



**Congregation Council Minutes**

**October 10, 2016**

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**Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church**

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2016

**Council Members in Attendance:** Joni Barrott, Davis Carmichael, Nona Gram, Karen Grams, Art Gurtel, Ben Johnson, Scott Lester, Pastor McEachran, Kendra Mills, Steve Serex, Debbie Szabo, Ann Thorpe, Mark Thorpe

**Members Excused:** Misty Weber

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Emily Harrow, Susan Hegedus, Will Simpson

The Council met for worship. Pastor McEachran gave a devotional based on Mark 1:16-20. This gospel is based on oral tradition and compiled 40-50 years after the death of Jesus. This passage tells of the calling of the first disciples who were fishermen. Simon and Andrew were casting for fish, much like casting the Word, while James and John were mending. They all immediately took action and followed after hearing Jesus' voice. Pastor spoke of how Pastor Burley heard the call in the church after many years in other careers. He had a "hunch" that he was not moving in the right direction. He may have become a lawyer instead. He then pointed out that the red rose on the altar was one of many this season that outnumbered white roses. Pastor thought of the Council when reading the text, in particular with the casting and mending. Don't worry about the fish. That doesn't matter – our mission is about quality rather than quantity.

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:19 pm by President Scott Lester.

**Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Art Gurtel and seconded by Ann Thorpe. Minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Pastor directed us to the minutes of the Acolyte Order of Saint John. Sydney Holmes was mentoring a new acolyte and reassured them to not worry about making mistakes. No one will notice.

**Conversation on Fall Start-up:**

Art wanted to recognize the orchestra at Sunday's services. Second service was lightly attended. Kendra thought it may be because of special things happening at the first service for the past several weeks. Pastor shared that Nancy thought the quality of the church orchestra is high. At yesterday's first service, the current sixth grade class received their catechisms. Cards went around for the Council members to sign for those students. Pastor



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mentioned that he gauges the growth of a congregation who is in the ABC classes. If he has baptized more than 50%, the church is not growing. Of the ten receiving catechisms, he has only baptized two.

Mark heard that the Adult Education is the best yet. Pastor credited Emily with that. Hope is to bring back Dr. Houglum and Dr. Nienow to lead a few more sessions.

Art recognized that DiscipleFIT is getting traction with many committees moving forward.

### **Updates:**

- Staff Transition Task Force – STTF is now dissolved. Sherry Grindeland is finishing her retail position. Work plan will start tomorrow beginning with new members. She will also go through the current member roster with Pastor. Will invite the Council to have a statistical correction (removing those who no longer attend, particularly young adult children of members).
- Signage Working Group – Bids still coming in, yet coming in under budget. Kurt will oversee the placement of the signage.
- Design Advisory Group – Will have a meeting with Executive Committee in attendance on October 25. Will be looking at the schematics which will be presented to the Council in the coming months. Scott had questions about the finances from Share the Vision particularly what was billed versus the amount authorized.

### **Finance Report:**

Jerry reported that the income is down 20 against the budget. Expenses behind the budget so far this year. 70 Net income is pretty much break even, but now about 12,500 ahead. Some of that is due to a pledge being paid in full a year ahead of time.

Scott asked that someone in Finance make a correction to the variance report regarding the dates.

Major expenses in Building and Property not high. Much of that was earlier in the year. Stewardship may have larger expenses with the commitment program. Photo directory could be about \$5000 (from B&P budget) depending on how it will be published (outside versus in-house).

Pastor passed around an example of an infographic which could be a good model for Saint Andrew's as part of the Stewardship campaign.



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### 2017 Budget Preparation:

Committees are starting to turn in their budgets to Russ Stark. Major budget changes have more to do with staffing changes. Altar Guild and Health and Wholeness Committee tend to be the most fastidious with their budgets. Russ reviews budgets with the program staff. Deadline to turn in budgets is near the end of October.

Art thanked the Finance Committee and Joni as Council representative for all their work. Jerry commended Jan West for all her work on the audit. Her work has been very thorough and would have cost significantly if done by an outside auditor.

### Committee Reports, Actions, and Other Matters:

Scott reiterated the importance of representatives of giving reports as well as reporting back to the committees in which they represent.

- Building and Property – Steve highlighted that the furnace is starting to show cracks which may or may not lead to CO emissions. It will be continued to be monitored. Current measurements are registering at zero. Pastor would like to do a building walk-through with Kurt. Commended the work on the Memorial Garden. Steve mentioned that new vases will be added soon.
- Communications – Ben reported that Susan is working on two websites and we should be extra nice to her. Committee is moving forward on their portion of Stewardship. The logos are well received.
- Discipleship Ministries – Davis reported that the committee discussed upcoming events. Easter breakfast was lower than usual, but thought it was just a fluke. Joyce Kaspar is the new chair.
- Finance – Joni mentioned that committee budgets are to be turned in October
- Health and Wholeness Ministry – Art reported highlights:
  - Discussed discipleFit program. Will have a desktop display of Walk to Wittenberg. Susan will help with a visual tool for the display
  - Flu shots
  - Recognition of health care professionals on October
  - Will assemble personal care kits on October 25
  - Will serve a meal for Congregations for the Homeless.
  - Pastor mentioned the size of the committee.
- Human Resources – Karen reported the committee is continuing look at and revise job descriptions. Looking at how to participate in the Stewardship. Dianne will be working with the youth on creating para-cord bracelets to possible going overseas to those who are deployed. A newly revised HR manual will be coming out in the next few months. Council will be able to look at it at the December meeting.



