



**Congregation Council Minutes**

**March 12, 2018**

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APPROVED

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

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2018

**Council Members in Attendance:** Stein Dolan, Marshall Erling, Rebeka Gordon, Karen Grams, Art Gurtel, Ben Johnson, Pastor James McEachran, Jill Nichols-Hicks, Dick Swaisgood, Dick Szabo, Ann Thorpe, Jean Wahlstrom, Vanessa Wilkie

**Members Excused:** Scott Lester

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

**Staff Members Excused:** n/a

**Guests:** Finance Chair Brady Kasper

**Devotion:**

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words on 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13.

**Call to Order/Introductory Words:**

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

**Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes from the February 10, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Stein Dolan **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Dick Swaisgood seconded. Minutes were unanimously **approved as submitted**.



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### Finance Report: Finance Chair Brady Kasper

- Income was less than expenses in February 2018, which was expected. Year-to-date cash flow is approximately **-\$10,000**, which is better than the **-\$17,000** budgeted, partially due to the timing of a payment to the Joshua Group.
- Finance Committee has been discussing long-range income and giving levels to prepare for potential discussions of a possible capital campaign.

### Landscape Bid Request

- Facilities Manager Kurt Lutterman reviewed a proposal for landscape enhancements of the area along 148th Avenue SE and also the area by Suite 216 (occupied by Eastside Pathways). A bid has been received from Jefferson Landscaping for the work. A map of the proposed area of work is attached to the original of these minutes. The cost would be approximately \$8400 plus tax, and the goal would be to have the work completed by June 2 (the date of the Northwest Washington Synod Gathering, to be held at Saint Andrew's.). The Building and Property Committee recommends using funds from the Building Fund for this project.
- Ben Johnson **moved to approve up to \$10,000 for landscape improvements, to be paid from the Building Fund (Fund #02)**. Dick Szabo seconded. Discussion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

### Staff Updates

- Art Gurtel thanked all of the staff for the work they do for the congregation, and encouraged them to consider what the Council can do to support them.
- Facilities Manager Kurt Lutterman
  - A volunteer from the congregation has helped complete about 30 facilities tasks.
  - Kurt is near completion of the preparations outlined in the Emergency Operations Plan.
  - Kurt's focus for the coming weeks will be cleaning and sprucing up the building and grounds before Easter.
- Director of Music Ministries Dr. Will Simpson
  - Preparations are nearly complete for Holy Week and Easter music and worship services.
  - Will commented that Lenten Mid-week worship has been well received.
  - Performing Arts Festival/Eastside will be held at Saint Andrew's the week following Easter. Approximately 1000 people will come through the building during the week (music students, families, adjudicators, volunteers). This is a positive event and creates good visibility for Saint Andrew's.
  - The orchestra will play during worship on April 29.



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- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus
  - The Communications Committee has been working to re-format bulletin announcements. Susan anticipates the new format to begin either April 1 (Easter Sunday) or April 8.
  - Video recordings of Discipleship Hour classes have been well-received, and presenters have been gracious in giving permission to record the classes.
  - Saint Andrew's now has a new style of pen.
- Director of Discipleship Ministries Emily Harrow
  - Emily thanked Council members who donated items for the Chili Cook-off and Auction. This event raised \$1562 for the High School Summer Mission Team. The fundraising goal was \$4000. Attendance at the Chili Cook-off was about 40 people, down from 80 people in 2017.
  - Six high school students are on the Mission Team. The trip is to the Blackfeet Nation in Montana in July. The emphasis is on learning and serving the Blackfeet community.
  - Plans have been made to use \$16,000 of the Youth Fund. These funds have accumulated over the past few years through budgeted contributions and the generosity of the congregation. Approximately \$2000 will be set aside for mission trips and scholarship support; \$1000-\$2000 will be used to take youth shopping for items to donate to organizations that serve children and that Saint Andrew's has a relationship with, such as Eastside Baby Corner, Hopelink, etc.; and the balance of the funds will be used to buy new furniture and furnishings for the Youth Room. Emily noted that the Youth Room is used by outside groups as well as Saint Andrew's youth.
  - Emily encouraged the Council to support the congregation youth in its fundraisers (Easter breakfast and Envelopes are coming up). Emily also encouraged the Council to pray for our youth.
  - Pastor McEachran commended Emily for her work and for her support of our youth.
- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland
  - The Older Wiser Lutheran Saints programs for the first months of 2018 have been well received. Saint Andrew's member Kit Bowerman spoke in January about his career as a veterinarian. Donna Oiland spoke in February about humor. On March 20, Saint Andrew's member Brent Hicks will speak about archeology in our area and in Washington State.
  - Seven women from Saint Andrew's attended the Women's Retreat organized by Our Savior Lutheran Church on March 2-4 and enjoyed themselves.
  - Forty-four people are registered for the congregation Holden Village trip in July.



