

Mountain View Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2026, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Church Library

As a community following Christ, we **LOVE** with an open heart, **GROW** with a curious mind and **SHARE** with a generous spirit.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Karla Briggs, Gerry Philipsen, Julie Williams, Angela Olson, Jason Cornell, Dan Neptun, Chris Schaefer, Eileen Newton, Joel DeWitt, John Meagher, Monica Baker

Staff: Pastor Eric, Pastor Andrew

Guests: Fred Albert and Jesie Holden

Absent: Sam Jones

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by former council president Fred Albert in the MVLC Library at 6:30 pm.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Eric led the council with a scripture reading from Acts 15 and opening prayer.

REORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL

Election of Officers

Three members of the council have volunteered to serve as officers for the 2026 2027 term:

- Karla Briggs for President
- Julie Williams for Vice President
- Monica Baker for Secretary

Council members were invited to discuss and recommend alternatives, and none were identified.

Motion: Elect Karla Briggs, Julie Williams and Monica Baker to serve as officers in the 2026 2027 MVLC Council.

Made by: Monica Baker

Second: Joel DeWitt

Ayes: All/Unanimous

Nays: None

Action: Passed

The officers of the 2026 2027 MVLC Council are now officially:

- Karla Briggs, President
- Julie Williams, Vice President
- Monica Baker, Secretary
- Jason Cornell, Treasurer (appointed, not elected)

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 19, 2026 meeting were reviewed and an error was identified in the second paragraph of the section titled Council Discussion where the PSA Team was incorrectly identified as the PAS team. A motion was made to approve corrected minutes incorporating the proper acronym for the Personnel Support Advisory Team.

Motion: Approve and publish the corrected minutes of the May 19, 2026 meeting:

Made by: Karla Briggs

Second: Chris Schaefer

Ayes: All/unanimous

Nays: None

Action: passed

OPENING ACTIVITY

Pastor Eric led an opening activity. He asked each member to identify themselves and provide a short description of what MVLC is to them and what they hope to see it become.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE OVERVIEW

Treasurer Jason Cornell gave an overview of the financial process and the role that the council plays in the process at MVLC. The overview included looking at individual pages of the May 2-26 monthly financial statement.

In May, income from tithes and offerings, activity income and rentals income came to \$82,877.58, much better than April. However, costs are running significantly higher than anticipated, especially in Facility Expenses (6100) where we are already \$13,000 over budget at the end of May.

Since we are entering the summer months with a deficit, the council and/or the stewardship committee should encourage the congregation to keep their giving commitments as well as to encourage individuals to designate their giving to the general fund rather than restricted accounts.

GOD'S BIG IDEAS

Pastor Eric talked about planting the seeds for the future significant changes at MVLC and how the council will play a role in encouraging growth and change by:

- Participating/leading small group discussions during adult education sessions where proposed changes are presented.
- Promoting more small ministry groups
- Promoting the sale of parcels across the street and using the proceeds to install solar panels on campus buildings to help reduce energy costs.
- Reformatting the Stewardship Committee to address an expanded and ongoing role beyond the Season of Generosity – particularly in terms of communicating gratitude and emerging needs.
- Developing and embracing a safe church policy.

- Revisioning our benevolence giving by focusing on four or five benevolence partners, particularly those where our congregants can participate in the partner's ministry through joint service projects.
- Repurposing the seminary assistance fund to provide the means for members to participate in the Young Adults Global Ministry.

COUNCIL ORIENTATION

Jesie Holden provided orientation to the council on the governance framework in which we operate.

We are a member congregation of the ELCA Southwestern Synod and the churchwide organization.

The Council is the Board of Directors of the MVLC congregation, and our actions are to be guided by the Word of God and ELCA practices. As such our focus is strategic, spiritual and fiduciary.

Mandated Meetings

Congregational Meetings include an annual meeting in May to elect the incoming council. A congregational meeting is also held in November to vote on the Spending Guideline for the coming year.

Voting at meetings – there are instances when secret ballots are required:

- Electing the congregation council
- Calling a pastor or requesting resignation
- Buying or disposing of real property
- Severing membership with the ELCA.

Pastoral Calls and Resignations

Voting to call a pastor will take place at a congregational meeting and a 2/3rds majority is required. The Letter of Call must follow ELCA standards and be signed by the council president/secretary.

Pastors are required to consult with the council prior to announcing a decision on a subsequent call. Resignations are formally acted upon by the council.

The council meets a minimum of ten times during a term. A quorum is a simple majority of council members who are physically present and/or attending via the accepted remote tool. No action items/voting can take place without a quorum. During the January meeting the council will determine and vote on the number of seats for next term.

Council Member Position Service Expectations

- **Attendance** – members are expected to attend meetings. Three consecutive missed meetings will result in a seat being vacated.
- **Stewardship** – council members are expected to be generous and faithful contributors to the congregation.
- **Staffing** - council is responsible for securing staff and adjusting salaries for rostered ministers.

Executive Officers

Council President

Chief Executive Officer. Presides over all Council/Congregational Meetings. Sets agendas with Lead Pastor. Signs legal contracts.

