



Congregation Council Minutes

April 17, 2017

Corrected May 8, 2017

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2017

Council Members in Attendance: Emily Andresen, Joni Barrott, Stein Dolan, Marshall Erling, Karen Grams, Art Gurtel, Ben Johnson, Scott Lester, Pastor McEachran, Steve Serex, Ann Thorpe, Jon Thorpe, Vanessa Wilkie

Members Excused: Misty Weber

Staff Members in Attendance: Susan Hegedus

Staff Members Excused: Sherry Grindeland, Emily Harrow, Will Simpson

Guests: none

Worship: Pastor McEachran led worship around Colossians 3:1-4. Council members reflected and shared devotional words on the text, focusing on what it said to them, what it meant to them, and how it applies to daily living.

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Scott Lester.

Scott Lester thanked the Council for accommodating the change of date for the meeting, and hoped that everyone had a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Ann Thorpe seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously **approved**.

Pastoral Care:

Pastor McEachran reported on people in the congregation who have received pastoral care.



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Staff Reports:

- Staff was excused from the meeting due to the date being a holiday for them.
- The staff was commended for their ministry during Holy Week and Easter. .

Lent-Holy Week-Easter Review:

- Pastor McEachran shared photos of the Easter Cross taken by congregation members.
- The coloring of the Stations of the Cross project during Lent brought a new level of fellowship and a special spirituality opportunity to the congregation.

Finance/Treasurer Report:

- Treasurer Joni Barrott shared that expenses exceeded income during March, and there is also a negative net balance year-to-date (as of March 31.) . Expenses are generally in line with the budget.
- The Finance Committee reviewed the Council's SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis from February 2017. Finance would like to conduct a joint SWOT analysis and dialogue with the Stewardship Committee.
- Scott Lester commended the Finance Report that was in the April 16 bulletin.

Synod Assembly:

- It is one day: Saturday, May 20.
- Retired Pastor Phil Maakestad will attend and be recognized for 50 years of ordained ministry.
- Saint Andrew's can send six delegates plus rostered ministers. Scott Lester and Pastor McEachran are registered. Scott invited those interested in attending to contact him.

Bihar / Lutheran World Relief (LWR):

- Pastor McEachran reported Nicole Hark, LWR's Deputy Regional Director in Asia and the Middle East, and Jon Buuck of LWR will be at Saint Andrew's on April 23 at 4:00 pm to meet with anyone interested in learning more about Bihar, LWR's work in that area, and how the congregations that are involved will partner with LWR.
- Pastor shared profiles of some of the farmers LWR will be working with in Bihar. The profiles and more information can be found at www.lwr.org/bihar.
- Pastor shared that Becca Piel, Marshall Erling and Asha Prasad, Brady and Joyce Kasper, Jean Wahlstrom, and Dick and Debbie Szabo will be involved in leadership roles at Saint Andrew's for this project.

Council Initiatives:

- **Constitutional Updates:** Art Gurtel reported that the Executive Committee has recommended that changes to the Constitution focus on Continuing Resolutions, including adding a new description for



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Discipleship Ministries Committee (and deleting the descriptions for Christian Education and Youth and Family Ministries committees). The Constitution Task Force will meet to discuss changes, consulting with existing committees as necessary.

- **Design Advisory Group (DAG):** DAG chair Lucy Sannes and Dick Swaisgood will meet with Executive Committee on May 1 to discuss the plan for communicating information about the potential building remodel, including a review of the process to this point, the cost estimate, and the next steps.
- **Personnel Handbook for Non-Rostered Employees:** Scott Lester will forward the latest version to Council members for review. Human Resources Committee is also working on defining the committee's standard operating procedures.
- **State of the Congregation Process and Discussion:**
 - Council members were commended for communicating effectively with their committees. It was suggested that each Council meeting end by specifying items that should be communicated to committees.
 - Executive Committee will take the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis and begin to plan next steps, including how to communicate on important items. Staff will be given an opportunity to be involved also.
 - It was suggested that the Council have a session to debrief the SWOT analysis since they have now had time to think and pray about it. Scott Lester will schedule a work session before a Council meeting to do this.
 - The Stewardship Committee is still in need of a chairperson.

