

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 • 6:30 p.m.  
Online meeting (via Zoom)

## Minutes

### Attendance

Present: Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Dan Neptun, Mary Beth Peterson, Gerry Philipsen, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg. Treasurer Jason Cornell.

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

### Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

### Devotion

Dan Neptun led devotions based upon Psalm 91:9-16 and 2 Timothy 4:1-8; a devotion from *Strength for Service*; and the epitaph on his son Ken's gravestone (2 Timothy 4:6-8). The council prayed together.

### Pastor's report—Pastor Kim Latterell

Pastor Kim Latterell spoke regarding the following:

- Visiting fully-vaccinated congregational members in their care facilities, where and when allowed.
- The first class of the Cornerstone Marriage Series had a good turnout.
- Pastor Kim is on leave from May 5 through May 19, 2021.
- Encouraged members of the Church Council to read his "Matters of Faith" article in the "Easter 2021" newsletter.
- Recommended to the MVLC Church Council that they elect Kevin Dahl as the chairperson of the Call Committee tonight, so that he can begin his work. And picking council person who will serve on Call Committee.

### Pastor's report—Pastor Briana Merkle

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Reimagining Rock Ministry as we continue to return to in-person worship, education, and events.

- Twelve couples attended the Marriage Cornerstone Series, with good conversation. Bethany Sutton is an excellent counseling resource for those gathered (and/or into the future).
- Possibility of a lay committee to help plan adult education for the first twelve weeks of Fall 2021.
- This coming Sunday (4/25), we are doing a blessing for Hannah Johnsrud during the 10:45 a.m. worship service as she begins her seminary journey.

Pastor's report—Pastor Mike Greenwalt

Pastor Mike Greenwalt spoke regarding the following:

- Work of the Staff Advocacy Committee put on hold for the near future.
- Revised “office access” schedule: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- All staff members are working in the office as part of their weekly schedules.
- Synod Assembly via Zoom on 5/14 and 5/15. Pastor Mike, Pastor Bri, Ken Swanson, and Sandi Swanson will be at different computer workstations in the MVLC Church Office, so they can have conversation and discussion during breaks.
- Offering an orientation, perhaps in May, for new members of the 2021-2022 Church Council.

Living Hope campaign priorities

- Most voices spoke strongly for reducing the debt on the mortgage as first priority.
- There is a need to form a committee to explore concerns and costs of a columbarium—permits, environmental considerations, niches, construction, “self funding,” and the like.

**It was M/S/P to make the next priority of the Living Hope campaign paying down debt.**

### Financial update

Treasurer Jason Cornell spoke regarding the following:

- Giving for the month of March was lower than expected. \$66,046 versus an expected amount of \$85,035 (-\$18,989).
- In March 2021, Living Hope campaign brought in \$13,866 and FTNT brought in \$1,059.
- To date, LH has brought in \$372,834 of the original \$846,039 pledged.
- First quarter benevolences were paid at the end of March, totaling \$29,090.

### Property report

- We are currently getting estimates on the repair to the main line to the septic tank behind the Life Together Hall. The first estimate is \$2,500 to replace the main line, plus \$250 to remove concrete (\$3,022 total). It is \$250 per each hour beyond two hours.
- The Chapel roof is being replaced, with bird spikes being added.
- The Sanctuary roof is being pressure washed, with bird spikes also being added to its peak.

### Safe Return Team update

- We rolled back into Phase 2 as a county.
- We are going to let the size of groups be the limiting factor of meetings—the space available in each space and the percentage of those allowed to occupy those spaces.
- Two Pierce County religious-worshiping groups have experienced COVID-19 outbreaks.
- The importance of social distancing!
- Staying the course and keeping the congregation safe.

### Nominating Committee update

The Nominating Committee met for last time last night. Names for the ballot will be published in MVLC E-news on Thursday 4/22.

### Constitutional Review Committee update

The committee meets each week, continuing its slow and steady work.

May Council schedule

At the next meeting on 5/4, Sonja will facilitate in the absence of both Carol and Bob that evening. Members of the Church Council will be joined by Dr. Don Mott and Brett and Juanita Nirider from China Partners Network and Kristi Ceder from the Peace and Justice Ministry Group.

Council transition

President Carol Powers expressed gratitude to the members of the Church Council for conversations and discussions and support, as well as their integrity, confidentiality, and care of the congregation and the mission, ministry, and God's work at MVLC.

Karin Weberg "prayed us out."

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Mary Beth Peterson leads devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins  
Recording Secretary