



Congregation Council Minutes

September 10, 2018

APPROVED

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2018

Council Members in Attendance: Rebeka Gordon, Karen Grams, Art Gurtel, Ben Johnson, Scott Lester, Pastor James McEachran, Jill Nichols-Hicks, Dick Swaisgood, Dick Szabo, Ann Thorpe, Jean Wahlstrom

Members Excused: Stein Dolan, Marshall Erling, Vanessa Wilkie, Treasurer Joni Barrott

Staff Members in Attendance: Sherry Grindeland, Susan Hegedus, Pastor Drew Yoos

Staff Members Excused: Will Simpson

Guests: none

Worship:

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words based on Acts 1:6-14.

Call to Order/Introductory Words:

- The September 10, 2018 regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:17 pm by President Scott Lester.
- President Lester distributed a draft of "Council Map Moving Forward" (copy attached to the original of these minutes) for Council members to use as a resource for information. Scott invited Council members to provide him with feedback. A final version of this document will be published in the October 2018 issue of *the VOICE* newsletter.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the August 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Art Gurtel seconded. Minutes were **approved as submitted** with zero "nays" and one abstention.



Congregation Council Minutes

September 10, 2018

Staff Updates

- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland
 - The "Owlet" Adventure on August 14 to visit the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial and the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum was well received. The group heard two very interesting speakers who had been in internment camps during World War II.
 - Twenty people attended the All Church Retreat to Mt. Rainier National Park August 17-19 and enjoyed good food, fellowship, and worship.
 - Sherry praised the students who presented their reflections about the high school mission trip on Mission Trip Sunday, August 26.
 - The O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutheran Saints) programs for the next few months have been planned. The September 18 program will feature Saint Andrew's member Marvin Kananen talking about book writing and publishing.
 - Sherry is working on recruiting additional volunteers to be Sunday servers (greeters, lectors, ushers, and coffee hosts.)
- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus

The demonstration of the new website to the congregation on September 9 went well. Susan will work with Ben Johnson (whose company has hosted the development platform of the new website) and Facilities Manager Kurt Lutterman to implement the new site.
- Interim Director of Discipleship Ministries Pastor Drew Yoos
 - Pastor Drew thanked former Director of Discipleship Ministries Emily Harrow for leaving helpful notes about the job.
 - Pastor Drew continues to seek additional volunteers to be Sunday morning teachers, mentors, and volunteers. Teachers are especially needed for 2-and-3-year-old class and for the high school (CrossWalk) class. Additional mentors for Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation are needed.
 - Plans are in progress for the Fire Force (grades 6-8) Fall Retreat, scheduled for October.
 - Pastor Drew is planning a service event for God Squad (grades 9-12) in November
 - Pastor Drew is beginning to plan for the 2019 Summer God Squad Mission Trip.
 - Pastor Drew has introduced a new resource, "Faith Five", to Faith Stepping Stones coordinators Lois Nelson and Kari Henderson. This resource provides tools for integrating faith into the home/family.
 - Pastor Drew has enjoyed participating in worship, and enjoyed meeting youth through "Hang Out with Pastor Drew" events.



Congregation Council Minutes

September 10, 2018

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor James McEachran

- Pastor McEachran reported on those receiving pastoral care.
- Pastor enjoyed visiting various classes and groups on September 9 during Discipleship Hour, and shared what the KnitWits (Knitting as Witnesses) current projects are.
- Pastor shared a list of potential new members and encouraged Council members to connect with the people on the list.
- An initial review of the membership roster has begun. A membership roster adjustment is planned for later in 2018.
- Pastor noted the rich participation in the life of the congregation:
 - "Lattes for the Lord" had approximately 40 households participate. Text giving was successful and he encouraged the Finance Committee to consider future uses for text giving.
 - Pastor shared observations of the ways people mentor others in the congregation.
- Pastor encouraged the Council to be a presence and resource in the Narthex on Sundays for conversation and questions. He encouraged the use of Room 212 as a conversation space.
- The recipe for Luther Bread (used for the Eucharist) was distributed by Jill Nichols-Hicks. Council members were encouraged to bake bread.
- Pastor shared a selection of lanyards, reminding the Council that he welcomes lanyards from the colleges that students attend and that he prays for the students, especially in their first year.
- Pastor commended Pastor Drew Yoos for his work as Interim Director of Discipleship Ministries.

Finance Report: Finance Committee Council Liaison Dick Szabo

- Aided by three gifts that satisfied the givers' yearly pledges, the Current Fund had a positive cash flow for August 2018 of \$15,146. This is the second month in a row with a positive cash flow. Receipts were \$79,001 and expenses were \$63,855. Budgeted income for August was \$64,653. Budgeted expenses were \$78,459. Expenses were under budget in most categories. About one-half of expenses were salaries/benefits.
- Year-to-date cash flow is **-\$975**, which is \$33,348 better than budgeted.
- Donations collected for "Lattes for the Lord" total \$4687 so far. Approximately 22% of donations were via credit card
- Pastor McEachran shared a report of year-to-date giving that goes "above-and-beyond" giving to the Current Fund.
- President Lester noted that the process to develop the 2019 budget will begin soon. Reviews of the proposed 2019 Current Fund budget will be held during Discipleship Hour on Sunday(s) in January prior to the Annual Meeting. .