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- Outreach and Servant Ministries –
  - Ann reported about the Plaster House trying to raise funds to expand their facilities with another location in Southern Tanzania. A spokesperson will be in the area to speak about their program during a luncheon and a dinner. Pastor mentioned that OBA will eventually be shutting down.
  - Congregations for the Homeless welcomed the meals that were brought to them.
  - Pastor gave a brief history of EFP. Over the past few years lack of clear management. City of Bellevue has severed ties. Saint Andrew's will also so the same. SA will now work with Hopelink. Mary Mills hopes to involve an older member who regularly volunteers to create snack packs for those who come in need in food.
- Stewardship – Did not meet. Potluck is on the calendar. Will be checking with some committees to see how they can be involved during Fellowship on Commitment Sunday.
- Worship and Liturgical Arts – Looking at improvements to sanctuary pews and floors.
- EOP Task Force – Pastor reported that Kurt is working with the City of Bellevue on emergency plans.

### Staff Reports/Inputs:

Will is getting ready for Reformation Sunday. Concert series will begin right before Christmas with Bells of the Sound. Emmaus Trio plus one will perform in the spring. Dates to come.

Susan continues to work on photo directory. Can still accommodate those who have not yet had their pictures taken.

Emily shared the Discipleship hour is off to a good start with Adult Ed. Karen Eklof is a support to SCS and ABC staff as well as greeting new students. ABC starts each week with some movement to help wake them up. Teachers gave positive feedback. Looking at mission trip for high school. Looking for two more adult leaders who along with Emily and Nona will decide on the location through CSM. Visayas brought in apples again this year to help raise funds for mission trip. Young adults continue to help with this mission. \$1442 was raised so far. Any remaining apples are donated to Hopelink. This weekend will be the Fire Force retreat with a focus on identity.

### Senior Pastor's Report:

Pastor McEachran shared that he requests Executive Committee to meet at City Hall as he will be reporting. November 5, Allison Parks Siburg will be ordained at Saint Andrew's. Her husband will be commissioned in Poulsbo. He asked the Council to authorize the \$500 from seminarian funds to be used toward the reception of Allison. Joni moved, Karen seconded. Voted on and unanimously approved. Men's shelter hopes to be built in Eastgate in 2019 in conjunction with affordable housing through Imagine Housing. Hearthstone will be celebrating an anniversary. He proposed \$1000 in special opportunities. Ben moved, Karen seconded. Voted on and approved unanimously. Needs someone to work with Susan to update amendments of constitution to be



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presented at the annual meeting. NW WA Synod is looking at a capital campaign. He would like someone from council to take a look at it to provide some feedback. Outreach and Service Ministries has been looking at a LWR mission in Bihar, India. Finance has suggested \$10,000 from Outreach Endowment fund to seed the mission. \$10,000 from memorial and charitable remains funds. Asked the council to authorize the funds. Art moved, Karen seconded. Art asked if this means we are obligated for additional financial support. \$100,000 is the long term commitment over 4-5 years. Finance is aware of the commitment, and by using these funds is a way to start the fund, but future funds will come from the congregation through other means much like other missions in the past. This is not in conjunction with the Stewardship campaign. Ann shared that she has talked to some members who are looking forward to another mission. Steve is asking for accountability from the organization to be sure funds are being used as appropriated. Pastor meeting with leader of the LWR mission. Mark recalled our cash flow problem just a few years ago. We are currently a very good position financially. Art moved as amended that questions be answered about transparency and accountability. Joni seconded. Mark was concerned that the issue is being complicated by asking for accountability of LWR (a national organization), and we would need to wait another month to vote. Pastor shared the council can vote electronically. Voted on amendment to be sure to address accountability. Voted with two nays. Voted on initial motion with one nay. Pastor will communicate with the leader with specific question from Steve. Pastor shared a few sermon summaries. Three things about City of Bellevue. Saint Andrew's has become a regional church where members come from beyond their normal commute such as Ballard, West Seattle, Covington, etc. We have members from each of the 14 Bellevue neighborhoods. Eastgate is becoming strongest economic area of Bellevue which means this area will become much more urban. Visioning plan on how to stay viable in the coming years.

### **New Business:**

Scott will be reconvening the Nominating Committee. Two positions will be open. Two members are able to run again. Dave Holzboog's position currently held by Karen will be open for a two year term.

### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment:**

Pastor McEachran spoke of a homeless man who came service. Susan met him at the dinner for Congregations for the Homeless. Hope to see him in affordable housing eventually. Closed with prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm by President Scott Lester.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be December 12, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nona Gram

Council Secretary