



Congregation Council Minutes

Month day, year

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2017

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

Guests: Sherry Grindeland

The Council met for worship. Pastor McEachran's devotional was on readings from Mark, John, and Luke.

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:20pm by President Scott Lester.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Art Gurtel and seconded by Karen Grams. Art rewrote the section regarding the constitution so that it would be clearer, and gave to Nona to correct in the minutes. Susan offered to make copies so everyone would have the opportunity to review that section. Motion to table by Art and seconded by Steve. Motion was voted on and approved.

Pastoral Care Update:

** had a successful surgery. Several others in pastoral care include **. Memorial for Judy Morstad on Friday. Mary Himeline later in the week.

2016 Prayer Partner Reveal

Council shared who they have been praying for over the past year.

Scott commended those who are out-going council members.



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Pastor moved that approval of December minutes are back on the table. Art seconded. Motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Motion to correct section on nominating committee by Steve, seconded by Karen. Voted on and approved.

Karen moved, and Joni seconded to correct section on constitution. Voted on and approved.

Vote to accept minutes as amended. Decision was unanimous.

Closing Out of 2016

- **Advent-Christmas Review**

- ~ Odd to have Christmas fall on Sunday.
- ~ Attendance was lower but still well attended.
- ~ May need to adjust the times of Christmas Eve services.
- ~ Advent devotional was very well received.
- ~ Midweek services not as well attended possibly due to the dark nights
- ~ Bells of the Sound was heavily attended. Many were surprised that the concert was free.
- ~ Art shared that the music for the season was great.

- **Financial Results**

Jerry shared that December once again helped the budget "catch up." The current fund reserves appear as expenses but actually cash on hand. Share the Vision had an approximate 80% pledge return, and is no longer receiving funds with the exception from a few members who probably have it on an automated payment. Jerry shared that Russ has contacted them they no longer need to contribute to that fund.

Mark asked about previous motions concerning the reserve fund. He wondered how we may want to do with the excess. Karen suggested that those additional funds be left alone at this time especially since we may have a major remodel in the future and that we are in a transitional phase. Scott also shared that as a Council we are limited by the constitution to approving spending any funds to 5% of the budget which we have already met at this time to go towards the Bihar mission. Steve shared that he felt it would be beneficial to revisit the finances throughout the year.

Art asked where the value of the pipe organ came from. Is there any reason to have that undervalued?

Jerry shared that the value is important primarily for insurance purposes. He mentioned it is a memorandum to the budget. More of an insurance question rather than finance. Pastor suggested that someone talk to John Nelson who takes care of insurance concerns.



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- **Committee Task Force Review**

Pastor shared that there are 71 members involved in committees. Largest committee is Health and Wholeness.

Council members will receive the information to help inform those they will be liaison for.

- **Parish Roster Review/Statistical Adjustment**

Sherry shared that there were no significant changes. 142 individuals removed from the roster. Pastor shared there are some that have not been removed due to being adult children of members or affiliate members. There are a number of three or four generation members. Still in process of being reviewed with Mary Mills and Russ Stark. Saint Andrew's currently has a baptized membership of about 1400 making it the fifth largest congregation in Washington.

New Member Plan - Sherry shared a handout of a plan. She would love volunteers to be mentors to new members. She has been calling potential members as well as members in order to reach out and getting to know them better. Pastor shared she also invited young adult members for a Friendsgiving dinner at her home.

- **Human Resources**

- Personnel Handbook (Non-Roster) in final review
Staff has had the opportunity to give their input.
- Senior Pastor Review, completed
- Staff Reviews, in process

- **Signage Update/Sound Transit Plan (see map)**

Concrete has been poured for the foundation of the sign.

A map showing the various park and ride options once the South Bellevue Park and Ride closes. Signs are up indicating no parking for Bellevue College. The Mormon Temple will be doing the same for their lots. A question was raised as to what Bellevue College was doing concerning their parking. Pastor shared there is nothing being done on their part.

Setting the Table for 2017

- Reformation 500 at Saint Andrew's

Reformation will be mentioned many times throughout the year. Health and Wholeness Committee is working on a Walk to Wittenberg to begin in June.



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- 2017 Budget Presentation

The proposed budget was presented by Jerry. He talked of how the actual expenses for 2016 were considerably lower than the budget for that year. Non-cash expenses were left out of the budget. The number of pledges has been decreasing over the past few years. The revenue associated with those pledges has also decreased. However, unpledged giving is increasing. Pastor shared that there is a consistent trend of the unpledged giving primarily due to younger members who do not tithe/pledge as the older population has. Motion to accept the budget as presented. Art moved, and seconded by Karen. There have been "place-holders" that were removed. Better to ask for the funds if/when needed rather than putting them in the budget. Question was asked as to why remove and show a significantly lower budget, rather than leave them in to artificially inflate the budget. Scott indicated that it would be important to share with the congregation this budget compared to past budgets to show how strong it is. Kendra talked of how removing some funds from previous staffing may indicate we do not plan on hiring an associate pastor in the future. Mark expressed concerns that this does not have any line item for consultant to help with transitions. Pastor indicated support in adding funds to expense budget for the purpose of a consultant. There were several members who shared that it would be beneficial to have a budget that showed vision. We need to be clear with the congregation on plans for the future. Mark moved to amend the budget to add a line item of \$40,000 for a consultant to facilitate strategic planning and \$40,000 to contributions in order to present a balanced budget of \$903,000. Steve seconded. After considerable discussion voted on the amendment and unanimously approved. Voted on the budget of \$903,000 to be presented at annual meeting was unanimously approved.

- Annual Meeting Projected Plan - January 29, 2017

- Nominating Committee Update

Ten candidates: Stein Dolan, Marshall Erling, Karen Grams, Andy Hogle, Brady Kasper, Roger Koskela, Mike Maland, Jon Thorpe, Vanessa Wilkie, Susan Zantello, and a yet to be determined Youth Representative. Joni Barrott will be on the ballot for Treasurer.

- Quiet Servants

- Constitutional Alignment

- Set up and Clean up Help



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Council Initiatives

- 2017 Synod Assembly - May 20, 2017
 - Salem Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon
- DRAFT Council Position Description including active liaison role
- Design Advisory Group Report
- Council Advance - Working Dinner - February 13, 6:00pm
 - Sharing Work Plan
 - Strategic Plan Introduction and Discussion
 - Leadership Letter to Congregation
- DiscipleFit Theme/Walk to Wittenberg

Senior Pastor's Report:

Pastor McEachran shared the Christmas card from the Mormon temple.

Other Business:

Adjournment with Benediction:

Pastor closed with a benediction.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm by President Scott Lester.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be February 13, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nona Gram

Council Secretary