Lock-In with the youth and Rock mentors and led a session on the Sacraments. I also attended the Youth Game Night.
  - I attended the Women's Bible Study last week. I look forward to attending again!

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Quilters**

- There are now nine active quilters, of various kinds of contributions--that is, some just make quilt tops, some make the entire quilts start to finish, etc.