



Congregation Council Minutes

December 12, 2016

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2016

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

Members Excused: Kendra Mills, Ann Thorpe, Misty Weber

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

The Council met for worship. Pastor McEachran gave a devotional based on readings from the first three chapters of Matthew.

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:28 pm by President Scott Lester.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Applause for Davis for taking the notes. A motion to approve was made by Art Gurtel and seconded by Karen Grams. Minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Updates:

- Constitution Updates – Art thanked Ed Short and Susan Hegedus for working with him on a work group to update SALC's Constitution. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly in early 2016 made some required and recommended amendments to the model constitution for congregations. Art directed council members to copies of documents he was using in his discussion. These documents provided the model constitution required and recommended changes made by the churchwide assembly. Art went through the recommended and required changes to be made to SALC's constitution based on the model constitution for congregations as approved by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA. He also discussed the work group's recommendation for each change. This discussion included the specific wording suggested by the work group compared to the recommendations of the Churchwide Assembly. A motion to accept the changes recommended by the work group was made by Karen Grams and seconded by Joni Barrott. Ben asked what mechanism could be used if the congregation did not want to include "required" changes in its constitution. Pastor said that Saint Andrew's is one of few congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod to update their constitution. A constitution provides

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Gather... Encourage... Equip... Send...



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organization/structure for the congregation, helps meet State of Washington laws to be an "incorporated" entity, and assists with its Church affiliation as an interdependent part of the ELCA and the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. Scott indicated that the model constitution for congregations required changes might possibly be considered "highly" recommended. Theoretically, a congregation could vote against "required" changes. However, the synod would probably ask about the congregation's reasons for that vote. Steve asked for clarification on why only 10% of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for a special congregation meeting (see C10.04 in the SALC constitution) rather than a higher percent like 66.7%. Pastor stated that 10% had historically been used. The Council voted on the work group recommendations, unanimously accepted them and recommended that the recommendations be presented to the congregation for consideration and a vote at the Congregation's Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017. Joni asked why the SALC constitution sections on "Christian Education" and "Youth and Family Ministries" were not changed to reflect the new "Discipleship Ministries" committee. Emily responded by indicating that there is currently no description of the new committee to use in making a constitutional change.

- Human Resources/Manual and Reviews – Pastor spoke with Dianne Chong. Manual is still in process. Staff reviews are currently being done.
- Design Advisory Group – There is a hole in the ground for the new sign. We can expect updates in January.
- Nominating Committee – Five positions to fill. A couple high school students are considering the youth representative position.
- Bihar LWR Project – Outreach and Servant Ministry will help to support the project. Talking points will be worked on for the Council to answer any questions. There are 14 congregations involved in the project. This project follows the same pattern of giving as Imagine Housing and the Maasae Girls School.

Finance Report:

Jerry asked for clarification on the commitment of funds to Bihar. It was clarified that the commitment is a buildup much like the commitment to Maasae Girls School.

November was another close to break-even month. The current month's budget was instructed by last December's budget. Jerry has a guess that the end of year income will surpass the expenses.



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2017 Current Fund Budget First Look:

Finance is at the stage of collecting pledges. There are fewer pledges this year compared to the amount at this time last year. The average pledge is drifting down by about 4%. Still unclear whether the number of pledges will catch up to the similar numbers of the past couple years.

Buried in the budget is about \$60,000 as bookkeeping expense rather than an actual expense. ("Insurance" for a large project.)

Pastor commended the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. Jerry mentioned that specialized funds tend to be difficult to track because they are not included in the Current Fund.

Committee Reports, Actions, and Other Matters:

- Building and Property – See minutes. There will be a working party on December 28th. Pastor thought it would be helpful to have Council to do a "walk-about". He commended the committee on the work done in the Memorial Garden to make it more meaningful.
- Communications – Ben reported that the committee communicated well in the minutes.
- Discipleship Ministries – Mark reported that the committee is working on the description for the constitution. They also are working on recruiting a youth representative for Council.
- Finance – report given
- Health and Wholeness Ministry – The committee had their Christmas party yesterday. They collected items for the Baby Corner.
- Human Resources – Karen reported that the kids made around 100 paracord bracelets during Advent Fair.
- Outreach and Servant Ministries – See minutes. Corner of Blessing for this month is boxed cereal and canned fruit. Hopelink does not have service opportunities on Saturdays, but does during the day and occasionally evenings.
- Stewardship – no report
- Worship and Liturgical Arts – no report
- EOP Task Force – no report

Staff Reports/Inputs:

Will mentioned that the Children's choir will be singing during worship on the 18th. Bells of the Sound at will have a concert on the 18th at 4:00. Working on finalizing things for Christmas, and is beginning planning for spring. The Emmaus Trio plus One will be performing in February.



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Susan passed around a preview of the pictorial directory which will go out on Friday along with the directory, the VOICE, an offering envelope, and other information. There is a firm date of January 9th for submissions to the Annual Report. Chad Oftedal researched a new DSLR camera which has now been purchased.

Emily spoke about the different fundraisers coming up. She invited the Council to attend the Chili Cook-off on March 18 to show support of the youth. Holden Youth Weekend will be in May. Many adults have expressed interest, so there is conversation about a family retreat time there on another date. In January there will be a focus on mission during the Discipleship hour. In Lent the focus will be on prayer.

Senior Pastor's Report:

Pastor McEachran shared what the mailing will be like in place of a letter. Giving has been phenomenal. He lives at the intersection of people's lives. He shared three bulletins: one for Donald Tatum's memorial, one for Henry Newsum's Eagle Scout Court of Honor, as well as Sunday's bulletin. He appreciates the opportunity to work with the city of Bellevue. Our building is used by many groups. He hopes that everyone is enjoying the devotional book. Pastor of St. Matthew's in Renton is suggesting doing one for Lent which means adding a couple more pastors.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment:

Pastor closed with a benediction.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm by President Scott Lester.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be January 9, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nona Gram

Council Secretary