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- New members have been received in February and March: Trudi Gertis, Nick and Amanda Brender and children Opal and Walter, Anna McLeod and daughter Ella, and Leslie Johnson and son William.
- Lenten Soup Suppers have averaged about 35 people. Sherry noted that Soup Suppers will now begin at 6:00 pm to give those who are serving time to clear dishes and clean up before worship begins. The Council will serve soup on March 21, and Sherry circulated a sign-up sheet to help.
- The Somerset Women, a group who helped found paramedic services in Bellevue and a group who is honored by the Bellevue Fire Department each year at an event held at Saint Andrew's, will hold a Bridge tournament at Saint Andrew's later this year. Sherry noted that this is an extension to our outreach to the community.

### **Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor James McEachran**

- Pastor McEachran expressed appreciation of the ministry team and Pastor Mary-Alyce Burleigh for coverage of worship and of Discipleship Hour classes when he was ill on March 11.
- Pastor encouraged the Council to contribute to the Chili Cook-off and Auction with a cash donation and circulated an envelope for contributions.
- Pastor noted many ways that members and visitors are met and served at points of need, both on Sundays and during the week.
- Eastside Pathways has moved into their offices (Suite 216). This organization supports children from "birth to career".
- Pastor shared observations about ways that fellowship and teaching happens around the Lenten coloring posters in the Narthex.
- Pastor continues to enjoy his work on committees with the City of Bellevue.

### **Committee Liaison Appointments/Updates: Vice President Art Gurtel**

- Initial committee liaison assignments have been distributed via email.
- In addition to an assigned committee, all Council members are encouraged to visit other committees on a rotating basis. Ben Johnson has created a Wiki to assist Council members in signing up to attend committee meetings. Ben will send instructions to the Council on how to access and use the Wiki.



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### Council Initiatives

- Vision: Dick Szabo
  - The Vision Team has met and believes that work on this initiative can and should begin immediately.
  - Dick Szabo moved to **accept and adopt Waypoint #2 – “Vision” of the Recommendations of the Joshua Group and begin the visioning process.** Ann Thorpe seconded. Discussion. It was noted that the scope of work does not need to be limited to the recommendations of the Joshua Group. The motion was unanimously **approved.**
- Discipleship: no report.
- Stewardship: no report.
- Building: no report.

### Leadership Transition Team Update: Vice President Art Gurtel

- Art Gurtel reviewed the progress of the Leadership Transition Team. A copy of Art's report is attached to the original of these minutes.
- Art distributed “Talking Points for Council” to aid Council members in discussions they may have with congregation members. A copy of the “Talking Points” is attached to the original of these minutes.
- Pastor McEachran encouraged the Council to pray for and trust the Leadership Transition Team in their work.
- Jean Wahlstrom and Pastor McEachran both commended the work of the Leadership Transition Team.

### Purpose Mapping Team Appreciation: Vice President Art Gurtel

- The Joshua Process in 2017 included a membership assessment profile survey, a leadership systems inventory survey, developing a generosity index, conducting internal listening interviews, and feedback of external organizations. The Purpose Mapping Team was formed to facilitate this work with the Joshua Group.
- Members of the Purpose Mapping Team were Bill Brueggemann, Brent Hicks, John Andresen, Dana Nasby, Jessica Allen, Lois Nelson, and Steve Gustafson.
- President Scott Lester has communicated with the team, formally dissolving the Team and thanking the members for their work. The Council also acknowledges and thanks the Team members.



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### **Constitutional Updates:** Vice President Art Gurtel

Pastor McEachran **moved to postpone the report on Constitutional updates.** Ann Thorpe seconded. Art Gurtel noted that discussions have begun to examine the election process for Council members. The motion was unanimously **approved.**

### **June 2 - Synod Gathering at Saint Andrew's:** Pastor James McEachran

Approximately 250 people are expected to attend. The Saint Andrew's Reception Team is assisting the Synod's hospitality committee to provide hospitality support for the event.

### **Other/New Business:**

- Ben Johnson shared photos and video he has taken of Saint Andrew's with a drone camera.
- Ben shared that development of a new Saint Andrew's website continues, and he recommends migrating to the new site as soon as possible.

### **Adjournment and Prayer:**

Pastor McEachran closed with thoughts on "Agape" – unconditional love; "Pistis" – confident trust; and "Koinonia" – fellowship, and a benediction.

Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Art Gurtel at 9:10 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is April 9, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hegedus  
Council Recording Secretary