MINUTES
September MVLC Council Meeting
Tuesday September 15, 2026, 6:30 PM to 8:15 PM in the MVLC 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, Julie Williams, Monica Baker, Jason Cornell, Sam Jones, Dan Neptun, Eileen Newton, Angela Olson, Gerry Philipsen, Chris Schaefer

Teams: John Meagher

Absent: Joel DeWitt

Staff: Pastor Eric, Pastor Andrew

Guest: Jesie Holden

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Karla Briggs at 6:35
- Dan Neptun led a devotion on prayer that included scripture readings from the New Testament, excerpts from Killing Patton and a prayer by Dietrich Bonhoffer.

REVIEW OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Council President Karla Briggs asked the council if they had any comments or questions about the August meeting minutes. There were none and a motion was made to approve the meeting minutes.

Made by: Chris Schaefer
Second: Julie Williams
Ayes: All
Nays: None
Action: The motion passed with a unanimous vote

ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW/PSA REPORT

Jesie Holden presented the Listening Session Report and the Strategic Roadmap to the council. There were 22 participants – five staff, ten council members and seven key volunteers.

MVLC is strong in terms of being a welcoming inclusive community, we have vibrant youth and music ministries, a passionate and committed group of volunteers and strong local outreach and collaborative pastoral chemistry.

Our areas of fragility are that we currently have no administrator on staff, that we do not have well-understood and documented written procedures/standard operating procedures (SOP), vital operational information is siloed and we do not have a formal process for raising and resolving conflict.

The strategic roadmap spans Fall of 2026 through the end of 2027. Action items for this meeting are:

Approve the small wins that can be accomplished now, which include:

- Provisioning and implementing a shared file server for storing documentation of processes and procedures, meeting agendas and minutes, employment contracts and other key documents,
- Approve the Council Alignment Retreat
- Create Sub-committees to develop a church administrator position description and budget considerations; plan the goals, objectives and activities for the Council Alignment Retreat and identify the ministry theme for 2027.

A motion was made to implement a shared server by the end of the year for the SOP archive, key documents, and drafting the Church administrator job charter.

Made by: Julie Williams
Second: Chris Schaefer
Ayes: All
Nays: None
Action: The motion passed with a unanimous vote

A motion was made to approve the Council Alignment Retreat, to be facilitated by Jesie Holden and held at Seabeck Conference Center, Friday, January 22 through 5:00 PM on Saturday, January 23. Cost is $166.00 each.

Made by: Julie Williams
Second: Angela Olson
Ayes: All
Nays: None

Action: The motion passed with a unanimous vote

A motion was made to draft the Church Administrator Charter and explore funding sources. Participants will be the PSA, Pastor Eric, the Finance Committee and Jason Cornell (once the 2027 funding guideline has been completed)

Made by: Chris Schaefer
Second: Dan Neptun
Ayes: All
Nays: None
Action: The motion passed with a unanimous vote

The following council members volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to plan the council alignment retreat:

Karla Briggs
Chris Schaefer
Eileen Newton
Sam Jones

The following council members volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to identify a ministry theme for 2027 together with Pastor Eric and Pastor Andrew:

Julie Williams
Gerry Philipsen

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jason reported that two annual contributions came in during the month of August that put our tithes and offerings at $91,044 with total revenue for the month $99,161. Expenses for the month were $8,000 under the anticipated amount, with the surplus of the month totalling $28,700 pushing us back into the black for the year. We currently have a surplus of $24,529 for 2026. The fascia project should be completed the week of September 21, 2026 and the music director office repair should be completed shortly after that. We have not been billed for this work yet, but payment has already been approved to come from the following restricted funds, in this order: Living Hope Fund, the Memorial Fund and the Rental fund. Dan Neptun and Jason plan to research costs for concrete bollards perhaps with planter boxes to protect the offices from future accidents.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric was pleased to report that Daniel Schreiner has agreed to be our next music director. A contract is being drafted for him and his first day will be October 1, with his first Sunday being October 4, 2026.

Pastor Andrew introduced the first draft of the Safe Church Policy. The policy is very detailed/granular. The council will need additional time to review/familiarize itself with it, and it may need to be on future meeting agendas to ensure that we identify and address all the changes that it requires. He was happy to report that the mandated training for CYF volunteers and MVLC staff will be provided at no cost by the Episcopal Church. This training must be completed within three months of the start of the program year.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Council member Gerry Philipsen shared the discussion the stewardship committee had at a recent meeting. Among other things, they decided on:

- A theme for the 2027 Season of Generosity
- A plan for thanking every giving unit in the congregation by sending each a thank you note.
- A communication strategy to delineate how giving supports the life and mission of MVLC

The committee mapped out a plan to focus on themes in the remaining months of 2026:

- September – Music and Worship ministries
- October – the Children, Youth and Family ministries
- November – Food Ministries
- December – Mission Endowment Ministry

FINAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Gerry Philipsen and Chris Schaefer traded assignments to address future scheduling conflicts. Gerry will host the November 17 meeting and do the closing prayer. Chris Schaefer will host the April 20 meeting and do the closing prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Eileen Newton closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted

