



Congregation Council Minutes

June 11, 2018

APPROVED

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2018

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

Members Excused: n/a

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

Staff Members Excused: Will Simpson

Guests: none

Devotion:

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words based on 2 Corinthians 9:1-15.

Call to Order/Introductory Words:

- The June 11, 2018 regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:21 pm by President Scott Lester.
- The Council signed cards for the confirmands who affirmed their Baptism on June 3.
- President Lester thanked those who attended the Semi-Annual Congregation meeting on June 10. He thanked Sherry and David Grindeland for hospitality support. He noted that committee reports given at the meeting were appreciated.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the May 14, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted.** Dick Swaisgood seconded. Minutes were unanimously **approved as submitted.**



Congregation Council Minutes

June 11, 2018

Staff Updates

- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland
 - Sherry thanked the Council for providing cookies for the Semi-Annual Congregation meeting, and thanked the committees for hosting fellowship during the summer months.
 - The "Owlet" Adventure scheduled for June 19 is a "Mass Transit Tutorial" led by Dick Swaisgood. It is open to all ages.
 - The congregation trip to Holden Village in July can accommodate two more people.
 - Seventeen people are signed up for the All Church Retreat in August.
 - Sherry has been contacting prospective members.
 - Sherry has been working to update guidelines for Sunday servers (ushers, greeters, lectors, coffee hosts.)
 - Sherry is going through the procedure to be certified to drive the church van.
- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus

The next issue of *the VOICE* newsletter is a two-month July and August issue. The deadline to submit items is June 18.
- Director of Discipleship Ministries Emily Harrow
 - Emily continues to work with the Discipleship Ministries Committee to ensure smooth continuity of ministry after she leaves Saint Andrew's at the end of June. She is organizing files and preparing written notes.
 - Emily encouraged the Council to consider filling the position of Director of Discipleship Ministries fairly quickly to ensure program continuity, a smooth transition to the new format of the Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation program, and to help the youth maintain relationships they have built with each other.
 - The Sock Samurai game night on June 10 was a wonderful final youth event for Emily. Approximately 25 youth and young adults attended.
 - David Wilcox and Sherry Grindeland are the adult leaders for the God Squad Mission trip to Montana, where the Team will learn from and serve with the Blackfeet Nation.
 - Emily thanked the Council for their support, and the opportunity and privilege to serve at Saint Andrew's for the past 8 ½ years.
 - Pastor McEachran commended Emily for her years of service. The Council thanked her with applause.



Congregation Council Minutes

June 11, 2018

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor James McEachran

- Pastor shared thoughts on the words:
 - Vitality: of renewal; the faith statements of confirmands; "Growing Forward" theme for the next few weeks in worship.
 - Reality: of demographics, age, and attendance patterns
 - Totality: of mission
 - Challenge: talk about the congregation, its activities, mission, and impact.
- Pastor encouraged boldness and collaboration to work together out of mission for our shared purpose in Christ.

Finance Report: Treasurer Joni Barrott

- Income in May 2018 was less than forecasted.
- Giving via text message is a new method of donating to Saint Andrew's.
 - Joni thanked the Stewardship Committee for suggesting it.
 - The cost for implementing text message giving is \$5 per month plus current credit card fees.
- "Lattes for the Lord" donations total \$505: \$350 via checks/cash; \$155 via text message. It was noted that the funds will help Hopelink purchase healthy food that they normally provide to their clients.
- In the July Council Packet, Joni will include a "Churchgoer Giving Study" done by Vanco Payment Solutions about attitudes, preferences and behaviors of churchgoers toward giving. Vanco is Saint Andrew's online payment processor.

Acceptance of New Confirmed Members: President Scott Lester

Art Gurtel **moved to accept Isabella Praha Clarke, Seeley Oecille Lester, Jeffrey Alexander Stedman, and Jacob Thomas Wilkes as confirmed members of the congregation.** Dick Swaisgood seconded. The motion was **approved unanimously.**

Saint Andrew's Constitution Work Update: Vice President Art Gurtel

- Bylaw Changes: Art reported that the May 27 discussion on the Bylaw changes for congregation members was well attended, with good questions and discussion. The updated Constitution, with the Bylaw changes approved at the Semi-Annual Meeting incorporated, will be sent to the Northwest Washington Synod.
- Committee Duties/Responsibilities Update: All committees have submitted revisions to their Constitution duties/responsibilities description. These revisions will be considered by the Executive Committee, and then proposed to the Council.



Congregation Council Minutes

June 11, 2018

Director of Discipleship Ministries Plan: President Scott Lester

- The Council discussed staffing plans for Discipleship Ministries.
- Emily Harrow has prepared an updated job description for the Director of Discipleship Ministries position. She has also identified the key needs of Discipleship Ministries.

Listening Event for Expenditures over \$10,000: President Scott Lester

- There was a suggestion from a congregation member to have "listening posts" (information sessions) about proposed expenditures that total over \$10,000.
- Treasurer Joni Barrott reported that currently the Council approves line items that go over budget. The Saint Andrew's Constitution gives authority to the Council to approve expenditures of up to 5% of the Annual Current Fund budget.
- The Council discussed the suggestion.

Sound System Proposal: President Scott Lester

- An updated quote is needed from Morgan Sound.
- Morgan Sound will be at Saint Andrew's on June 19 to answer questions and discuss details of proposed work. Council members are invited to attend or submit questions to Dick Szabo, Will Simpson, Sharon Gurtel, or Kurt Lutterman.

Council Initiatives: President Scott Lester

- Vision: Dick Szabo
 - There are two congregation visioning workshops scheduled: for July 13 and July 14. The Joshua Group will help facilitate these workshops.
 - Additional workshops will be scheduled in the future. The Council is encouraged to participate in all workshops and invite others to participate.
 - Dick Szabo encouraged willingness to engage in chaos, to explore possibilities, to explore outside perspectives, to change, to discuss honestly good and bad, to look back and into the future, and to listen.
 - The process and wording of a vision will come in steps, each coming to Council for review.
- Discipleship: no report.



Congregation Council Minutes

June 11, 2018

- Building: Dick Swaisgood
 - Dick Swaisgood will contact VIA Architecture with updates on the latest developments from the congregation. He encouraged scheduling a presentation by VIA Architecture to the congregation.
 - Treasurer Joni Barrott reported that the Finance Committee is evaluating the congregation's borrowing capacity.
- Stewardship: no report.
- Communication: President Scott Lester
 - Scott encouraged expanding the narrative for the Initiatives via *the VOICE* newsletter. Dick Szabo will write an article about the Vision Initiative for the July and August issue. Dick Swaisgood will write an article about the Building Initiative for the September issue. Karen Grams will write an article about the Stewardship Initiative for the October issue. Ben Johnson will write an article about the Building Initiative for the November issue.
 - A message to go with the quarterly contribution statements is planned.

Committee Updates: President Scott Lester

- Scott thanked the Council members for their quality of communication as committee liaisons.
- Art Gurtel commended the collaborative work among committees.
- Other committee reports were distributed via the Council packet.

Other/New Business:

None.

Adjournment and Prayer:

Pastor McEachran closed with prayer.

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 9:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hegedus
Council Recording Secretary