



Mountain View Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting • February 21, 2023
MVLC Library • 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

MISSION

On a journey with Christ, we GROW with a curious mind, LOVE with an open heart, and SHARE with a generous spirit.

Attendance

Present, in person: Fred Albert, Kevin Dahl, Joel DeWitt, Karen Hansen, Skip Harrison, Dan Lysne, Carol Powers, Ken Swanson, Emily Thompson, Bob Yost. Treasurer Jason Cornell.

Present, via Zoom: Jenny Grayum, Gretchen Johnsrud.

Staff: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle.

Call to order

President Kevin Dahl called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Ken Swanson led devotions based upon a passage from *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis. The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, January 17, 2023 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Agenda and reports

It was M/S/P to approve the agenda and submitted written reports of the Tuesday, February 21, 2023 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

(Written reports follow the recorded minutes.)

Financial update

Treasurer Jason Cornell spoke regarding the following:

- J Tithes and offering for January were \$7,509 below the Spending Guideline, while total operating expenses were \$14,941 above.
- J Current on-hand amounts for the following accounts are: Living Hope, \$172,151; Mission Endowment Fund, \$201,511; and Seminarian Fund, \$31,730.
- J He also provided a more in-depth monthly financial statement for the Council to review.

Willingness to serve on the 2023–2024 Church Council

President Kevin Dahl asked the current members whether or not they were willing to serve another term in 2023–2024, if elected.

- J The following individuals are willing to serve again: Fred Albert, Kevin Dahl, Jenny Grayum, Karen Hansen, Skip Harrison, Dan Lysne, Ken Swanson, Bob Yost.
- J The following individuals need to decline at this time: Joel DeWitt, Gretchen Johnsrud, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson.

Technology Ministry Group names

President Kevin Dahl asked members of the Church Council to imagine who could serve on a Technology Ministry Group. Joel DeWitt, Wes Grenlund, Megan Hutton, Mary Quinn, Michelle Schweikl, Dotty Shireman, and Bruce Sisco were suggested. It was also suggested that we should consider asking some of the high school youth.

Mission Meetings

Mission Meetings have been mostly well-attended, with a positive and lively spirit. Fred Albert, Ken Swanson, Emily Thompson, and Pastor Eric Bostrom will now meet again; examine congregational conversation, comments, and suggestions; and report back to the congregation with final “findings.”

Living Hope

The Living Hope Campaign currently has \$172,151 on hand. The task force recommends that \$100,000 be paid toward our mortgage debt and the balance be used for Sanctuary improvements, especially lighting. A columbarium is not being explored at this time since research has not been done on feasibility and costs.

MVCC utilities

It was determined that either the Property Ministry Group or soon-to-be-hired Property and Operations Manager should determine the value and cost of the utilities used by the Mountain View Community Center.

Food Bank

It was M/S/P to allow Metropolitan Development Council to park a 30-foot recreational vehicle on the Mountain View campus, limited to the client-service hours of the Edgewood Nourish Food Bank on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings/afternoons, in order for them to serve clients of the food bank.

Worship and Music

President Kevin Dahl reported that the Worship and Music Planning Team has been meeting to plan the readings and order of service for the Easter Vigil.

Summer Worship

Pastor Eric Bostrom asked the members of the Council to prayerfully consider moving to one worship service during the summer and be prepared to vote on the same at their March meeting. The main reason underlying the request is to allow members of the early and late worship services to get to know one another better by worshiping together and participating in fun fellowship and/or service events alongside one another.

Closing prayer

Emily Thompson closed the meeting in prayer.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT • Pastor Eric Bostrom

