

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 24 March 2020 • 6:30 p.m.
Online meeting (via Zoom)

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Michael Brauhn, Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Mary Beth Peterson, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg, Julie Williams. Treasurer Jason Cornell.

Staff: Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle, Pastor John Vaswig.

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Julie Williams led devotions based upon Psalm 70 and other passages of scripture, all in reference to “times like these.” The council prayed together.

Financial update

Treasurer Jason Cornell spoke regarding the following:

- Going into 3/15, giving is rather strong.
- As of last week, we were still up compared to the prior year.
- Year-to-date giving is where we expected to be, even without the complications posed by the COVID-19 outbreak.
- First quarter benevolences were disbursed.
- About 60% of giving to MVLC is given via electronic means.
- The Executive Team will be meeting to discuss giving, staffing, benevolence, and other financial considerations.
- The MVLC Church Council encourages those with jobs to “step up” giving in the midst of fewer opportunities to eat out, fewer trips and travel plans, and fewer leisure activities.

Pastor’s report

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Adjusting and adapting everything, considering Washington state’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” emergency measures.

- Staff members have been added to the schedule of “Lenten Daily Devotionals” that Pastor Bri and Pastor John are providing.
- Finding ways to offer online opportunities for the various age groups of the congregation, from the youngest (story time) to adults (Women’s Bible Study, Adult Education).
- Checking in with families via email messages and/or phone calls.
- Planning Good Friday worship with Director of Music Ministries Susan Bloomfield.
- Various postponements/cancellations, such as the Easter Breakfast and the Women’s Retreat.

Pastor’s report

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- Figuring out how to make worship, education, and life together events and opportunities happen online when we aren’t allowed to gather on the campus.
- Responding with pastoral care to those in mourning or in need of comfort, amid the difficulty of doing the same.
- Trying to address the fears that people are feeling right now and offering consolation.
- Holy Week 2020 will consist of online worship services for Good Friday (4/10) and Easter Sunday (4/12).

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will need to schedule an online meeting to begin its work.

Church in the midst of COVID-19

Additional conversation was had to discuss changes in life together at MVLC in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Council then excused staff in order to meet in Executive Session.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 14 April 2020 via an online meeting. Emily Thompson leads devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
 Troy Kehm-Goins
 Recording Secretary