



Mountain View Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting • September 20, 2022
MVLC Library • 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

VISION

We are called by the Holy Spirit to live out the love of God in Jesus Christ.

MISSION

Compelled by our calling, we will invite all to worship God and teach disciples to serve Christ in the world.

MARKS of DISCIPLESHIP

Invite neighbors and welcome strangers. • Observe the sabbath. • Commit financial resources, time, and talents to Christ's church. • Be disciplined with daily Bible reading and daily prayer. • Live out lifelong faith formation, acts of justice and mercy, and care for one another.

Attendance

Present, in person: Fred Albert, Kevin Dahl, , Skip Harrison, Dan Lysne, Carol Powers, Ken Swanson, Bob Yost. Treasurer Jason Cornell.

Present, via Zoom: Joel DeWitt, Jenny Grayum, Karen Hansen, Emily Thompson.

Absent: Gretchen Johnsrud.

Staff: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle.

Call to order

President Kevin Dahl called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Jenny Grayum led devotions based upon an untitled poem transforming the notion of "safe space" (of community and vulnerability) into that of "brave space" (of servant leadership, alongside community and vulnerability).

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, September 20, 2022 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Agenda and reports

It was M/S/P to approve the agenda and submitted written reports of the Tuesday, September 20, 2022 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

(Written reports follow the recorded minutes.)

Financial update

Treasurer Jason Cornell spoke regarding the following:

-) Giving for the month of August was *below* our expected giving target. We ended the month with \$55,658 versus an expected amount of \$73,928 (-\$17,774). Offerings at the end of August were \$61,393 *below* our annual 2022 Spending Guideline. Total revenue for the month of August was \$58,031 compared to expenses of \$73,636, resulting in a monthly *deficit* of \$15,605.
-) For the month of August, the Living Hope campaign brought in \$3,215. Living Hope has raised \$532,435 of the original \$846,039 pledged.
-) In the past year, online giving has increased by 20%.
-) Work has begun on the proposed 2023 Spending Guideline.

President's report

President Kevin Dahl spoke regarding the following:

-) A letter from the Mountain View Community Center requesting permission to service alcohol at its upcoming "Raise a Glass for Hope" donor appreciation event.
-) It was M/S/P to approve said request.
-) The upcoming MVLC Council/Staff retreat and reminding everyone to complete their homework: (1) take the "animal" personality test; (2) examine three mission statements from other congregations/organizations; and (3) be prepared to share a story of a meaningful and/or faith-filled experience at MVLC and how that informs our mission and vision.

Ministry group reports

In addition to the submitted written reports, recent work of the Staff Advocacy Committee was discussed. Carol Powers and Julie Williams have completed reviews/interviews with all staff members and pastors, and will now meet to collate information and identify themes, then reporting back to the Executive Committee and Church Council. A viable candidate for the Church Administrator position has been identified, but is still in the initial stages of interviewing.

Pastor's report—Pastor Eric Bostrom

Pastor Eric Bostrom spoke regarding the following (in addition to his written items):

-) Discussion about a "low-key" non-traditional internship with Tore Sleveland, as part of Tore's Master of Theological Studies program.
-) Asking Joan Root, Marie Philipsen, and Terry Johnson to create a silhouette of a "giving tree" in the Life Together Hall for the upcoming Season of Generosity.

Pastor's report—Pastor Briana Merkle

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following (in addition to his written items):

-) Encouraging Youth Ministries Coordinator to participate in continuing education—(1) "First Third" Youth Worker event; and (2) Southwestern Washington (SWWA) Synod and Northwest Washington (NWWA) Synod network.
-) Encouraging participation in the Mountain View Community Center's Trunk or Treat event.
-) The diversity of participation in the New Member Class—senior citizens, two young (recently) married couples, two high school youth affirming their faith.
-) Inviting continued conversation and reflection on the Sanctuary Children's Space.

MVCC community garden

Vice-president Bob Yost spoke about a grant that the Mountain View Community Center has received to start a community garden. The best location near their building is just south of the the MVCC building, but three-quarters of the space is MVCC/Chapel drain field. Bob Yost and Jeff Quinn are exploring the possibility of movable raised beds in the case the reserve drain field would need to be used in the near future. John Dahle and Dan Neptun are also involved in the project.