- J Michelle Schweikl started as new head deacon. We are meeting monthly to plan for monthly deacon meetings and to help her get up to speed on her new head deacon responsibilities.
- J I'm continuing to schedule home visits to meet with and get to know the life and faith stories of our members.
- J Pastor Bri and I are creating a six video series on the Apostles' Creed. They are all produced and being posted on YouTube weekly. We are currently seeking to hire a video editor with a Mission Endowment Fund grant.
- J I presided at the memorial service of Lorraine Larson on January 21, 2023.
- J I am now a part of a leadership cohort called Thriving Leadership Formation. We meet over Zoom to share wisdom with each other and pray together.
- J Attended the Southwestern Washington Synod Bishop's Convocation at Seabeck to meet with colleagues and learn about our synod's efforts to partner with indigenous communities.
- J Welcomed two new assisting ministers to the assisting minister team: Tore Sleveland and Soren Bostrom.
- J Led several mission meetings. I've been encouraged to hear from so many different voices in the congregation. The feedback on the mission statement has been helpful, some suggestions for changes, and mostly affirming of the statement the small group came up with.
- J Our grief ministry at Mountain View is transitioning from Lynn Wadnizak to Cathie Freiling. Cathie was familiar with a grief resource called GriefShare so we are using this. GriefShare will meet over Zoom on Thursday evenings and meet for 13 weeks beginning February 23, 2023. Mountain View Lutheran Church is invited on a trip to the Holy Land in January 2024. We are joining with two other churches and are partnering with a Palestinian owned travel company, Good Shepherd Travel. Registrations for the trip are currently open and strong interest has been generated in the congregation.
- J In the month of January, we had a focus on seminary and higher education. On January 22, 2023, Kendal Jeske from Pacific Lutheran University came and spoke to our congregation.
- J Both Pastor Eric and Pastor Bri attended a "Leading Well" retreat. A write-up of their experience is forthcoming.
- J Met with Mountain View Community Center executive director Jessie Holden about the MVCC's upcoming "Hope Lights the Way" auction.
- J A congregational member will collect Don Mott stories for his family.

Highlights in Rock Ministry and Youth include:

-) **Retreats and Rites:** We had 10 kids for the Creed Retreat for sixth through eighth graders. It was a great day both in terms of fellowship and of substantive conversation/formation. A Baptism Retreat is scheduled for March 5, 2023 for our third through fifth grade group. This is part of our formal faith formation process.
-) **Youth Game Night:** Our mentor team hosted a great game night for youth, which had a great turnout and was really well received. The mentors also reached out and brought in some of the youth on the margins who we haven't seen in awhile.
-) I will also be hosting the **Synod Youth Leaders Lunch** at MVLC on Thursday, February 16, 2023. We are beginning conversations of joint youth efforts in the Synod once again.

Cornerstone: There are active men's and women's groups in Cornerstone right now. These groups meet monthly and are a significant source of connection and meaningful conversation for our families. And these groups are lay-led, which is wonderful!

UW Visit: A small team of people helped prepare dinner for the UW Lutheran Campus Ministry. Kristi Ceder, Geoffrey Boers, and I attended the Wednesday evening dinner. It was helpful to spend time with this benevolence partner and see their ministry in action, especially their rebuilding efforts after shutting down during the pandemic.

Pastoral Acts: Presided at the Memorial of Esther Wiesner.

Continuing Education: Pastor Eric and I attended a Leading Well Retreat. It was a time that focused on empowering clergy through shared stories of ministry, tapped into the collective wisdom of the group, and facilitated conversations on important leadership themes like vulnerability, navigating anxiety, and setting priorities and boundaries. We also spent time each day in worship and spiritual practice. Both pastors also attended the Bishop's Convocation in mid-January, which was a helpful time of connecting with Synod colleagues and staff.

Vacation: I will be taking Sunday, February 26, 2023 off. Kyle and I are going to a Bruce Springsteen concert that weekend!

Additional items:

-) There is a lot of energy in the middle school youth group right now.
-) Met with the Rock Ministry mentoring team and talked about the faith formation process of rites and retreats. The mentoring team affirmed the current Rock Ministry model, but with a capstone project.

COMMITTEE REPORT / ROCK MINISTRY • Dan Lysne

The Rock ministry has a full slate of activities happening in the near future. Some highlights are the upcoming Easter Breakfast (prepare on Saturday 4/8, serve on Sunday 4/9) and fellowship outings on March 24 (school play) and April 22 (Tacoma Rainiers game). Summer plans are afoot with registrations for Flathead and North Carolina now open. Pope McHenry recently resigned after his year tenure as Youth Ministry Coordinator.

COMMITTEE REPORT / STAFF ADVOCACY • Carol Powers

Pope McHenry resigned his position on Thursday, February 2, 2023. Rock Ministry families were notified shortly after. Plans for moving forward will be discussed at an upcoming council meeting.

The Administrator job opening will be re-posted. The preferred candidate's timeframe didn't work out with the church's immediate need to fill this position. It is a high priority to fill this position to provide relief to our current church office staff.

COMMITTEE REPORT / MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER • Gretchen Johnsrud

We voted by email to approve the “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Mountain View Community Center and Mountain View Lutheran Church. There was some discussion around the cost of water.