Monica Baker, Secretary

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Gerry Philipsen, September 10, 2026

The stewardship team met and had a good conversation. We discussed three main items. First, we talked about a resource for the Season of Generosity, and together we decided to use SALT Project's *A Chorus of Generosity*. I will order that the week after Labor Day. We also discussed a strategy for writing personal thank-you notes to every giving unit in the congregation for their giving this fall. Our timeline is to send those notes in October, so people receive thanks for their generosity ahead of the Season of Generosity. Finally, we talked about a communication strategy in which, each month, we will tell the story of a different ministry area in our congregation and connect that story to the cost of the ministry. Each story will explain why everyone's giving is important to funding these ministries and will include an ask that reminds people their giving makes a real impact. We mapped out the final four months of 2026**: September** will focus on music and worship, celebrating our new music director, Daniel Schreiner; **October** will focus on children, youth, and family ministries; **November** will focus on food and **December** will focus on the Mission Endowment Fund and the recent grants that were awarded. Pastor Eric will ask Daniel Schreiner to write an introduction for himself in September. Pastor Eric will ask Pastor Andrew to write a children, youth and family story. Beth Ann will write about our food insecurity ministries and Beth Ann will ask someone from the Mission Endowment Fund to write about the grants we have given most recently.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric's Report to September Council:

- Thank you for the gift of time to spend a week in Nebraska visiting family, celebrating my mother-in-law's 80th birthday, and introducing Annika's boyfriend to the family. These trips are also a gift because Washington keeps feeling more and more like home.
- Portico health benefits are rising 15% in 2027. This will represent a large increase to our spending guideline in 2027. Electricity costs are rising year over year. And the organizational review is clearly revealing the significant need for a full-time administrator. Since the Council is responsible for the financial wellness of the congregation, I ask the Council to strategize a variety of ways to significantly increase financial inflows and/or decrease expenses. This needs to happen this Fall during the spending guideline development process.
- Annual Vision Sunday (Christ the King Sunday) - Pastor Andrew and I are having fruitful conversations, and we are planning a new annual Sunday to review and reflect on the past year and also announce the focus/theme for the upcoming year. This will be the same Sunday as the November congregational meeting. In 2026 we will announce a focus/theme with a congregational survey to seek quality feedback for 2027 based on the organizational review. In Nov 2027, the congregation will receive the same survey so that we can compare trends from the previous year.
- Breeze Online Directory is now available to the congregation. I ask that Council make connecting to the Breeze Online Directory a priority so that you and your experience can be a resource and encouragement to others in the congregation.
- The Stewardship Team report will be shared by Gerry Philipsen.
- We hired Daniel Schreiner to be our next music director at Mt . View. I'm so excited and feel that Daniel is an answer to our prayers. Daniel has been a very reliable and capable piano fill-in for Mt View for many years. Daniel has been a full-time music educator in the Tahoma School District (Maple Valley) for many years. He teaches music half-time in the elementary school and half-time in the High School. Daniel will officially start Oct 1 and his first Sunday will be Oct 4.
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund - I was approached by Angelina Koenig for our help with supporting one of her MVCC staff. This staff person is having her wages garnished, and this will be a financial hardship for her and her family. I will be using funds I have authority to distribute and will be asking members of the congregation to also chip in. I don't know the full details yet because Angelina is still learning the details as well. We're planning now to be ready to go when called upon.

- Henry Peck's severance package which included his personal health insurance with Portico from May 25-Aug 31 has run into a problem that we are taking care of. When Jason called Portico to end Henry's health insurance on Aug 31, Portico informed us that they don't cover employees after their employment has ended. We're bringing Henry into the process and we have a few extra steps but this should be resolved in a week or two.

Pastor Andrew's Report to the September Council Meeting

August/September Big Rocks:

1) Successful GWOH with high participation and organization
2) Initial meeting of MVLC Youth Council
3) Safe Church Policy Draft complete and submitted to Council (attached)
4) Safe Church on-line trainings secured for all CYF volunteers/staff (for free)
5) Parent Meeting to share 26/27 CYF curriculum and solicit participation (attached)

Growing Edges:

1) Prepare 2 Year Coordinated Curriculum Plan for CYF, including Discipleship Hour rotation for myself and vision for 20/30 and 40/50 curriculums
2) Recruit volunteers to support MS Discipleship Hour
3) (Re)Create retreats for K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 Discipleship Hour
4) Coordinate NYG Steering Committee roles and responsibilities
5) Prepare 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 -1 Congregant 1-1

-4 Leader 1-1 -3 Ministry Colleague 1-1

- Culture Bearers Visioning Meeting

-2x Edgewood City Council Meeting visit in support of MVCC

-Coordinate Youth Soundboard Operator volunteer position (attached)

-NYG Steering Committee meeting and 9/20 NYG Interest Session prep

-NYG MEF Grant application preparation

-Attend PLU Convocation and connect with local Lutheran clergy

-1-1 with Edgewood Chief of Police re: needs of our community in the next 5-10 years

-Participate in highly successful, hands-on NYG car wash fundraiser

-Meeting with NYG Region 1 Representative to discuss strategy for Synod-wide NYG prep