Online worship

Conversation begun at the June 2022 meeting continued, regarding the future of online worship/streaming. During the summer months, an average of 60 unique views per service took place, some of which represent multiple family members. Some council members talked about times they had viewed MVLC worship via one of the online options.

Conversation will continue, with some of the following questions to be considered:

-) What are options if we continue to livestream worship.
-) Do we move forward with livestreaming in the future?
-) What are the costs of continuing to provide one of these options?
-) What is the “value” of continuing to provide one of these options?

Reminders

-) The MVLC Council/Staff retreat is on Friday 9/30 and Saturday 10/1 at Seabeck Conference Center.
-) The MVLC Council serves the Seeds of Change Community Meal at the Mountain View Community Center on Thursday 11/3.

Closing prayer

Skip Harrison closed the meeting in prayer.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT • Pastor Eric Bostrom

- J I presided at two memorial services in the month of August for Don Fossum and Georgia Meier.
- J Chris and Rod Ray hosted an event with Andrew Steele, the Vice President for Development and Outreach for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. We had a good crowd from Mountain View to learn about their mission and impact.
- J We had an orientation training for our 10 new deacons on Saturday, Aug 6.
- J Pastor Bri and I finished our 10 Commandment Summer Video Series. The final videos will be coming out soon.
- J The Stewardship Team and assigned action items for the Oct 30 – Nov 13 Season of Generosity.
- J I golfed with my son in the Mountain View Golf Outing, Aug 7.
- J We invited Celebration of Life Iglesia to our Church Picnic Aug 14 and I feel we made many positive connects between our two communities. We especially bonded through music.
- J Had a great night of baseball at a Rainer game with 24 Mountain View couples and families.
- J Thank you for the week of vacation that I used to move my daughter into Tinglestad at PLU and to get my son started at Lindbergh High School.

PASTOR'S REPORT • Pastor Briana Merkle

Retreats and Rites take the place of a traditional confirmation program here at MVLC. This Fall I'll host the Acolyte Retreat on Sept. 18 (for 3rd-5th graders) and the Welcome to Worship Retreat on Oct. 9 (for PreK-K). These retreats offer a time of teaching with the pastor and time for fellowship among the families.

Children's Space: Do you have reflections on what you're seeing and noticing with the addition of the Children's Space in the Sanctuary? Please share any reflections with Pr. Bri.

Memorials: Laura Stoner's graveside service is planned for Sept. 24. The Memorial for John Anderson will be Oct. 2 at 2pm.

Wedding: I'll preside at the wedding of Paul Baker and Aubrey Padukiewicz on Sept. 24. They will also participate in our new member class that begins Sept. 18.

Youth: Pope has a number of activities scheduled for the Fall, including a movie night, a fundraiser and is working on plans for an overnight retreat. Pope is in initial stages of planning for a summer trip opportunity. We also scheduled a parent/mentor lunch for Oct. 16th following worship so that parents, mentors and staff can talk about hopes for the year and commitment to participation.

Farm Church: on Sunday Sept. 25 I'm planning to leave right after Adult Ed to head out to Port Angeles for a Farm Church experiment that an ELCA congregation there has been offering through the summer. It resonates with some of the SPARK! worship services we offered about a year ago, and I'm curious to see how other churches are finding creative ways to have worship and fellowship beyond the sanctuary walls. I am considering this Continuing Education as I seek to learn about innovative and meaningful ways to engage children and families in worship.

COMMITTEE REPORT / DEACONS • Ken Swanson

The Deacon Ministry has recently added nine new deacons to the group. A number of the new members are already involved in training, and are participating in the ministry. Others are preparing to begin the training process, and will become active deacons in the Fall. We spent the Summer reading "The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society" by Henri J.M. Nouwen. Pastor Eric will be leading us in a discussion of the book in the weeks ahead. On September 17th the entire Deacon Ministry will meet on campus for a half-day mini retreat. We will be introducing the new deacons to the entire group; as well as updating information about the people to whom we bring communion. This also gives us an opportunity to discuss any new concerns and questions.

COMMITTEE REPORT / ROCK MINISTRY • Dan Lysne

Rock Ministry's Gathering Day occurred on September 11 in the Gym. All levels of students, parents, and teachers gathered to hear an overview of upcoming events from Pope McHenry and Pastor Bri. The goal this year is to have lessons use the same biblical story over the course of several Sundays in order to meet the needs of students that may not attend every Sunday. Several upcoming activities are planned to engage both young and old students. This includes the trick or trunk evening tentatively set for October 29 where older students can help provide treats while younger students participate. There are also upper grade (middle and HS) events planned to engage the higher level students.

COMMITTEE REPORT / PROPERTY • Fred Albert

September projects:

-) HoneyDoers will be restriping the parking lots. Last restriping was 3 yrs. ago.
-) Painting the south side of the Admin. Bldg. where the original paint hasn't held up well against the southern exposure.
-) Trimming up the big maple along 122nd Avenue East.

Ongoing projects:

-) Dan Neptun met with the MVCC staff regarding their community garden grant from the Puyallup Tribe. We're trying to find a suitable location on land that is unencumbered by septic drain field reserve constraints and other issues.
-) Wes Grenlund will revisit the Sanctuary lighting work he did a few years ago. Best case scenario, we'd have lights installed that could be lowered to step ladder height to enable bulb changes, when needed, and cleaning. Estimates during the capital campaign startup about five years ago included installing ceiling fans higher up in the sanctuary framing to help push heat down during winter months and circulating air downward during the summer season.

COMMITTEE REPORT / PEACE and JUSTICE • Fred Albert

August status:

-) Meeting cancelled due to heat
-) Letter going out to the benevolences we support asking what is the impact is for the 1000.00 we gifted. This to help is evaluating next years benevolences.
-) Peace and Justice is currently reading *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristen Kobes Du Mez, an exploration of the relationship between modern evangelicalism, militarism, and American masculinity.

COMMITTEE REPORT / STEWARDSHIP • Jenny Grayum

- J Planning is underway for our three weeks of Season of Generosity, Oct 30 – Nov 13.
- J Many of the resources the stewardship team will be using are from The Salt Project. The theme of this year's season of generosity is "a future with hope."
- J Three letters will be sent in the mail to the congregation between Oct 30-Nov 13. Staff will organize volunteers to assemble these mailings. During this time period, Temple Talks by congregational members will also be shared during service.
- J Social media resources will be used for our congregation to post inspiring quotes about generosity throughout the three weeks of the season of generosity.
- J We will also brainstorm ways children and youth can participate in the season of generosity in worship and Rock Ministry.
- J Nov 13 is the consecration Sunday with a brunch being held in between services. The middle and high school youth will be asked to assist with the brunch and will be making baked goods in advance to share during the event.
- J We are also hoping to have an artistic giving tree with roots for the hallway wall. In an effort to increase awareness we are giving to our benevolence partners, we will name these partners on the roots of the giving tree.
- J We are also tentatively planning for a Nov 6 Adult Education hour to highlight some of our benevolence partners, hear their stories and the impact they are making.
- J Feedback and additional ideas about our season of generosity are welcomed. Please contact Pastor Eric with questions or ideas.

COMMITTEE REPORT / PRAYER SHAWLS • Jenny Grayum

The Prayer Shawl Group is planning to meet the first Thursday of each month. This schedule supports participants with attending the Women's Bible Study, if interested. Their brunch was moved from September to October 6. For more information or to join a future meeting, please reach out to Barb Egan.

COMMITTEE REPORT / STAFF ADVOCACY • Carol Powers

- J During the month of September, the Staff Advocacy Committee will meet individually with church staff and the pastors to touch base on how work is going, as it's been about six months since we've transitioned out of the "interim" period.
- J Surfacing candidates for the Administrator position has been difficult as the labor market continues to be strong and there are many options for people who are looking for work. Interviews continue to take place when new candidates are found.

ZOOM MEETING INFO

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89235922206?pwd=RklxU1RYem1PdG1jc2hWR3BvdVlrdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 3592 2206

Passcode: 654969

One tap mobile

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