Congregation Council Minutes

September 10, 2018

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

- The Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations that the Constitution Task Force presented for changes to the Saint Andrew's Constitution, which included. :
 - Changes to the wording of the "Constitution Task Force," C12.06.A07 continuing resolution.
 - Changes to constitutional sections relating to the "Shared Ministry Committee," C13.04., C13.04.01, and C13.04.A03.
 - Changes to the wording of "C13.07.A13, "Existing Committees" continuing resolution.
 - A clarifying document for "codification" for continuing resolutions.
 - Changes to committee responsibilities / duties continuing resolution wording that had been submitted by all committees.

The Executive Committee suggested edits. Revisions to the documents will be made and reviewed by the Executive Committee. It is planned that the recommendations will be distributed to the Council for review and possible action at its October 2018 meeting.

- Art thanked the committees for the work on their descriptions of responsibilities / duties..

Commission Nominating Committee: President Scott Lester

- President Lester activated the Nominating Committee on September 9. Members are Marli Edde, Hal Ferris, Miriam Kroschel, Stephanie Page-Lester, Judy Thiel, and Christine Zomorodian.
- The Nominating Committee will seek eight candidates to run for election to four Congregation Council positions. Current Council members whose terms are expiring are Stein Dolan, Jill Nichols-Hicks, Ann Thorpe, and Scott Lester. Scott has served two terms on Council and is ineligible to be nominated for this election.

January 5 – Save the Date: President Scott Lester

- A celebration event honoring Pastor McEachran will be held on January 5, 2019. Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland is coordinating the event along with Ann Thorpe, Hal and Carolyn Ferris, and Dan and Darcy Johnson. Anyone is invited to help.
- January 6, 2019: there will be one worship service at 9:30 am, followed by a special fellowship event.

Council Initiatives: President Scott Lester

- Vision: Dick Szabo
 - See "Vision Team Report 9-10-2018" attached to the original of these minutes.
 - Dick Szabo distributed a copy of the current working "uniqueness concept" to Council members (it is included in the "Vision Team Report 9-10-2018"). He explained that the "uniqueness concept" expresses how Saint Andrew's can use its passion, gifts, and potential to make the

Page 4 of 6

Gather... Encourage... Equip... Send...



Congregation Council Minutes

September 10, 2018

greatest meaningful impact in our community. It is meant to be a guiding idea; it is not a mission statement. It is a work in process. Jean Wahlstrom noted that the word "faith" in this context means that being Christ-centered is key. Scott Lester noted that "community" in this context means "community of Christ" and does not refer to our local community.

- Dick Szabo distributed a copy of the current working "mission statement" to Council members (included in the "Vision Team Report 9-10-2018"). He explained that the "mission statement" states what the congregation is supposed to do and how all members are supposed to live. The mission statement is also a work in process. Scott Lester noted that "Christ" is at the center of this mission statement.
- Dick Szabo reminded Council members of the October 7 Discipleship Hour presentation and the October 14 visioning workshop that will focus on "values".
- Pastor McEachran encouraged the Vision Initiative Team to ensure that information about their work is distributed to teachers and youth.
- Discipleship: Ben Johnson
 - The Discipleship Initiative Team had its initial meeting and is planning next steps, noting that they do not want to duplicate efforts of other groups and committees. They discussed discipleship and what it means to be a disciple of Christ.
 - Pastor McEachran encouraged members of the Discipleship Initiative Team to attend committee meetings to gain new insights into their activities and work. Utilizing short surveys of the congregation may also provide insights.
 - It was noted that this initiative's original commission included reaching out to talk to those who may not have responded to the Mission Assessment Profile survey (from Fall 2017) and supporting all to be engaged in the life of the congregation.
- Building: Dick Swaisgood
 - A meeting is scheduled with the Building Initiative Team and Wolf Saar of VIA Architecture for September 13 to review progress, current status, and discuss actions needed to move forward.
 - Dick Swaisgood recognized the past work of the Design Advisory Group.
- Stewardship: Karen Grams
 - The Stewardship Committee and Initiative Team are pleased with the congregation's response to "Lattes for the Lord" and the initiation of giving via text message. They encourage using giving via text message for other purposes.
 - The Fall 2018 program is being planned, and the Team/Committee welcomes additional people to participate.



Congregation Council Minutes
September 10, 2018

Committee Updates: President Scott Lester

- Human Resources Committee will meet soon.
- Refer to the Council packet for committee reports.

Other/New Business:

- Saint Andrew's Men: Dick Swaisgood
 - The Men's Retreat is October 26-27. Other area churches will be invited.
 - Saint Andrew's Men have completed their financial support of a MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) student as she has completed her post-MGLSS studies. The group is exploring the possibility of supporting a farming/coffee business project that will support MGLSS.
- Audit Committee: President Lester noted that members are needed for this committee.
- It was noted that an Emergency Drill will take place in October.
- It was noted that the new sound system for the Sanctuary will be installed soon.

Adjournment and Benediction:

Pastor McEachran closed with a prayer.

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 8:53 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2018 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hegedus
Council Recording Secretary