



**Congregation Council Minutes**

**December 11, 2017**

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APPROVED

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

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2017

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

**Members Excused:** Marshall Erling

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

**Staff Members Excused:** Emily Harrow

**Guests:** none

**Worship:**

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words on Luke 1:39-56.

**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 October 9, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Art Gurtel **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Karen Grams seconded. Corrections made. Minutes were unanimously **approved as corrected**. Note that the November 13, 2017 Congregation Council meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Pastoral Care Update:**

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

**Senior Pastor's Update: Pastor McEachran reported**

- Pastor commended the staff on collaboration in the worship planning process.
- Pastor commended worship on December 10 (and the music shared by the Chancel Choir) and the "Hands and Heart" outreach activities during Discipleship Hour.
- Pastor noted that over ten (10) outreach giving opportunities are available in the Narthex, and all requests have been fulfilled or nearly fulfilled.



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- The Emergency Shed is complete and nearly stocked.
- Pastor shared a story of a recent visit from a Pastor of a local Korean church. The Pastor of the Korean church shared that Brazilian missionaries affiliated with his church are serving in North Korea. Pastor McEachran gave the Pastor of the Korean church a bag of wooden crosses with the intent that they will be distributed by Brazilian missionaries in North Korea.

### Staff Updates:

- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland reported
  - Events and Activities:
    - The October 24 O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutheran Saints) program featured speaker Richard Anderson, Executive Director of the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie. The November 21 program is Clarence Moriwaka, who will speak on how Japanese Americans were treated during World War II.
    - The program on October 21 by Dr. Samuel Torvend
    - Reformation Sunday fellowship on October 29.
    - Game Night for Sheep and Shepherds families (families with children age birth through grade 5) on November 12.
    - Fire Force (grades 6-8) Lock In on October 13-14.
    - God Squad (grades 9-12) Lock In is December 1-2.
    - The Advent Fair is November 26.
    - Advent Mid-week soup suppers and worship are December 6, 13, and 20.
  - Sherry has enjoyed reading worship service summaries by Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation students. She has been reviewing these during Emily Harrow's family leave.
  - Receiving new members is planned for January 2018.
  - Forty (40) people have signed up to go to Holden Village July 15-20, 2018.
  - Sherry is coordinating the Children's Christmas Program on December 17.
  - Sherry informed the Council that she has a supply of non-perishable food in her office. It is available for anyone to give to a person coming to the church in need of food.
  - Sherry has obtained a Food Handler's Permit, keeping Saint Andrew's in compliance with health regulations.
  - Pastor McEachran commended Sherry for her coverage of Discipleship Ministries activities during Emily Harrow's family leave.
- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus reported
  - Input for the 2017 Annual Report will be due January 8. Susan will send emails to all committee chairs and leaders of groups to request input, and will copy Council liaisons on the emails.



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- Director of Music Ministries Dr. Will Simpson reported
  - Will commended the Chancel Choir for their singing during worship on December 10.
  - Will invited everyone to the Bells of the Sound concert at Saint Andrew's on December 17.
  - He is preparing for Christmas worship services.
  - Art Gurtel commended Will for *The Emmaus Trio* concert on December 2.

### Synod Engagement – Synod Capital Campaign – “Because of You”:

Scott Lester reported that the “Because of You” campaign’s goal is to provide support for seminarians, missions, and ministries. Pastor McEachran recommended that the 2018 Council consider possible support.

### Synod Gathering – June 2, 2018:

In 2018, the Synod is holding two nearly-identical gatherings instead of one Synod Assembly. One gathering is at Saint Andrew's on June 2, 2018. About 275 people are expected to attend.

### Eastside Pathways:

- Pastor McEachran reported that Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) has vacated its office space at Saint Andrew's.
- The availability of the space was circulated among non-profit organizations on the Eastside, particularly to organizations with which Saint Andrew's has an existing relationship.
- Eastside Pathways submitted a proposal to rent the space.
- It was noted that mission of Eastside Pathways satisfies Outreach and Servant Ministries' core value of “Education.”
- The Executive Committee approved forwarding the proposal from Eastside Pathways to the Council for approval.
- Stein Dolan **moved to offer office space to Eastside Pathways**. Art Gurtel seconded. Discussion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

### Council Initiatives:

- **Pathways to Renewal**
  - **Ministry -**
    - Scott Lester reviewed the Joshua Process, including approval of contracting with the Joshua Group, the surveys, the listening interviews, and the external listening session on November 19.



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- Scott reported that the Council has been given the Joshua Group's summary report, full report, and a Gantt chart.
- The Council will have an in-depth discussion on the Joshua Group's reports at the January 8 meeting.
- Council members shared their initial reflections on the reports and the December 5 presentation of findings.
- The Council discussed communications to the congregation.
- The Council will meet on January 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm, and also on January 17, 2018 at 6:00 pm for in-depth discussions that will result in a report to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018.
- Karen Grams **moved to acknowledge receipt of the Joshua Group Report, Recommendations, and Travel Plan for Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, dated December 2017, and to move ahead to consider the Joshua Group's recommendations, and Saint Andrew's approach to the recommendations.** Vanessa Wilkie seconded. The motion was unanimously **approved**.
- **Building** – Art Gurtel reported
  - The Building Remodel Team is focused on communicating, educating, and informing the congregation about the potential remodel. The two primary approaches being used are
    - Displays and information in Room 212, the "Pathways Hub." Showcasing of the Pathways Hub began October 29. Comment forms are available in the Pathways Hub for the congregation to use to submit feedback and questions.
    - A webpage dedicated to information about the building remodel. The webpage development is in progress. The Building Remodel Team has made suggestions for the webpage content.
  - The Building Remodel Team has reviewed suggestions and input received via the comment forms (13 received so far). They will work to develop a report to respond to questions and concerns received, and also to report how the building remodel relates to mission.

### Stewardship Plan/Commitment Sunday Review:

Stewardship Sunday on November 19 went well. Scott Lester encouraged the Council to share the message of the importance of pledging to be able to form an accurate budget.



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### **Nominating Committee:**

Scott Lester reported that the work of the Nominating Committee is progressing well. Their goal is to secure twelve (12) candidates to run for the six (6) open Council positions.

**Constitutional Updates:** No report.

**Stewardship Committee Spirit Brainstorm Event:** Scott Lester shared that the Stewardship Committee may have a new structure in 2018 due to the lack of a chair for the committee.

**Finance/Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Joni Barrott reported

- There was a negative cash flow in November of \$7,778. There is a negative cash flow year-to-date of \$57,716.
- Contributions are lower than budgeted.
- Pledge update: 138 pledges totaling \$531,000 have been received for 2018. At this time last year, 145 pledges totaling \$556,000 had been received.
- Joni included a report on use of the Share the Vision! Be the Life! Mission and Ministry Campaign funds in the November Council packet. She encouraged Council members to review that report and forward any questions to her.
- 2018 Current Fund Budget: It is planned to discuss the 2018 Current Fund budget with the congregation during two Discipleship Hour sessions in January 2018. One session would focus on the Outreach and Servant Ministries budget, and one session would be a general budget discussion.

### **Committee/Council Liaison Updates:**

There is a suggestion from Worship and Liturgical Arts Committee to have a gathering of all committee chairs to share ideas, collaborate, and create opportunities. This idea will be considered in 2018. For full committee reports, refer to the November 2017 Council Packet.

### **Adjournment and Benediction:**

Pastor McEachran closed with a benediction.

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 9:39 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is January 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hegedus, Council Recording Secretary