

MINUTES
August MVLC Council Meeting
Tuesday August 18, 2026, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Karla Briggs' House – 8216 193rd Ave Pl E, Bonney Lake WA 98381

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, Monica Baker, Dan Neptun, John Meagher, Sam Jones, Angela Olson, Gerry Philipsen, and Eileen Newton

Staff: Pastor Andrew Conley-Holcom and Pastor Eric Bostrom

Absent: Joel DeWitt, Chris Schaefer and Jason Cornell

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by council President Karla Briggs at 6:50 PM.
- Sam Jones read a devotion by C H Spurgeon about making connections with fellow worshipers, then led the council in opening prayer.

REVIEW OF JULY MEETING MINUTES

Review and Approval of Minutes of the July 21, 2026, meeting – President Karla Briggs asked the council if they had any comments or questions about the July meeting minutes. There were none at the time, and a motion was made to approve the meeting minutes.

Made by: John Meagher

Second: Julie Williams

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Action: The motion passed with a unanimous vote

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jason Cornell sent the monthly financial report to members of the council before the meeting. He was not present at the meeting because he is in Arizona with his family preparing Tristan for college. He will be available to answer any questions upon his return on Friday, August 21, 2026. Council member Dan Neptun had a question about the reference to the \$5,000 remaining in the Living Hope Fund. This was the amount that remained after the initial payment was made on the fascia project. In July, the council agreed that payment for the fascia project would be made from the following funds in this order: Living Hope Fund, the Memorial Fund and the Rental Fund.

The council discussed Jason's recommendation that we reduce Celebracion de Vida's monthly rent to \$300.00 per month based upon his observation that the pastor has contributed her own money to pay the rent. During the discussion it was stated that \$300.00 should be the minimum acceptable amount. Council members expressed dismay that anyone should be afraid to attend church and that consideration should be made to finding a way to help this congregation, perhaps as our big idea. A motion was made to reduce Celebracion de Vida's rent to \$300.00 a month.

Made by: John Meagher

Second: Monica Baker

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Action: The motion passed with a unanimous vote

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric stated that a candidate for musical director has stepped forward. This individual is an answer to prayer. He has a meeting with him later this week and will wait to disclose the name of the candidate if the meeting goes well.

Pastor Eric encouraged council members to take their pictures (selfies will do) and write a short biography per Troy's email of August 6, 2026. Pictures and biographies will be posted on the Council Wall, in the hall across from the entrance to the offices and nursery. In a further effort to familiarize the congregation with council members, he encourages council members to wear their council nametags to worship service and to volunteer to serve as greeters, ushers, readers and communion assistants.

Pastor Andrew reminded the council that he is working on his doctorate and needs to be ready to defend his doctoral thesis by the end of the year. He has been working with MVLC youth to form a youth council. The purpose of the youth council is to work in partnership with Pastor Andrew and the Rock Ministry Administrator in developing and supporting the CYF program at Mountain View Lutheran Church. The council, ideally will consist of a

balance between middle and high school individuals who are elected to serve for one year, with staggered transitions and elections being held every six months. Eileen Newton will be liaison between the youth council and the church council. Our youth who are too old to enjoy the Prayer Ground will identify a space in the sanctuary for them to gather during worship services. Further information about the youth council has been posted to the Youth Council Page on the MVLC website.

Both Pastor Eric and Pastor Andrew have agreed that renaming the Adult Education Hour and repurposing it to include our youth who have outgrown Sunday School. This shared time will be renamed Discipleship Hour.

ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW/PSA REPORT

Julie Williams reported that the PSA has completed the internal listening phase of the organizational review. The PSA interviewed a total of 21 individuals – the total being comprised of four staff members, ten council members and seven key volunteers. Key themes emerging from the interviews that MVLC is a community:

- That is caring and welcoming
- Where current workflows and administration are stretched resulting in friction in program execution and resource management.
- Where ownership, decision-making authority and team coordination need clearer definitions.
- Where enhanced cross-functional communication between staff, council and ministry teams is a vital priority to ensure shared direction.

Next step for the PSA in the organizational review is that Jesie Holden will present a preview/review of the findings at the September 8 Executive Council meeting and then present to the entire council at the September meeting on September 15.

COUNCIL RETREAT

Jesie Holden is not available to facilitate our retreat on January 15 and 16. Julie will coordinate between Jesie and Seabeck to find another weekend for this event. Assuming we can still retreat at Seabeck, cost will be \$166.00. Please prayerfully consider serving on a sub-committee to plan the details for this important event.

PASTOR ERIC'S SABBATICAL

Pastor Eric has asked that the council approve his request to take his sabbatical from Monday, May 24 through Sunday, August 22, 2027. In addition, he has determined that he

wants to play a role in refreshing our Synod's relationship with the Lutheran Church in Namibia. Our Synod leadership is enthusiastic about renewing and growing this relationship. The following motion was made in support of Pastor Eric's sabbatical:

I move to approve a sabbatical leave from Pastor Eric from Monday May 24 through Sunday, August 22, 2027 and to provide \$3,000.00 in funding for travel or educational opportunities. Pastor Eric is expected to utilize these opportunities for educational purposes for the congregation upon his return from sabbatical.

Made by: Julie Williams

Second: Sam Jones

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Action: The motion passed with a unanimous vote

DEACON MINISTRY

Sam Jones felt led to volunteer to be the council liaison to the Diaconal ministry.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 15, 2026 in the church library.

- Meeting Host - (devotion, opening prayer and treats) Dan Neptun
- Closing Prayer – Eileen Newton

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER – SIMPLIFIED

Dan Neptun distributed information about Roberts Rules of Order to the council. He stated that we should include an opportunity to discuss any part of the meeting prior to moving to adjourn and closing prayer.

No one asked to discuss further any part of the meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT

John Meagher led the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Baker, Secretary

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric's Report to the August Council

- Celebracion de Vida has declined in participation because many of their members are undocumented. Pastor Liz asked for a rent reduction to help them keep going. I feel another rent reduction would be helpful, again.
- The good news is that Celebracion de Vida has a strong core group with a spirit of service and hospitality. Our partnership at the Back-to-school event was great. And when a group of us worshipped with them, their gratitude and welcome was a gift.
- Musician hiring update: this has been a slower process than I hoped, but an excellent candidate has emerged, and I will meet with him soon to answer questions. Then an interview with the hiring team. I hope to reveal who this person is soon.
- We had a staff retreat July 27. Jesie Holden led the retreat. We updated our staff values. They are Clarity, Appreciation, Respect, and Steadfastness. I am now working on ways to ritualize and make these values tangible.
- I would like the dates of my 2027 sabbatical to be May 24 - Aug 22. Thank you for the gift of this sabbatical. In addition to rest, I'm in conversation with Bishop Marshall to plan a trip to Namibia to jump start our companion synod relationship with them.
- The Stewardship Team is almost assembled. I still have a couple more people to ask. I plan to move forward with planning later in August.

Thank you for the privilege of being your lead pastor!

Pastor Eric

Pastor Andrew's Report to the August Council

July/August Big Rocks:

- 1) Successful MVCC Backpack Event with high volunteerism
- 2) Initial meeting with youth to discuss forming MVLC Youth Council
- 3) More than halfway through Safe Church Policy re-drafting
- 4) NYG Steering Committee coordinating communication to families
- 5) Connection with Messiah Lutheran via Pulpit Swap

Growing Edges:

- 1) Preparing 2 Year Coordinated Curriculum Plan for Rock Ministry, including Ed Hour rotation for myself
- 2) Need to recruit volunteers to support MS Ed Hour
- 3) Youth buy-in and engagement with HS Ed Hour curriculum
- 4) Articulation of overarching pedagogy for Rock Ministry anchored in Christian Social Ethics, looking to create arc from pre-K to adulthood
- 5) Preparing material for Synod Educational program re: White churches and racial identity

Specific Actions:

- Weekly meetings w/ Deborah, Pastor Eric, and Staff
- 3 CYF Stakeholder 1-1
- 3 Congregant 1-1
- 2 Leader 1-1
- Participated in my first MVLC Game Night and connected with some of the youth
- Participated fully in the full-day MVLC Staff Retreat (at a location I was able to secure for free)
- Convened Safe Church Policy Committee to continue redrafting
- Solicited and coordinated volunteers for MVCC Backpack Event with Deborah
- Designed and implemented process for youth input in forming MVLC Youth Council
- Took vacation time with my family and celebrated 14 years of marriage/19 years of committed relationship with my wife