

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 • 6:30 p.m.  
Online meeting (via Zoom)

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Dan Neptun, Gerry Philipsen, Mary Beth Peterson, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg, Treasurer Jason Cornell.

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

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Sonja Dahl led devotions based upon Colossians 1:13-18; Philippians 4:6-7; and the notion of “letting go”—surrendering control in the midst of personal and public turmoil, trauma, and transformation.

Approval of minutes

**It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, September 08, 2020 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.**

Council Advent dinner

It was announced that the Council’s Advent dinner, planned for 12/13, was cancelled due to no safe option on hosting such an event.

Financial update

The following highlights were discussed:

- We ended September 2020 in better financial shape than previous months. Giving was down \$13,500 but better when compared percentagewise.
- Projected year-end giving will be about 90% of the Spending Guideline.
- We will likely end the year in black or close to even.

**It was M/S/P to send \$185,000 from the “Living Hope” campaign to pay down the mortgage, and we will continue to pay funds toward the mortgage. Once we reach the \$200,000 mark, then we will reamortize the loan.**

Help needed

- Julie Williams needs help in reviewing and writing job descriptions for the Staff Advocacy Committee, either from a council member or from someone identified by the council.
- A liaison from the MVLC Church Council to the Mountain View Community Center’s board of directors is needed.

ALIVE (Transition) Team update

Karin Weberg of the ALIVE Team spoke regarding the following:

- The team met last Thursday and will meet this coming Thursday.
- The next steps are (a) to establish group leaders; and (b) to examine questions for group discussions, as well as the answers providing by council members during their “test run.”
- Additional members Chris Schaefer and Megan Hutton.

Friends in Faith small groups

Four possible books were presented as possibilities for groups to read: *Just Mercy*; *Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Change*; *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*; and *The Forgotten Luther*.

“Return to Worship” Team update

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

- Initial services went well.
- Most participants signed up in advance. They wore masks and practiced social distancing.
- Worship leader roles and the various stations functioned as expected.
- The group is meeting every other week, with their current work consisting of establishing a building usage form for the staff to use.
- Appreciation of the staff and worship leaders for flexibility and enacting changes and “making it happen.”

Pastor’s report—Pastor Kim Latterell

Pastor Kim Latterell spoke regarding the following:

- Meeting with the ALIVE Team.
- An upcoming meeting with the Worship Planning Team.

- Preaching and presiding at the 11/1 All Saints Day worship services.
- Planning the “Election Vigil” prayer service on 11/4 with Pastor Bri.
- Deacons have started dropping off communion kits to shut-ins.
- Members have also been picking up communion kits for online/at-home worship.
- Providing two articles for inclusion in worship folders and the MVLC E-news in regard to our call as Christians to vote.
- Leading “The Freedom of a Christian” adult education on 10/14.

Pastor’s report—Pastor Briana Merkle

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Middle school and high school small groups meeting on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. each week, as well as the campfire events for each.
- Working on establishing cross-generational women’s small groups for faithful conversations, many of which will start meeting in the next week or two.
- The importance of “The Blessing of the Animals” worship service, a first time in seven months for many kids and families to worship in person.
- Halloween treat bags will be delivered to homes of Rock Ministry students.
- Identifying the lay homilists for our Thanksgiving Eve worship service.
- The challenge of connecting with some of our younger Rock Ministry kids, with the newly created Mt. View Epistles being one way of doing such.

Pastor’s report—Pastor Mike Greenwalt

Pastor Mike Greenwalt spoke regarding the following:

- The congregation is dynamic right now, which is a welcomed change at so many levels. God’s spirit is robust, active, alive at MVLC right now.
- The current challenges of online streaming, and a request that members of the council help remind fellow congregants of the need for patience during the transition from recorded services to in-person/livestreamed services.
- Our new videographer has been very helpful, exhibiting a willingness toward flexibility and improvisation.
- We hope to highlight the need for food donations for the four weeks leading up to Thanksgiving.

Little Free Library

A Girl Scout project of placing a Little Free Library on the grounds of the Mountain View Community Center was briefly discussed. The project and placement will be reviewed by the Property Ministry Group.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Bob Linden leads devotions.

President Carol Powers “prayed us out.”

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins  
Recording Secretary