

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 05 November 2019 • 6:30 p.m.
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

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

Absent: Julie Williams.

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

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Michael Brauhn led devotions based looking at suicide from the perspective of a parent. The council prayed together.

Minutes

It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 05 November 2019 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.

Financial update

Giving for Sunday 12/1 was approximately \$14,000, which is about \$10,000 below expectations for a comparable Sunday in December. We are also currently about \$40,000 below year-to-date expectations for the 2019 Spending Guideline. President Carol will send an Advent Letter to the congregation in regard to general giving.

Pastor's report

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- The high school youth are sponsoring two MVCC families.
- Middle Rock (5, 6, and 7 grades) have a “hangout” event with other local Lutheran churches on 12/20.

- After the MVCC Santa Breakfast on 12/14, families of the congregation are putting up and decorating the MVLC Christmas tree.
- Advent Adventures during Rock Ministry classes in December.
- Young(er) families of the congregation will be called to encourage them to attend one of the upcoming “Living Hope” cottage meetings.
- Teaching Sunday Adult Education in January 2020: “Loneliness and the Body of Christ.”

Pastor’s report

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- The importance of disciples in making a difference in the world.
- “Narrowing Down, Focusing In” is the theme for both Sunday Adult Education in Advent and Advent midweek worship services.
- Council members signing up to attend one of the “Living Hope” cottage meetings, as well as each member recruiting at least two members to also sign up.
- The recently hired bookkeeper was let go during the probationary period. Church Administrator Phil will assume bookkeeping duties in the interim, until another bookkeeper is hired.
- Faith Community Nurse Terry Freed is retiring from her duties, effective 12/31/2019. We will use the Congregational Care Deacons to help with pastoral care.

Living Hope: Past, Present, and Future

Members of the Church Council reviewed two case statements for the “Living Hope: Past, Present, and Future” campaign. The longer of the two will be used in most cases, with the shorter version being used as a “thumbnail” statement.

Shorter case statement:

Living into hope—past, present, and future—we, as a body of believers, embrace the future’s promise in the present moment. To that end, by responding to debt, caring for the facility, and anticipating future needs, we together accept the challenge of a capital campaign of \$750,000. We do the same, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, anticipating a faith-filled response to the hope which does not disappoint us.

Longer case statement:

For more than 115 years, Mountain View Lutheran Church has served as a beacon of hope to the surrounding communities, and, yes, to the larger

world. Over that same period, we the people of God, from the past to the present, looking toward a future, have embraced multiple challenges. And now, it is time, yet again, to welcome a new and provocative invitation. As a congregation living into hope—past, present, and future—we believe it is essential to pay down debt, providing ministry opportunities toward the future; to build a long-awaited columbarium; to maintain our existing buildings; and to update and modify the existing Sanctuary space. Together, we accept the challenge of a capital campaign of \$750,000 as a faithful response to the calling of God in each of our lives. Living into hope—past, present, and future—we celebrate together God’s faithfulness and respond to the same with heartfelt gratitude.

Reallocation of \$1,625 benevolence

With University of Washington Campus Ministries not currently existing and transitions to China Partners Network, Pastor John asked that the combined \$1,625 benevolence for these two organizations be reallocated for the fourth quarter of 2019.

It was M/S/P to reallocate \$1,625 intended for UW Campus Ministries and China Partners Network to Bright Stars of Bethlehem, especially due to Pastor John’s increased involvement with Bright Stars.

Friends in Faith small groups

The state of “Friends in Faith” small groups was discussed, including the joy of relationships, opening up conversations (even outside of groups), the possibility of a large group event on a Wednesday evening, and Emily working on a “master list” of small group members.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 14 January 2020 in the Library. Michael Brauhn leads devotions.

Meetings for January through May 2020 were scheduled.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Troy Kehm-Goins
Recording Secretary