

**MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 17, 2026; 6:30 pm; Church Library**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Fred Albert, Monica Baker, Karla Briggs, Jason Cornell, Megan Hutton, John Meagher, Ken Swanson

**Zoom:** Kevin Dahl and Karen Hansen

**Staff:** Pastor Eric Bostrom, Pastor Andrew Conley-Holcom

**Guests:** Craig Murray, Chairman of the Personnel Support Advisory (PSA) team and Julie Williams, PSA

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Albert at 6:32 pm.

Karla Briggs opened the meeting with a devotion from the writings of Sarah Bessey and prayer.

The minutes of the February 17, 2026 meeting were reviewed.

*Motion:* Approve the minutes as posted

*Made by:* Karla Briggs

*Second:* Ken Swanson

*Action:* Passed

Review and approval of written reports

*Motion:* Approve written reports submitted for consideration at the February meeting.

*Made by:* Karla Briggs

*Second:* John Meagher

*Action:* Passed

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Jason reported that both income and expenses came in higher than projected - income being \$3,533.00 more and expenses being \$8,969 higher than expected.

Facility expenses were \$6,974 higher than budgeted. This was due to annual HVAC maintenance and the annual inspection of the fire alarm system and door lock replacements.

Higher personnel expenses in February were due to Pastor Andrew's health insurance premium payments and higher personnel expenses resulting from the fraudulent misdirection of Pastor Andrew's wages. Jason will file a police report.

Expenses for the month included \$2200 for MEF expenses.

While the report shows a deficit on the year, we have offset all of the Board Expenses (\$20,200). If we add these funds back in, **we are currently looking at a surplus of more than \$18k for the year.**

Certain large expenses come at longer intervals – like the five year fire alarm system expense. Jason would like the Property Committee to track those anticipated expenses and to inform the council when to expect them coming due.

Jason has been researching credit cards for large spending projects and has found that credit card companies will issue large balance cards only to an individual. He is researching this because the Emburse card account has a \$7500.00 maximum balance and we already know this is not sufficient often enough.

## PASTORS' REPORT

### Pastor Eric

The council reviewed Pastor Eric's report while he presented some highlights including:

The Staff Advocacy Committee (SAC) is now the Personnel Support and Advisory Team or PSA. Craig Murray is the Chairman and Julie Williams were present at the meeting at Pastor Eric's invitation to introduce Craig and talk about the team's plans for the coming year. Jesie Holden will be leading the organizational review at MVLC and developing Pastor Andrew's duty statement and annual assessment tools.

The Executive team offered Pastor Eric two weeks of paid leave of absence, and he has decided to accept. He will be on leave from Monday April 27 through Sunday May 10.

*Motion:* Approve Pastor Eric's leave of absence from Monday, April 27 through Sunday, May 10.

*Made by:* Karen Hansen

*Second:* Karla Briggs

*Action:* Passed

The pastoral team has shared a plan to have a congregational retreat in September 2026 at Black Diamond. This is meant to be a time for congregational visioning for the future to include planning MVLC 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities. Pricing structures will need to be developed to accommodate participants who would prefer to spend the entire weekend (young families) and those who prefer attending all day on Saturday. The pastors recommend a committee of seven individuals (bottom-up leadership) who appoint from among themselves the chair.

*Motion:* Establish a congregational retreat task force of seven individuals

*Made by:* Karla Briggs

*Second:* John Meagher

*Action:* Passed

There are three applicants for the Hamburg scholarship.

### **Pastor Andrew's Report**

The council reviewed Pastor Andrew's report while he presented some highlights. He is requesting \$2,000 a year for mandated training. This training is to take place for staff in mid-April with mandated volunteer training to take place by the end of the year.

After reviewing our programs and talking with Deborah VanderLay, Rock Ministry and our Mentor programs will be sunset.

Pastor Andrew also introduced the need to establish a safe church policy task force.

### **Property Committee Update**

Karla Briggs provided an update that the property committee has recommended that MVLC sell the parcel across the street.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Kevin Dahl led the council in closing prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica K Baker, Secretary

## PASTORS' REPORTS

### **Pastor Eric's Report to the March Council Meeting:**

#### Pastor Eric's Report to March Council

- The lease reduction addendum with Celebration of Life was finalized and signed by all parties. New monthly lease rate is \$600 per month for the rest of 2026.
- The Staff Advocacy Committee is now called the Personnel Support & Advisory team or PSA.
- The PSA is beginning work on a organizational review to strengthen the structures of our staff, leadership, and committees. The time frame is six months so the final reports of this review will be presented to next years Council.
- I have been offered a Paid Leave of Absence, similar to Amy Boers, by the Exec Team and the PSA. After prayer and discernment, I have gratefully accepted this offer and am discerning dates in April or May to be gone for two weeks. My goal is to not be gone for significant meetings happening in April and May.
- The Nominating Team has begun and will have met twice by the time the Council meets on March 17. On March 12 we met and assembled all the names we've prayerfully considered for Council, Nominating, and MEF. It's not too late to submit names to the Nominating Team members: Pastor Eric, Craig Murray, Dotty Shireman, and Ken Swanson.
- Thanks to Ken Swanson for agreeing to be the Council Rep. to Nominating Team.
- I presided at the wedding of Jay Holland and Heather Hamilton on Feb 25.
- I preached and presided at the memorial service of Helen Harwood on Feb 28.
- On March 9, a spam email from email address [revfr1818@gmail.com](mailto:revfr1818@gmail.com) was sent to many MVLC members. It was confusing because the name with the email was "Rev. Eric Bostrom." On Tuesday, March 10, Troy sent out an email to the email list reporting this spam email and education about how to spot spam emails and whitelist real emails from Mt View. The Staff is taking steps to protect the churches' sensitive data and information by changing passwords. We've reached out to our IT person, Tony, to ask for further steps we can take to for cyber security.

- A lot of changes and congregational reimagining are ahead of us. The May 17 Council meeting will be more than just voting on new Council, MEF, and Nominating Team members. This meeting also needs to be a moment to name the tensions of the past, the work we doing now to address these tensions, and the vision we have for the near future.
- One big event we are planning is a congregational retreat in Sept 2026 at Black Diamond. Pastor Andrew and I have begun visioning for this and are reaching out to potential outside retreat leaders. This success of this congregational retreat will require a significant financial allocation from Council designated funds.

## **Pastor Andrew's Report to the March Council Meeting:**

### February/March Big Rocks:

- 1) Planning major CYF Ministry pivot and implementation process (including recruiting core volunteers)
- 2) Strategy development for addressing CYF Ministry conflict and broken trust
- 3) Long-range planning for CYF Ministry program & Stakeholder Meeting Prep
- 4) Deeper Learning re: Membership and Confirmation practices for youth
- 5) Planning Adult Ed series on Liberation Theology

### Growing Edges:

- 1) Preparing Messaging re: System Failure Response for Congregational Meeting
- 2) Preparing Stakeholders for Major Pivots in CYF Program
- 3) Assembling Policy Review Committee for Safe Church Implementation
- 4) Fleshing Out All-Church Retreat
- 5) Building Long-Range Plan for CYF Ministries

### Specific Actions:

- Weekly meetings w/ Deborah, Pastor Eric, and Staff
- Attending Synod Youth Retreat, chaperone for 4 MVLC youth as well as 2 Messiah youth and 4 Spanaway youth
- 1(3) Mentor 1-1
- 4 Parent 1-1
- 5 Congregant 1-1
- Designed and assembled multiple novel prayer stations
- Regional Colleague Meeting with Mount Ranier Conference
- Regional Colleague Meeting with Pacific Northwest Conference
- Lunch with Senior High youth & Mentors
- All-Church Retreat Planning & Coordination with Black Diamond Camp

- Meeting with PSA (formerly SAC)
- Planned, coordinated, and led Game Night and Parent Summit
- Participated in UCC Regional Body Annual Meeting
- Connect with Trinity Lutheran Deacon for Youth Ministry for Best Practices
- All-day Synod-sponsored Anti-Racism Training
- Reading *A Black Theology of Liberation (Cone)* and *Christ the Liberator (Sobrino)*