

**MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**May 20, 2025; 6:30 pm; Church Library**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Fred Albert, Monica Baker, Kevin Dahle, Megan Hutton, Becky Schaefer, Ken Swanson, Bob Yost

Zoom: Jason Cornell, Mary Beth Dahl

Absent: Thomas Careaga, Karen Hansen, Skip Harrison, John Meagher

Staff: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Deacon Traci Vatne

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Megan Hutton in the MVLC Library at 6:41 pm.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Fred Albert opened with devotion and prayer.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

*Motion:* Approve the minutes as posted.

*Made By:* Fred Albert

*Second:* Kevin Dahl

*Action:* Passed

**WRITTEN REPORTS**

The written reports were reviewed.

*Motion:* Approve the reports as posted.

*Made By:* Bob Yost

*Second:* Fred Albert

*Action:* Passed

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jason Cornell presented a financial update for the month of April.

He reported that giving far exceeded expectations and expenses were in line with budget. Tithes and Offerings were \$98,800; more than \$23,000 over the monthly target, bringing us to within \$4,300 of meeting the YTD target. Expenses were lower than projected, including the increased benevolence payout for the quarter due to higher income.

At the end of April we had a \$25,000 surplus, with the YTD surplus rising to \$69,313 which puts us in a good position for the coming summer months.

The money market account has been established with a balance of \$111,347. The goal is to keep a minimum of \$100,000 until needed for capital projects.

Future plan is to designate an account for approved/existing capital projects.

## **PASTOR/DEACON'S REPORTS**

### Pastor Eric

Council members reviewed the report submitted by Pastor Eric while he updated Council on a variety of items.

- Holy Week services from Palm Sunday through Easter saw markedly higher attendance this year.
- Pastor Eric reminded us that we have 15 new members who joined us either through affirmation of faith or reinstatement. Their pictures are posted in the gathering area, and we should remember to make them feel welcome.
- The MVLC website is being re-designed. Troy Kehm-Goins and Pastor Eric are gathering information from users to determine requirements for the new website.

### Deacon Traci

- Council members reviewed Deacon Traci's report while she updated the council on a few items.
- Vacation Bible School is coming soon. Deborah VanderLey thinks she may have enough volunteers, but doesn't want to turn away anyone who hasn't already stepped forward to help. Registration stands at about 30 participants at this time.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The council reviewed existing committees to determine those that require council representation. The following committees were determined to need Council representation:

- Call Committee
- Finance Committee
- MEF Committee
- Music and Worship
- Property Committee

Due to the reduced number of church council members, it was determined that those committees that Pastor Eric meets with as a matter of routine (such as Peace and Justice and Stewardship) probably do not need to have additional council representation.

Committee assignments will be discussed at the June 17 meeting when the 2025/2026 term of the Council begins, and the Council is officially seated.

## **POLICY REVIEW**

Council reviewed a draft policy regarding adult participation in MVLC youth programs, "Boundary Expectations for Adults." It was determined that the role of mentor needs to be more fully defined. A computer application (app) for communication needs to be identified and implemented. Deacon Traci will meet with Deborah in the coming week to further develop the policy. When complete, the updated document will be submitted to President Megan. Council will review and conduct a vote via email. Following approval, a review by an attorney will be performed with recommended changes incorporated into the policy.

No action will be taken at this time.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

This council meeting went into Executive session at 8:05 pm and resumed at 8:15 pm to discuss an issue related to the policy that was not recorded for confidentiality.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

The council reviewed the Property Committee Report while Fred mentioned that the approved capital projects to replace windows and paint the chapel are waiting on Okanagen Homes. In the meantime, there is the potential for significant savings due to updated bids received.

The Quilters Group made \$500 in sales at the last Quilt Sunday. These funds are used to buy supplies for more quilts.

There is now a second candidate for Associate Pastor who has been interviewed by the Call Committee. The committee has yet to meet to discuss the initial interview of the second candidate. No plans for a second interview until the Call Committee meets to discuss this interview.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Becky Schaefer led the council in closing prayer.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary Monica Baker

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Property Committee Report**

Property Committee Report Submitted by Fred Albert Just waiting for Okanogan homes to get prices and will update you once they come in. Also, the painting is ready to go once the windows work is done. On the property meeting Joan Kohler asked for a light to be installed for the musician door top to have light when they leave when it is dark. Looks like Honey does can do if they can get power from inside sign. If they cannot get power and a new wire needs to be installed it may need to have a permit if a new light is installed. Asked honey does to see if they are willing to paint MVCC trim talked about it today. Sanctuary dimming Steve did look at it today he has some questions for Wes. I will look to see if Platt has an updated dimmer zone switch that we can use. The Electricians that looked at the dimming never got back with a solution. The property across the street was brought again on what to do with the money if sold. The consensus of the property committee was to have the funds put into an income account that would feed into campus maintenance budget. The person that does the fields will do it for 2 or three more years and that we need to have a plan for heavy snow. He may not be able to get his tractor up here if there is heavy snow. Submitted by Henry Peck

### **Quilter Committee**

Quilters' Report Submitted by Mary Beth Dahl We made 137 quilts this SPRINGS 6 month period; we ship twice a year. November and May. After boxing Gary Larson and Honey Doers load truck and transport quilts to Ballard. The quilts were then loaded on containers which are then shipped by train to Minneapolis for sorting and bailing for next destination by train to Maryland where they are sent to docks to wait for destinations all over the world. Some are sent to Dubai to await destinations in that area. We have not spent any of our endowment funds. We will be buying batting this summer, we have plenty of fabric at this time thanks to donations from many individuals. We will be sending money for shipping which totals about \$500 plus our costs for u-haul rental and gas which are around \$200. We have about 7 quilters.

