

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, September 08, 2020 • 6:30 p.m.  
Online meeting (via Zoom)

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Mary Beth Peterson, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg.

Absent: Dan Neptun, Gerry Philipsen.

Staff: Pastor Mike Greenwalt, Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle.

Guests: Barry Johnsrud and Connie McCrossin, both of the Transition Team.

Election of Officers

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

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Pastor Mike Greenwalt led devotions based upon Matthew 19:13ff and from *Every Bush Is Burning* by Joan Puls, focusing on the embrace and grace of God, extended into relationships with God and one another.

Financial update

The following highlights were discussed:

- MVLC ended August 2020 with about \$8,200 in it's checking account and \$57,000 in reserves, primarily due to lump sum payments from a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan via the Federal CARES Act.
- The current financial forecast is that MVLC will be about 9% below expected giving for 2020.

- The plan is to pay 17.5% of the adjusted amount toward benevolences, rather than the Spending Guideline, with more detailed discussion at the 9/22 meeting of the Church Council.

2021 Spending Guideline preparation

The Tuesday, September 22, 2020 meeting of the MVLC Church Council will include an extended discussion about the 2021 Spending Guideline.

“Return to Worship” Team update

Sonja Dahl, chairperson of the Return to Worship Team spoke regarding the following:

- The “Park and Praise” drive-in worship service is a good indicator of our gradual return to in-person worship. People followed the rules!
- We are currently planning for in-person worship to start on Sunday, October 04, 2020, with two worship services—8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- Congregational members would need to RSVP/register to attend, with no more than 115 people per service, to allow for proper and safe social distancing.
- Congregational members need to bring their own items with them—face mask (which must be worn at all times); pen/pencil; offering, Bible.
- There is still a need to better define the roles of the various worship leaders.
- Our custodian is going to practice cleaning the Sanctuary and other spaces, in order to determine how long it will take to properly sanitize and disinfect the spaces between services.

**It was M/S/P to proceed with returning to in-person worship no earlier than Sunday, October 04, 2020.**

Transition Team

Barry Johnsrud, chairperson of the newly established Transition Team, and Connie McCrossin, member of the team, guided members of the MVLC Church Council through some of what the Transition Team hopes to accomplish. Highlights included the following:

- The Team’s adoption of the name ALIVE in Transition, with the acronym derived from **A**ctive **L**istening, **I**magination, **V**ision, and **E**mpowerment.
- Members of the team include Barry Johnsrud, Gretchen Johnsrud, Karin Weberg (council liaison), Pastor Rebecca Shjerven (pastoral advisor), Pastor Kim Latterell (pastoral advisor), Terry Jensen, Connie

McCrossin, Mary Finney, Karen Quandt, Kim Soeder, Murphey Thompson, and one more person to yet be recruited.

- The team’s initial work will take approximately six months, which will then be followed by meeting with various MVLC structured small groups—council, Bible studies, ministry groups, small groups, etc.
- The idea is to “capture” ideas and answers, weaving them together into strands of a common voice, and then establishing MVLC’s “Ministry Site Profile.”
- An outline of what the “group meetings” will potentially entail—scripture reading, invocation, opening prayer, presentation of questions, discussion of answers.
- Pastor Mike emphasized that the purpose of the questions and answers is to develop a “multi-connectedness,” an amazing sense of “we.” (Or, in other words, “depth of relationship,” exemplified by our Deacons Ministry.)
- An in-depth, “large picture” discussion of (a) our strengths; (b) our challenges; and (c) how we are best able to serve our communities.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. Pastor Kim leads devotions.

Pastor Mike “prayed us out.”

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins  
Recording Secretary