

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 08 October 2019 • 6: 30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Michael Brauhn, Jason Cornell, Sonja Dahl, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg, Julie Williams.

Absent: Bob Linden, Mary Beth Peterson.

Staff: Phil Edlund, Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle, Pastor John Vaswig.

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Emily Thompson led devotions based upon topics encountered in *Braving the Wilderness* by Brené Brown—belonging versus being alone and being vulnerable—and Psalm 100. The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 24 September 2019 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Financial update

September giving was within \$25 of expected levels, but year-to-date giving is still about \$32,000 below expected levels. However, we were still about \$11,900 higher than the same time last year (about 1.68% increase). Giving for the first Sunday in October was \$6,300 higher than the average weekly expected amount of \$21,106, *but we are still \$25,636 below expected year-to-date giving levels.*

2020 Spending Guideline

The MVLC Finance Committee—Michael Brauhn, Dave Cheney (email review), Church Administrator Phil Edlund, Neil Jerstad, and President

Carol Powers—met to discuss the “full request draft” of the proposed 2020 Spending Guideline, after receiving input from staff and ministry groups.

Three possible scenarios for the *total* 2020 Spending Guideline were produced and recommended for the MVLC Church Council to review and discuss—(a) with 0% salary increases for staff, \$1,119,137, 3.8% increase over 2019; (b) with 2.5% salary increase for staff, \$1,131,137, 4.9% increase over 2019; and (c) with 2% salary increases for staff, \$1,129,612, 4.7% increase over 2019.

The amounts for the six main categories in each scenario:

CATEGORY	SCENARIO A	SCENARIO B	SCENARIO C
Pastoral	260,828	266,195	265,122
Administration	298,013	304,580	303,646
Benevolence	176,612	176,612	176,612
Program	86,607	87,346	87,156
Property	165,484	165,484	165,484
Debt Service	131,592	131,952	131,952
Total	\$1,119,137	\$1,131,137	\$1,129,612

Questions were asked and answered. Council members took the proposed 2020 Spending Guideline home for further review.

Pastor’s report

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Preaching and presiding at Helen Larson’s memorial service on Saturday 10/12.
- The need for more trunks at Trunk or Treat. Iglesia Celebracion and Temple of Praise congregations were both invited to the event.
- 33 attendees signed up for the Mathetria Women’s Retreat. Grateful for lay leadership of Lori Neptun and Katrina Lelli in helping plan the event.
- The position of the Youth Leader is still being promoted to area congregations and partner organizations.
- The 2019 Lutheran Studies Conference at Pacific Lutheran University was centered around the recently adopted (2019) ELCA “Faith, Sexism, and Justice” Social Statement.
- She will be out of the office Monday 10/14 through Thursday 10/17 for continuing education.

Pastor's report

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- The upcoming Lutheran-Catholic "Apocalypse and Ecology" event with Dr. Barbara Rossing.
- Delighted at the attendance at both Adult Education and ExALT.
- Lay homilists Karin Weberg and Mark Williams will preach on Reformation Sunday 10/27.
- Consecration Sunday will be 11/3.
- Next year's stewardship theme is "Living Hope: Past, Present, and Future."

Seminary fund/debt reduction

Pastor John proposed setting aside two \$6,000 scholarships for seniors/interns attending Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary from the Centennial Seminary Scholarship Fund. He would visit PLTS and interview four candidates identified by PLTS Director of Seminary Relations Brian Stein-Webber.

It was M/S/P to disperse two \$6,000 scholarships (\$12,000 total) from the Centennial Seminary Scholarship Fund to PLTS candidates identified by PLTS and interviewed by Pastor John Vaswig.

New council member orientation document

Members of the MVLC Church Council reviewed the recently revised New Member Orientation sheets.

"Friends in Faith" small groups

Emily Thompson agreed to help coordinate "Friends in Faith" small groups.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 22 October 2019 in the Library. Mary Beth Peterson leads devotions.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary