



Congregation Council Minutes

August 14, 2017

APPROVED

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2017

Council Members in Attendance: Emily Andresen, Joni Barrott, Marshall Erling, Karen Grams, Art Gurtel, Andy Hogle, Scott Lester, Pastor James McEachran, Steve Serex, Ann Thorpe, Jon Thorpe, Vanessa Wilkie

Members Excused: Stein Dolan, Ben Johnson

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

Staff Members Excused: N/A

Guests: none

Worship:

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words on "The Way" with readings from Acts.

Call to Order/Introductory Words:

The regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:21 pm by President Scott Lester.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the July 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Art Gurtel **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Karen Grams seconded. Minutes were unanimously **approved as submitted**.

Pastoral Care Update:

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

Senior Pastor's Update: Pastor McEachran reported

- Pastor McEachran shared that this summer has been busy with lots of congregational activity. Vacation Bible School (VBS) attendance was lower than in past years. Pastor encouraged the Discipleship Ministries committee to explore a full-day VBS option. He noted that the VBS collaboration



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between Saint Andrew's, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah, and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Issaquah was very successful.

- Pastor noted that there is no decrease in building use in the summer months.
- Pastor commended the congregation staff and noted that they are engaged in fall planning. A fall packet of information will be mailed to the congregation on August 25. There are many cross-generational activities to note.

Staff Updates:

- Director of Discipleship Ministries Emily Harrow reported
 - Emily reported on her experience of the Chicago Mission Trip. The Team led a Vacation Bible School (VBS) at a homeless shelter. She commended the students on the trip for adapting their VBS plans to accommodate a varying number of attendees each day. Emily shared other experiences of the Team, such as a prayer tour in the city and interactions with the people in Chicago. She encouraged everyone to attend worship and fellowship hour on Mission Trip Sunday, August 20.
 - Emily updated her plans for continuation of ministry while she is on maternity leave. She is working to finalize volunteers and staff who will be responsible for every aspect of ministry while she is on leave; almost all positions have been filled. She anticipates returning to work just before or just after Christmas.
 - Pastor McEachran and the Council commended Emily for her leadership of the Mission Trip.
 - Emily reported that options for the 2018 High School Mission Trip have been identified: attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, serving the Blackfeet Nation in Montana with YouthWorks, or serving at "Champ Camp" with Camp Lutherwood in Idaho.
- Director of Music Ministries Will Simpson reported
 - *Katie Luther, the Musical* will be led by Pastor Sara Yoos, with participants in the musical being from Saint Andrew's. Rehearsals begin in September.
 - Will noted that fall plans are in place for music, including schedules for contemporary music, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and orchestra.
 - Members of Saint Andrew's will be participating in the concert given by the National Lutheran Choir on September 29. Will encouraged the Council to attend, and noted that the offering received at the concert will go to Imagine Housing and Compass Housing Alliance.
- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland reported
 - The Dorcas Circle/KnitWits (Knitting as Witnesses) closet has been re-organized and Sherry encouraged the Council to take a look.
 - She encouraged the Council to attend the Wednesday evening supper and worship on August 16.



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- Sherry is finalizing plans for the All-Church Retreat. Thirty people are attending, ranging from age 1 to age 80+.
- She is planning the Older Wiser Lutheran Saints (O.W.L.S.) programs for the fall. November's program presenter is Clarence Moriwaki, who will speak about the Japanese internment during World War II, and Sherry is planning to open this event to the community. October's program will be by Richard Anderson of the Northwest Railway Museum.
- Sherry invited everyone to Dr. Samuel Torvend's presentation on October 21, based on his book "*Luther and the Hungry Poor.*"
- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus reported
 - She will be working on materials for the Fall Mailing Packet: *the VOICE* newsletter, an updated congregation directory, and a calendar card.
 - She is also designing a brochure for the fall Men's Retreat.

Fall Planning Update:

Pastor McEachran commended Emily Harrow for her planning for continuation of ministry during her upcoming maternity leave.

Council Initiatives:

- **Design Advisory Group (DAG):** Scott Lester reported that DAG is defining the specific message for its communication to the congregation: what the remodel design looks like and how it benefits ministry. How the remodel benefits ministry will be a thematic focus. Scott distributed a draft of a potential booklet that could be used as an overview of the project, but emphasized that it is only a communications proposal. DAG's intent is to begin increasing communications to the congregation at the beginning of September.
- **Joshua/Kairos Update/Leadership Team:** Scott Lester reported
 - The contract for the Joshua Process has been signed.
 - A Leadership Team from Saint Andrew's will be formed soon.
 - An initial meeting (via video conference) with Kairos is on August 21.
 - Jim Weckworth of the Joshua Group will be at Saint Andrew's on September 6 and 7 for meetings with staff, leadership, and the Council. Scott will distribute details via email.
- **Drop Box/Cloud Storage:** Scott Lester will explore options with the Communications Committee. There was discussion of options, purpose, and needs.
- **Constitutional Updates:** Art Gurtel reported
 - Art reviewed that he had requested all committees to examine their Constitutional descriptions. Eight of nine committees have responded. Seven committees have submitted revisions to their descriptions. One committee is in the process of reviewing its description. The Discipleship



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- Ministries Committee had recently completed their update. Committee descriptions are Continuing Resolutions and can be approved by the Council.
- Building and Property Committee has completed its work, including proposals on disbanding the Memorial Garden Committee (with Building and Property absorbing its tasks), and the formation of a Kitchen Committee (they recommend working with a group of volunteers instead of forming a new committee.)
 - The Finance Committee is in the process of reviewing the description for the Audit Committee.
 - The next step will be for the Constitution Task Force to meet and:
 - Review its Constitution Task Force description.
 - Review the committees' proposed descriptions.
 - Consider recommendation to delete "Shared Ministry Committee" from the Constitution.
 - Consider recommended "other changes" to the Constitution's "Continuing Resolutions" which are minor changes/"word-smithing".
 - After the Constitution Task Force completes its work, the revisions will be proposed to the Council.
 - Art reviewed other potential future edits to by-laws and Constitution sections that would require approval by the congregation.
 - Art noted that this work is important because it brings our ministry definitions up to date, especially as we enter work of transition planning; it has helped committees define how they fit into the vision and mission of Saint Andrew's; and that it may help recruit new members to committees.

Finance/Treasurer Report: Treasurer Joni Barrott reported

- July had a negative cash flow. Expenses were over budget due to the initial payment made to Kairos and Associates.
- The second quarter contribution statements have been distributed.
- Overall year-to-date, our net balance is better than the budgeted.
- Pastor McEachran noted that "above and beyond" giving to specific appeals is strong, and that our reserve funds are also strong. Pastor commended Accounting Assistant Russ Stark for his diligence and quality of work.

Committee/Council Liaison Updates:

- **Building and Property:** Steve Serex noted that the committee is in need of a new chairperson. The carpets in the building have all been cleaned.



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Other/New Business:

- Pastor McEachran commended the quality of the summer worship music. He shared that guest pastors have complimented the congregation for its music and cross-generational energy.
- Scott Lester noted that current leadership needs are for a new chairperson for the Stewardship Committee, and a communications leader for the Design Advisory Group.

Work Plan Commitments of Council:

Scott Lester noted that Talking Point items were sent to Council members in June 2017.

Adjournment and Benediction:

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 8:21 pm.

Pastor McEachran closed with a story and prayer.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is September 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hegedus
Council Recording Secretary