Council Vice President

Second Executive Officer. Presides over meetings in the President's absence. Represents MVLC at Conference/Synod events. Succession preparation.

Council Secretary

Keeps permanent minutes. Formally notifies members of absences. Co-files ELCA reports.

Treasurer

Appointed, non-voting member, safeguards funds. Ensures two-person counting rule for offerings.

Council Appointed Liaisons

A number of standing committees require council representation. Assignments will be made at the July meeting for those committees remaining after volunteers have stepped forward. Council members are encouraged to prayerfully consider serving as a liaison and letting Pastor Eric know of your interest in specific committees.

BUSINESS AND LOGISTICS

Pastor Eric's Report

The council reviewed Pastor Eric's report while he provided highlights. He started by stating that he expects council members to prepare for meetings by reading reports that have been attached to the agenda.

The Zoom meeting with the choir director candidate went very well. Pastor Eric wants to schedule another interview with this candidate to see how he does with church choir musicians.

Pastor Andrew's Report

The council reviewed Pastor Andrew's report while he stated that his primary concern is to develop an overarching plan for the Children, Youth and Families program.

CALENDAR SCHEDULING

Installation of the 2026 2027 Council will take place during worship services on Sunday, July 19, 2026.

We will have a council retreat in January or February. Jesie agreed to participate as the facilitator. Julie agreed to do the research to find a retreat center we can use.

Council Meeting Schedule

A document with monthly meeting dates and assignments was distributed to the council. Please work among yourselves to find someone to cover for any planned absences ahead of time. If you have already done so, please inform the secretary so that the document can be updated accordingly.

Our next Council meeting will be Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

- Meeting Host (opening prayer, devotion and treats): Karla Briggs
- Closing Prayer: Joel DeWitt

Closing

Monica Baker closed the meeting with prayer.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM

Made by: Karla Briggs

Second: Chris Schaefer

Ayes: All/unanimous

Nays: None

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Baker, Secretary

BANK BUSINESS RELATING TO ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR THE 2026 2027 COUNCIL TERM

Changes to the individuals authorized to sign checks for Mountain View Lutheran Church operating fund checking account with the election of new officers on Tuesday, June 16, 2026:

- Adding Karla Briggs, Council President
- Adding Julie Williams, Council Vice President
- Removing Fred Albert, Former Council President
- Removing Megan Hutton, Former Council Vice President

Please retain:

- Monica Baker, ongoing Council Secretary
- Jason Cornell, ongoing Treasure

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric's Report to the June Council Meeting:

- A musical staff interview team has been formed: Pastor Eric, Julie Williams, Kevin Dahl, Don Neptun, Debbie Hushagen, and Ellen Leapaldt.
 - Our first Zoom interview for a choir director candidate is June 11.
- Fill-in musicians are scheduled throughout this summer. The following Sundays are still open and in need of a pianist: July 12, 26, Aug 2, 16, 30.
- I have a proposal for the church owned property across the street: We sell the property and then use the money from the sale of the property to install solar on the MVCC and MVLC. This will be a gift we give in support to the food bank and community center that will lower their operating expenses. This will also lower the operating costs for MVLC, allowing us spending guideline flexibility for other ministry growth priorities.
- I will be gathering folks for a stewardship team this summer. The purpose and focus of the stewardship team will be threefold: Express thanks in a personal way to people who give, communicate regularly with the congregations about the trends of our giving and expenses, and design the annual Season of Generosity.
- My wife, Pastor Rhonda, and I are doing a pulpit swap on Sunday, June 28. Pastor Rhonda will preach at MVLC and Pastor Eric will preach at HTLC.
- Big thanks to Ellen Leapaldt and Debbie Hushagen for being a huge help with worship planning whiling we are in this interim period.
- The Memorial Service for Joyce Jorgensen will be Saturday, June 27, at 3pm at MVLC.
- For the benefit of the new Council members, I want you to know that I serve on the SWWA Synod Candidacy Committee. The SWWA Synod has 25 people somewhere in the candidacy process, from entrance, endorsement, to final approval to becoming rostered pastors or deacons of the ELCA. This Synod commitment requires about 4-6 hours per quarter.

Pastor Andrew's Report

Pastor Andrew's report to the June MVLC Council Meeting:

May/June Big Rocks:

1. MVCC Summer kick-off & volunteers to run concessions
2. Grad Sunday blessing and sharing of next steps
3. Electing leaders for NYG and organizing summer fundraisers
4. MS/HS "Sanctuary Takeover" (envisioning a youth-specific space in the sanctuary)

Growing Edges:

1. Convening Safe Church Policy group to review draft policy
2. Drafting HS Ed hour plan in consultation with volunteers and youth
3. Drafting pedagogical statement of values and vision for CYF as Christian Social Ethics formation
4. Building Long-Range Plan for CYF Ministries

Specific Actions:

- weekly meetings w/ Deborah, Pastor Eric and staff
- 1 Mentor 1-1
- 1 Congregant 1-1
- (Mostly) caught up on email after 2.5 weeks away
- Organized, supported, and co-labored with volunteers at MVCC Summer Kickoff