

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 • 6:30 p.m.
Online meeting (via Zoom)

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Sonja Dahl, Dan Neptun, Mary Beth Peterson, Gerry Philipsen, Wendy Wadnizak.

Absent: Bob Linden, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Karin Weberg.

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

Guests:

- Compassionate Partners Network International: Don Mott, Brett Nirider, Juanita Nirider.
- Peace and Justice Ministry Group: Fred Albert, Meleney Albert, Kristi Ceder, Beth Ann Johnson, Carol Petersen, Pastor Glenn Petersen, Chris Ray, Rod Ray.

Call to order

Secretary Sonja Dahl called the meeting to order.

Devotion

Mary Beth Peterson led devotions based upon the concept of the “kingdom of heaven,” as well as citing contemporary authors and Luke 17:20-21. The council prayed together.

Compassionate Partners Network International

Brett Nirider, Juanita Nirider, and Dr. Don Mott of the Compassionate Partners Network International (CPN, formerly China Partners Network) spoke regarding the following:

- Thank you for your steadfast support of China Partners Network (CPN) and its increasing scope of work, now including Morocco.
- The history of the work of CPN: from working with kids with disabilities in Chinese orphanages to being approached by medical academics to shift the model toward a collaborative approach of therapists working with physicians, families, and the children.

- CPN created five regional training centers throughout China, followed by additional training for Chinese medical personnel and therapists, who subsequently became teachers themselves.
- CPN members were invited to work with people in the south of Morocco near Western Sahara.
- Renaming the organization and adjusting its structure as the group's mission and ministry spreads out to countries beyond China (and Morocco). CPN (China Partners Network) will still operate in China as CPN since it is an established entity/brand.
- Additional work potentially looms in Nicaragua.
- The hope is to gradually expand the team of therapists, so that when Brett and Juanita and others can no longer do the work, that new generations will take up the mission and ministry.

Peace and Justice Ministry Group

Members of the MVLC Peace and Justice Ministry Group were invited to this meeting in order to (a) hear the work being done by CPN and (b) see if Peace and Justice would be willing to research our current benevolence recipients and ministry partners, explore potential new benevolence recipients and ministry partners, and make recommendations to the Church Council for 2022. Those recommendations would include (a) possible methodologies on identifying benevolence recipients with which MVLC would have relationships and engagement, with the possibility of being involved with these ministry partners not just in financial support, but also in volunteer support and promotion of their ministries.

Approval of minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of both the Tuesday, April 6, 2021 and the Tuesday, April 20, 2021 meetings of the MVLC Church Council.

Pastor's report—Pastor Mike Greenwalt

Pastor Mike Greenwalt spoke regarding the following:

- Church Administrator Phil Edlund has submitted his resignation, with two-week notice. Phil's work over the past few years has been phenomenal and will be missed. On an "after hours" contract basis, Phil will be available for some limited transition.
- The focus during the transition will be (a) maintaining financial operations; (b) reporting to Treasurer; (c) paying staff; and (d) ensuring local, state, and federal fees and taxes are paid in a timely manner.

- At least temporarily, we need to contract with a bookkeeping vendor. In the near future, we will be seeking a bookkeeper well versed in Shelby church management software.
- Now we have an opportunity to reexamine the next staff role or roles that replace Phil's position.

Pastor's report—Pastor Briana Merkle

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- On Sunday, May 16, Phil will be available at both services so that the congregation can thank him for his more than nine years of service.
- The Paint Praise Pray worship service had eleven families in attendance.
- The Pentecost Campfire worship is on Friday, May 21, 2021, with lay leadership.
- Twenty young families have participated in the Cornerstone Marriage Series for good discussion and conversation. Follow up may involve collaborative partnership with MVLC and Peace Lutheran, as well as other local congregations.
- An Adult Education Planning Team is being formed. Current members are Beth Ann Johnson, Kristi Ceder, Terry Wolfe, Skip Harrison.
- Contacting others for a Wednesday Night Planning Team, as we talk about further "reopening" of the campus and events.

It was M/S/P to spend up to \$1,000 for consulting on the Shelby Church Management Software we use in the office, to ensure our bookkeeping is using the software to record the data properly.

Council Kick-Off

On Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, via Zoom, there will be a council orientation and "discovery process." Topics of discussion will include the frequency of meetings, council liaisons and/or connections to other ministry groups, and the like.

In preparation for that meeting, think about and provide information on three questions:

1. *As council member, what have you enjoyed and what has worked well?*
2. *What hasn't worked well?*
3. *What changes would you recommend/suggest to improve council process, council experience, council productivity, council impact?*

Constitutional Review Committee update

Gerry Philipsen provided an update from the Constitutional Review Committee.

- They are more than halfway through their review of the MVLC Constitution, and will next examine chapter 12, “The Congregational Council,” and, hopefully, chapter 13, “Council Committees.”

Property Ministry Group update

Dan Neptun provided an update from the Property Ministry Group.

- The Executive Team has been working with Phil, Dan, and Terry Wolfe on Verizon cell tower documentation. The lease is currently in the process of legal review.
- The Chapel roofing project is complete.
- Sanctuary roof cleaning and bird spike installation continues.
- A second estimate on septic system has been provided. This estimate is a change in scale and scope of needed work, as well as being a much less expensive solution. Work will start on Thursday 5/6.
- A project to strip and paint a couple of doors on the basement level of the Chapel led to the discovery of significant rot on the doors. We are seeking new doors that are “historically significant.”
- Car meets Administrative Office! Repair is coming, and the car owner’s insurance will cover cost of repairs.

Safe Return Team update

Every county of Washington State is currently “on pause,” keeping them in their current phase.

Sonja Dahl “prayed us out.”

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Gerry Philipsen leads devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary