

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 04 June 2019 • 6:30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Michael Brauhn, Jason Cornell, Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg.

Absent: Mary Beth Peterson, Julie Williams.

Staff: Phil Edlund, Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle.

Election of Officers

It was M/S/P to elect Carol Powers as president of the congregation, Jason Cornell as vice-president of the congregation, and Sonja Dahl as secretary of the congregation.

Michael Brauhn agreed to serve as the fourth signer on accounts for the congregation.

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order. Sonja Dahl led devotions based upon the handwritten inscriptions in the front of some of the Bibles of her family members; the notion of the generations of faith; and verses from Psalm 71, Psalm 145, Exodus 20, and Deuteronomy 6. The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 21 May 2019 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Financial update

Church Administrator Phil Edlund spoke regarding the following:

- Giving for May was about \$6,400 below monthly expectations, and about \$13,000 below year-to-date expected levels.
- Month-end reserves were just above \$36,200, about a \$9,700 increase from last month.

- Approximately 31% of our overall giving comes from online giving. Credit cards account for 18% of online giving, for which we pay a 2.65% fee. Bank account transfer giving (or Account Clearing House (ACH) giving) accounts for 82% of online giving, for which we pay \$0.20 plus 0.03% per transaction.
- Fees in 2018 for online giving amounted to \$4,400 for credit cards and \$750 for ACH.
- Fees in 2019, year to date, for online giving amount to \$1,632 for credit cards and \$325 for ACH. \$34.34 has been donated in 2019 to help offset these online processing fees.

Financial update

The proposed lease for the Verizon cell phone tower was reviewed by council members. They brought their questions with them and discussed the lease. Questions asked and concerns expressed included:

- *Concern over language about adding antennae, space, enclosure(s), improvements, and the like. (And will MVLC have any input into the design of such elements?)*
- *Notions of easement and access, as well as Verizon not having to honor MVLC hours of operation.*
- *Do we have to get permission from our mortgage lender? (Yes.) Our insurance provider? (Likely.)*
- *Will there be audible noise?*
- *What about third-party subcontractors for maintenance, billing and the like? Are we prepared to deal with them rather than Verizon?*
- *Do we need to have a master plan for our campus before we move forward?*

Church Administrator Phil Edlund was asked to pursue a lease review with an attorney in the office of Eisenhower Carlson, Attorneys at Law. He was also asked to present some of these questions and concerns to Verizon, as well as inquire about a signing bonus.

Church Council expectations

Pastor Bri spoke with members of the Church Council about the importance of meeting regularly for vision and business; the need to be in attendance at worship, education, and special events; and the need to keep matters discussed at council meetings in confidence.

Pastor's report • Associate Pastor

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Worship attendance has still been fairly strong.
- The Baccalaureate was faith-filled worship and the student preachers did a good job.
- The Baccalaureate brunch was a way of lifting up the “legacy” of ministry at MVLC.
- The upcoming festivals of Pentecost and Holy Trinity.
- An upcoming baptism of a young adult.
- Attendance at ExALT: Extraordinary Active Life Together dropped off in May, but the year-end BBQ was well attendd.
- Volunteers are still needed for Project Homeless Connect. Currently MVLC accounts for about 20 of the 60 positions.
- The Vacation Bible School Planning Team has been meeting with Pastor Bri and making preparations for this summer, including the end-of-VBS picnic on Friday 7/12.
- The possibility of a Women's Retreat on female discipleship in the fall.
- The installation of council members on 6/9 at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.
- Pastor Kyle Merkle's installation service at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday 6/23 at Celebration Lutheran Church.

“Friends in Faith” small groups

The council discussed some possibilities for small group study in the fall and the need for more large group “check in” events for small groups throughout the year (perhaps during ExALT).

Next meeting

Meetings for 2019 were scheduled. The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 28 June 2019 in the Library. Michael Brauhn leads devotions.

Adjournment

President Carol Powers “prayed us out.”

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary