

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 06, 2021 • 6:30 p.m.  
Online meeting (via Zoom)

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Dan Neptun, Gerry Philipsen, Carol Powers, Wendy Wadnizak.

Absent: Mary Beth Peterson, Emily Thompson, Karin Weberg.

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

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotion

Bob Linden led devotions based upon the notion of “life after Easter” and Luke 24: 1-9. The council prayed together.

Approval of minutes

**It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 23, 2021 meeting.**

Pastor’s report—Pastor Kim Latterell

Pastor Kim Latterell spoke regarding the following:

- He will attend the ordination for Wayne Fister.
- Being in contact with a number of care facilities to see if he can visit, many of which he will on Wednesday 4/7.
- Preparation continues on the Cornerstone Marriage Class.
- Teaching the Women’s Bible Study for April.
- He will be absent at the April 20 and May 18 council meetings.

Pastor's report—Pastor Mike Greenwalt

Pastor Mike Greenwalt spoke regarding the following:

- Staff is back in the office. We've moved away from working at home.
- Marlene out on compassion leave, following the death of her father.
- Thankful for council input on staff position descriptions and cover letters.
- Personnel policy manual is rather outdated, so it will be updated.
- We need additional people to serve on the Staff Advocacy Committee in order to move forward.
- Thanks and praise to the leadership, volunteers, and entire congregation in embracing the Lenten journey and Holy Week worship services.

Financial responsibility of MVLC-sponsored Scouting units  
MVLC has had a long supportive relationship with BSA, serving as a chartering organization and opening the facility to scouting events. In addition, MVLC provides its tax exemption number as the chartering organization. This allowance has necessitated the need for MVLC to do the monthly financial books of the chartered scout troops. Although MVLC has taken the necessary steps as advised by SWWS to reduce its financial exposure to liabilities associated with potential sexual abuse claims, continued concern remains. Further conversation is needed in this area as the potential shift exists for BSA to move to a more regional governance as a result of the national BSA bankruptcy filing. Continued research and action are also necessary on the question of continuing to charter, and to step away from doing troop financial books. There is interest in further supporting scouting at MVLC, through use of space. The goal is to establish a committee consisting of Scout leaders and MVLC leaders about an appropriate plan/relationship moving forward.

Temple of Praise (ToP) faith community

ToP has been using campus facilities based on a lease agreement last signed in 2020. ToP Pastor Dan communicated to Phil that at this time they wish to step back from usage for an indeterminate length of time until "internal" concerns can be resolved. Staff and Pastors shared that there has been an ongoing pattern since MAR 2020 of ToP not complying with the safety requirements during COVID-19 as communicated by MVLC. This has involved food during gatherings, not wearing masks, and using the facility during non-scheduled times. Based upon all the factors identified it was M/S/P by the council that the use relationship is terminated at this time, ToP would be asked to remove their equipment, and return the key. ToP

may submit a formal request for a rental agreement in the future which would require their leadership and MVLC leadership meeting to discuss past usage concerns and specify usage requirements moving forward.

**It was M/S/P to terminate implied user agreement with the Temple of Praise, with an option to establish future lease after negotiations/discussion, as well as refunding prepaid rent of \$5,600 owed to their congregation.**

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee meets Thursday 4/8 to discuss Call Committee and Church Council applicants, as well as potential members of the Mission Endowment Fund and the Nominating Committee.

Synod Assembly lay voting members

Initial contact was made by President Carol to potential lay voting members, but there have been no affirmative responses to date.

Return to Worship report

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

- Meeting on Thursday 4/8.
- Guidelines for vaccinated people are different for private settings versus **public/group settings**.
- Continue to navigate through requests as space allows.
- Most people have still been compliant.
- Things will continue to change! (Ebb and flow.)
- The artful balance of seating density and allowance of singing are still being considered on a regular basis.

Constitutional Review Committee report

Gerry Philipsen, chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee spoke regarding the following:

- There have been three meetings to date.
- The group consists of Ken Edmonds, Sam Jones, Pastor Mike Greenwalt, Pastor Glenn Petersen (chair), and Gerry Philipsen.
- The process is a marathon rather than a sprint—a line by line, word for word, reading and review. Nine of twenty chapters have been reviewed so far.

### Property report

Dan Neptun, chairperson of the Property Ministry Group spoke regarding the following:

- Challenges with the Administrative Office septic system. A sunken pipe means slow drainage into the tank. The estimated cost for repairs is \$3,500 to \$5,000.
- Thankfulness for the Scouts, leaders, and parents of MVLC-chartered Scouting units for their spring clean-up prior to Holy Week.
- The conversation about the cell tower with Verizon on MVLC's property will soon resume.

### Vision discussion

The council discussed the following vision questions:

- *What does "middle out ministry" or "ministry from the middle" mean and look like to you?*
- *What are examples of areas where this is already happening? What might be areas where there is opportunity and need to grow?*

Pastor Kim "prayed us out."

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 via Zoom. Dan Neptun leads devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins  
Recording Secretary