

MINUTES
MVLC Council Meeting, Tuesday July 21, 2026
Church Library 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

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, Julie Williams, Sam Jones, Eileen Newton, Jason Cornell, John Meagher, Angela Olson, Chris Schaefer, Joel DeWitt, Monica Baker

Staff: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Pastor Andrew Conley-Holcom

Absent: Dan Neptun, Gerry Philipsen

CALL TO ORDER

It was determined that a quorum is present and the meeting was called to order by council President Karla Briggs at 6:32 PM.

Karla read a devotion and led the opening prayer.

REVIEW OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES

The council received a copy of the June meeting minutes attached to the meeting notification email sent on Friday, July 17. The council determined no changes needed to be made and a motion was made to approve the June meeting minutes.

Made by: Julie Williams

Second: Chris Schaefer

Ayes: All/unanimous

Nays: None

Action: Passed

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jason Cornell sent the June Financial Statements to members of the council before the meeting. To summarize, income from tithes and offerings, activity income and rental payments came to \$68,291.55 and expenses for the month came in somewhat higher than expected also. While both expenses and income were higher than expected, we ended the month with a small surplus.

Jason had a meeting with Jeremy of Mountain Construction, a company he knows well from its work with Farm 12/FIKA. Jeremy says it will take a few weeks to be ready to start the work on the fascia. Jason says we have the funds to pay for this from three separate funds and suggested that payments be made from the Living Hope, the Memorials fund and the Rental fund.

Jason reported the challenges the office repair have presented particularly since the estimate performed by the insurance company's representative is unreasonably low. He prefers not to cause further embarrassment and financial hardship to the member who was driving, which likely means that if the damages exceed a certain amount, we may have to rely on our insurance to pay. He asked that Mountain Construction provide a bid to repair the damage and we will revisit this issue upon receipt of the bid.

Jason also brought to the Council's attention the need to review the MVLC Personnel Policy. The last review was performed in 2017 and there are a number of significant changes that must be made. Wendy Wadnizak works too few hours to receive holiday pay or to accrue personal leave and when holidays result in the closure of the office, she has no recourse. Jason asked for an ad hoc committee or the PSA to perform the review and possibly to update the policy to address this. Council member Julie stated this is in the scope of the PSA's role and will bring this to their attention.

A motion was made to designate payment of up to \$80,000.00 for the fascia project. This amount reflects the bid amount, taxes and an additional amount to cover a percentage of overage to pay for unidentified repairs discovered in the course of the project. Payment for the project would be made from the following funds in the following order – Living Hope, Memorial Fund and the Rental Fund.

*Made by: John Meagher
Second: Chris Schaefer*

Ayes: All/unanimous
Nays: None
Action: Passed

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric asked if anyone had questions about anything in his reports. None were shared. He reminded council members to schedule a one on one meeting with him.

Pastor Andrew mentioned that this year's VBS was his first as an adult/leader, and he embraced his role in this experience. During the month he met with the Safe Church Policy committee. Some important changes will be implemented to the entire church. He plans to have the first draft ready for review by the time the program year resumes in September.

ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW/PSA REPORT

Julie Williams stated that the PSA has conducted a significant number of interviews in association with the reorganization. Jesie has done some preliminary analysis and is seeing themes emerging. There are still a number of current council members and previous council members who still need to be interviewed, and she invited them to schedule with her soon.

STANDING COMMITTEE LIAISONS

The following are the standing committees and their liaisons:

- ✓ Children Youth and Families – Eileen Newton
- ✓ Deacons - vacant
- ✓ Finance – Angela Olson
- ✓ Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) – John Meagher
- ✓ PSA – Julie Williams
- ✓ Property – Chris Schaefer, (pastor Eric would like Dan Neptun to share this liaison opportunity if possible)

- ✓ Safe Church Policy – Joel DeWitt
- ✓ Stewardship – Gerry Philipsen

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A project funded by a capital campaign to celebrate MVLC's 125th anniversary is one big idea we could pursue. To that end, we need to identify an unmet need in our community that we can address. Some ideas included hosting a ministry similar to Mother to Many (which serves school-age children with snacks and support at a number of locations including the former skate park in Sumner). We can pursue information on other opportunities by asking the MVCC as well as the Edgewood City Council). Before we pursue this further we need to complete the changes the reorganization identifies as necessary to ensuring we are strong and well equipped to carry out the mission of MVLC.

COUNCIL SUMMER SOCIAL

Our next council meeting will be combined with a social hour and dinner to provide opportunity to get better acquainted with one another. The social will start at 5:00 pm at Karla Briggs' house, with our meeting to convene at 6:30. Karla asked members to share any dietary restrictions they have, and none were mentioned. Karla's address is 8216 193rd Ave Pl E, Bonney Lake WA 98391.

COUNCIL RETREAT

Julie has been researching retreat venues. Black Diamond is not available. She has contacted Seabeck Conference Center who tentatively reserved a Friday and Saturday in January for \$160.00 per attendee. We would need to provide our own snacks. She will also look into scheduling and costs at Pilgrim Firs (a UCC conference center).

NEXT MONTH'S MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

The August council meeting will be on Tuesday, August 18, 2026. We will gather for a meal and social time at 5:00 and then proceed to the meeting. Sam Jones is the meeting host and he will lead the council in a devotion and opening prayer. John Meagher will close the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT and CLOSING PRAYER

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Made by: Karla Briggs

Second: Chris Schaefer

Ayes: All/unanimous

Nays: None

Joel Dewitt led the council in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Baker, Secretary

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric's Report to the July Council,

- Piano accompanist update - We have the job posted at the synod, PLU, and Indeed.com but are still waiting on applicants. We have scheduled fill-in pianist for worship through the end of August.
- Choir director update - We have had one applicant who we interviewed once. This applicant will have an audition on July 19. We have the job posted at the synod, PLU, and Indeed.com and would like to have more applicants.
- The musician hiring team is Debbie Hushagen, Ellen Leapaldt, Don Neptun, Julie Williams, and Pastor Eric.
- Council Installation in worship is July 19.
- I will be forming in July a new Adult Ed team to help me plan for the Fall. I would like to design adult education to be small group based and less talking head. The benefit of small groups is greater relationship connections and better soil for discipleship growth. I will report who is on the team when it's formed. I would love to have a Council person on this team.
- Adult Ed related, I've invited PLU Prof. Brenda Llewellyn Ihssen to teach at MVLC in the Fall of 2026.
- I will be forming in July a new Stewardship team to help with three things. Expressing thanks to members for their giving, creating a communication strategy to the congregation about our quarterly giving, and plan the annual Season of Generosity. Stewardship is a Council Liaison position and will serve on this team. I will report who is on this team when it's formed.
- We have 12 people from MVLC traveling with Elias Tours for a Footsteps of Paul Trip. We will be traveling for ten days and will visit Greece, Crete, and Ephesus to experience all the places that Paul traveled to on his missionary journeys. The travelers are Sharon and Kim Latterall, Paul and Jeanne Hoseth, Skip and Janice Harrison, Neil Jerstad, Steven Pahre, Terry Jensen, Mary Beth Dahl, Connie McCrossin, and Pastor Eric.
- Thank you for the time away that I've been able to enjoy in June and July. In June, Rhonda and I visited Mt St Helens. In July I traveled with my barbershop chorus, Northwest Sound, for the International Barbershop Competition. Our chorus competed and we placed 29th out of 38 choirs. And in July we hosted friends from Lincoln, NE, the Floth family, whose oldest son is our godson, Bradyn. The Floth family came to worship at MVLC last Sunday and were very impressed with our warmth, welcome, and lively worship. Bradyn sang special music and was the assisting minister.
- Please schedule a meeting with Pastor Eric so that we can connect one-on-one this summer and talk about this upcoming year of Council.

Pastor Andrew's Report to the July Council Meeting:

June/July Big Rocks:

- 1) Successful Vacation Bible School program
- 2) Draft Curriculum Plan for HS Ed Hour 26/27 Completed
- 3) Initial Safe Church Policy Team meeting and re-drafting in process
- 4) NYG Steering Committee established & 2 summer fundraisers planned
- 5) God's Work Our Hands mission sites established

Growing Edges:

- 1) Preparing 2 Year Coordinated Curriculum Plan for Rock Ministry, including Ed Hour rotation for myself
- 2) Reviewing MS Ed Hour Curriculum and meeting with potential volunteers
- 3) Youth buy-in and engagement with HS Ed Hour curriculum
- 4) Articulation of overarching pedagogy for Rock Ministry anchored in Christian Social Ethics
- 5) Preparing material for Synod Educational program re: White churches and racial identity
- 6) Establishing a Youth Council to institutionalize CYF participation in church leadership

Specific Actions:

- Weekly meetings w/ Deborah, Pastor Eric, and Staff
- 6 CYF Stakeholder 1-1
- 2 Congregant 1-1
- 2 Leader 1-1
- Convened and co-led Scout Fellowship Fire
- Met with MVCC ED to coordinate volunteer opportunity at August Backpack event
- Convened Culture Bearers meeting for guidance and accountability
- Convened NYG planning meeting, resulting in formation of Steering Committee
- Participated fully in VBS program and provided theological framing for participants and leaders
- Met with Pastor Bridget to plan for upcoming pulpit swap and to coordinate re: NYG
- Attended Rainiers game