## PASTOR/DEACON REPORTS

### Pastor Eric

#### Pastor Eric's Report to the May Council:

- The staff and I have processed and evaluated Holy Week and overall we felt great about the response from the community. Attendance was up from last year at all services, Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. The one change we want to make next year is a better and quicker way to serve Communion at the Maundy Thursday service.
- My wife and I will be going to Nebraska May 12-19 for two graduations of a niece and nephew. Thank you for this time away to celebrate with family.
- On June 15, this will be the first of the summer unified services. June 15 will also be the return to the Revised Common Lectionary which means more scriptures will be read in worship. This change was made so that staff have more resources for worship planning.
- The PLU choir concert I felt was a great success on April 13 and I hope we do it every year. Thanks to Amy Boers for organizing and coordinating this event.
- I attended the Northwest Washington Synod's Bishop's Convocation with my wife at Seabeck. It was a blessing to take a rest after a busy Lent and Holy Week season. The speaker at the convocation was Andy Root, Professor from Luther Seminary who spoke about being church in a secular age.
- 15 new members joined the congregation by affirmation of faith or by reinstatement. Please welcome and extend yourself to these new members. Their pictures are in the Gathering Space.
- I am assisting the Property Team in finding a new leader to replace Fred since he is becoming the Council President. Please share names you feel we should reach out to and ask.
- The Community Center has officially removed the interim title from Tricia Smith and she is now officially the new executive director of the MVCC. Please congratulate her when you have an opportunity. Tricia and I have already started to meet weekly.
- The Rock Ministry leadership team has been crafting youth leader/mentor guidelines for safeguarding our children and youth. The reason we are doing this is because we've not had these in the past. Thanks to Deborah Vanderley and Deacon Traci for noting this absence and starting this important process that will build trustworthiness in our youth programs.
- Troy and I are beginning to map out and plan for the new MVLC website. One step we want to invite the congregation to be a part of is with a survey. On May 18 we will stuff a simple survey into the worship folder with four questions about how our community uses our current website. This information will help us as we update to a new website.
- Circle of Prayer is a new monthly prayer group on Saturday mornings in the Library. We've met twice and we're growing. We pray first through the congregational prayer list and then folks lift up personal prayers and prayers for the world. I'll let Ken Swanson share the report of the Call Committee, but we have a second candidate that we're interviewing so stay tuned.
- My wife, Pastor Rhonda, and I are doing a pulpit swap on Sunday, July 13.
- MVLC and Holy Trinity Lutheran, my wife's church, are planning a Footsteps Of Paul tour with Elias Travel in Oct 2026. More details to come.

## Deacon Traci

Deacon Traci's Report to the May Council:

- Last week, our youngest Rock students had their "Welcome to Worship" mini-retreat. The children enthusiastically played in the waters of the Baptismal Font, kneeled at the altar as we discussed Communion, discussed ways they can offer themselves as they passed the offering plates, enjoyed time in the PrayGround with Troy, kept time with shakers and maracas as Amy played the piano, and listened to Deborah share stories from the Bible around the pulpit. As always, they awed me with both their wisdom and their energy.
- We have a parent/mentor meeting scheduled for later this month to plan some summer fun and to begin to organize for next school year. I will report on this in my next council report.
- The high school sexuality retreat scheduled for June is postponed after I heard from numerous parents that the timing was not great. Typically, this has been a fall retreat and it looks like that's what it will remain. We will instead host a big family event for 6 through 12th grade youth and their parents. We'll enjoy a potluck dinner, play some group building games, and have a discussion about the youth and mentor behavior expectation covenants.
- I have been meeting with Pastor Bridget Jones from Messiah Lutheran in Auburn, and Deacon Ingelaurie Lisher from St Mark's by the Narrows in Tacoma, to plan some youth activities and retreats for all our groups to enjoy together. We have a big family event in the works for September, a pumpkin patch outing for youth in October, and a Synod Youth Retreat for 6th-12th grades in November.
- Vacation Bible School is taking shape. I am so grateful for Deborah, for the time and passion she has thrown into the planning. If you would like to volunteer, we'd love to have you join us! VBS takes place July 14-18.
- Let's circle back to Deborah for a moment. I am certain you all already know this, but let me just say what an incredible gift she is to the children, youth, and families of Mountain View Lutheran Church, and what a gift she is to this interim minister. Deborah spends hours each week planning and leading Rock, working with the mentors, and communicating with the families; all as a volunteer. She exudes warmth, patience, and good humor as she does so. She does all because she loves Jesus and she loves the kids. I am overwhelmingly grateful to her and for her. As we wrap up Rock Ministry classes for the summer, it would be entirely appropriate for you as Council members and leaders to send notes of gratitude her way.

I am Yours in Christ,  
Deacon Traci