Committee Reports, Actions, and Other Matters:

- **Communications:** Stein Dolan reported:
 - The committee discussed video equipment in the Sanctuary to be used for recording and live streaming; it is a future project.
 - Discussed the new website, and whether it will be mostly a refreshed look or have new content.
 - Discussed sources of more community exposure for Saint Andrew's.
- There was a general discussion about standardizing the format of committee minutes, and what information should be included in committee minutes. This is an on-going discussion.
- **Discipleship Ministries:** Emily Andresen reported
 - The committee is planning one or two events for the summer months.
 - Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be jointly held with Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah. Pastor McEachran reported that Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran in Issaquah will also be involved.
 - Fall 2017 focus will be on the anniversary of the Reformation, with potentially a service event and a fellowship event.



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- The congregation has the opportunity to put on a production called "Katie Luther, the Musical." An information meeting is May 7 at 12:15 pm.
- The committee discussed children in worship and how to make families feel more welcome in worship. They discussed creating church bags tailored for different ages of children, and creating "worship notes" cards that contain questions about the church service/year to help engage children.
- The committee's next meeting will include a discussion about preparing 5th graders for entering Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation (ABC).
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- **Outreach and Servant Ministries:** Karen Grams and Ann Thorpe reported
 - Amanda Sherry from Imagine Housing spoke to the committee, offering ideas for congregation involvement in Imagine Housing.
 - The committee is planning to invite speakers from other organizations that Saint Andrew's supports.
 - Hopelink is giving Saint Andrew's more control as to what is collected each month in the Corner of Blessing.
 - The Imagine Housing auction on April 8 raised approximately \$510,000. Imagine Housing offers an educational scholarship to its residents. There were three finalists but only one recipient of the scholarship. The committee authorized awarding the other two finalists scholarships from the Saint Andrew's Imagine Scholarship Fund.
- **Health and Wholeness:** Vanessa Wilkie reported
 - Walk to Wittenberg has 17 teams formed. The kick-off events on April 30 are designed to build enthusiasm for the program. A website is up and running where people can sign up, will be able to report miles, and get other information. .
 - Personal Care Kits: final packing for the spring shipment is May 3 at 10:00 am.
 - Pastor McEachran and the Parish Nurses will visit Timber Ridge (a retirement community in Issaquah where several Saint Andrew's members live) on April 26. Karen Grams will send invitation postcards to Saint Andrew's members who live there.
 - Flu shots have been scheduled for October 8, 2017.
- **Human Resources:** Scott Lester reported
 - A request was made to increase Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindland's hours from 20 to 30 per week. The Executive Committee approved the change. The potential position of Community Care Coordinator is eliminated.



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- **Building and Property:** Steve Serex reported
 - Steve had a question about a recent repair to the heat pump for the Congregations for the Homeless office, and whether the expense was paid from the Current Fund or the Building Fund. Joni Barrott will investigate.
 - Sign on SE 28th Street: Steve reported that the total cost for the sign and landscaping was \$11,000 over anticipated (a \$25,000 gift to the church was designated to fund a portion this project.) A surplus of funds from Sound Transit income covers the overage. Initial suspicions were that concrete expenses exceeded the original budget. There was a discussion on procedures to manage projects, and also a discussion of policies on gifts made to the church. Joni Barrott reported that there is a gift policy, and that the Finance Committee will review it.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor McEachran reported

- The Bellevue City Council will vote tonight (April 17) on whether or not to proceed with the proposed men's shelter at Eastgate.
- The report of the Technical Advisory Group (strategies to increase affordable housing in Bellevue) goes to the Bellevue City Council on April 24.
- Saint Andrew's is receiving the Norm Maleng Award from LifeWire at its gala on May 6.
- He and Pastor Wes Telyea of Our Savior Lutheran in Issaquah will exchange pulpits on April 30. Pastor McEachran will preach and preside at Our Savior; Pastor Telyea will preach and preside at Saint Andrew's.
- There is mutual excitement among Saint Andrew's, Our Savior, and Shepherd of the Hills for the collaboration of Vacation Bible School this summer.

New Business: Scott Lester invited Council members to consider writing the Council article for an issue of *the VOICE* newsletter. Susan Hegedus will add all Council members to an email she sends out to let them know the deadline and publication dates each month.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Meeting was adjourned by President Lester at 9:21 pm.

Pastor McEachran closed with the Benediction.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be May 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hegedus
Council Recording Secretary