



Congregation Council Minutes

October 08, 2018

APPROVED

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

October 08, 2018

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

Members Excused: Stein Dolan, Ben Johnson

Staff Members in Attendance: Susan Hegedus, Will Simpson, Pastor Drew Yoos

Staff Members Excused: Sherry Grindeland

Guests: none

Worship:

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words based on Romans 12.

Call to Order/Introductory Words:

The October 08, 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.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the September 10, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Art Gurtel seconded. Minutes were unanimously **approved as submitted**.

Prayer Partner Reveal and Choosing:

Council members and staff shared who they had been praying for. New prayer partners were chosen for the remainder of 2018.



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Staff Updates

- Interim Director of Discipleship Ministries Pastor Drew Yoos
 - Planning is underway for
 - Fire Force (grades 6-8) Fall Retreat, scheduled for October 19-21.
 - Sheep and Shepherds (families with children age birth through grade 5) Family Game Night, scheduled for November 4
 - a service event for God Squad (grades 9-12), scheduled for November 17
 - the 2019 Summer God Squad Mission Trip to Baja, Mexico through the Lantern Hill organization. The focus of this trip will be on accompaniment and mutual sharing.
 - Pastor Drew has been engaging in conversations about volunteerism. He welcomes creative thinking about how to encourage people to share their gifts, think of presenting themselves as a living sacrifice (Romans 12), and presenting opportunities to share their faith, especially with our youth. He encourages all ages to volunteer.
 - Pastor Drew enjoyed presiding at the Blessing of the Animals service on October 7. There were five dogs and their families.
- Director of Music Ministries Dr. Will Simpson
 - The orchestra will play during worship on October 14.
 - Sound System
 - Sanctuary: the new sound system has been installed. Adjustments are being made to the system settings. It is exciting to hear the improvements in both speech and music.
 - Fellowship Hall: Judy Gowdy is assisting in the selection of design/color for the acoustic panels, and Morgan Sound is finalizing the locations of the panels.
 - Chancel and Handbell Choirs have begun rehearsing and singing/ringing in worship.
 - Dr. Will is exploring new ideas for music ministries.
- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus
 - Susan is working on materials that will be bulletin inserts in the weeks leading to Commitment Sunday on November 18.
 - She anticipates needing input for the 2018 Annual Report by January 8 2019. Email reminders about input will be sent to all committees in December.
 - There has been no progress on implementing the new website.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor James McEachran

- Pastor McEachran is appreciative of the new sound system in the Sanctuary and the improved sound clarity it provides.



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- Pastor McEachran reflected on two examples of the relational life of the congregation, noting that relationship and kinship grow the church.
 - Acolytes mentor each other
 - Women's Evening Book Study is a growing group, with three new people attending the fall session
- An initial review of the membership roster has been completed by staff. Pastor McEachran encouraged Council members to go through their congregation directory and note how many families they know. He asked for a response by October 15.
- Pastor McEachran reported on those receiving pastoral care.
- Pastor McEachran shared a map showing the neighborhoods in Bellevue, noting that Saint Andrew's has members in all of the neighborhoods. Saint Andrew's is the Lutheran presence in the I-90 corridor in Bellevue. He asked the Council to reflect on the impact of that presence and how it impacts witnessing to others.
- Pastor thanked the Council for its leadership.

Finance Report: Treasurer Joni Barrott

- The Current Fund had a negative cash flow for September 2018 of **-\$11,169**. Year-to-date has a negative cash flow of **-\$12,144**.
- Donations collected for "Lattes for the Lord" totaled almost \$5,000.
- Imagine Housing has introduced a "Re-Imagine Housing Fund". It is an investment fund described as a "CD with a mission". Funds are invested in Imagine Housing in return for annual interest payments and a return of principal at the end of the investment term. This fund would be used to help finance a down payment on "Block 6B at Esterra Park", a planned Imagine Housing property in the Overlake area of Redmond. Joni noted that this is an unsecured investment. Finance Committee will review and evaluate the financial risks, and work with Stewardship and Outreach and Servant Ministries Committees to evaluate if Saint Andrew's wants to participate as a congregation and how to raise funds.
- The process to develop the proposed 2019 Current Fund budget has begun, and the planning schedule was included in the Council packet. The Discipleship Hours on January 13, 2019 and January 20, 2019 will provide opportunity for the congregation to review the proposed budget, including the Outreach and Servant Ministries budget, prior to the Annual Meeting.
- \$1569.28 was collected from "Apples in the Parking Lot".
- A \$12,000 deposit has been paid to Morgan Sound for the sound system. It is anticipated that the final cost will be close to the estimated cost.

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

- Art noted that Council members had received, via email, "Constitution Task Force Recommendations, September 2018" and all documents related to those recommendations (all are attached to the original of

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



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these minutes). The Constitution Task Force has proposed that these recommendations be approved by the Council. Art reviewed the recommendations, and noted that approving them requires a 2/3 majority vote of all Council members.

- Dick Szabo **moved to approve all recommendations as stated in the "Constitution Task Force Recommendations, September 2018" document.** Dick Swaisgood seconded. Discussion and questions. **The motion was unanimously approved.**
- Art reported that Pastor Tor Berg, who reviews constitutions for the Northwest Washington Synod, communicated to Saint Andrew's that our constitution is in good order following review of the changes approved at the Saint Andrew's Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting on June 10, 2018.
- Art reported that a document clarifying the codification guidelines for our constitution has also been written. This is for the use of the Constitution Task Force.

Council Initiatives: President Scott Lester

- Vision: Dick Szabo
 - See "Vision Team Report 10-8-2018" (attached to the original of these minutes.)
 - Dick Szabo noted that the "Uniqueness Concept" draft is built on data/comments gathered at the July 13 workshop. He distributed a copy of the "Uniqueness Concept" matrix and statement (attached to the original of these minutes.)
 - Dick Szabo reminded the Council that the "mission statement" states what the congregation is supposed to do and how all members are supposed to live. He distributed a copy of "Understanding the Architecture of the Draft Mission Statement" (attached to the original of these minutes.)
 - The Vision Initiative Team welcomes ongoing comments, questions, and input.
 - Dick Szabo reminded and invited Council to the October 14 visioning workshop that will focus on "values".
 - The Vision Initiative Team was thanked for their work thus far and the update on the process given during Discipleship Hour on October 7.
 - Pastor McEachran encouraged the Vision Initiative Team to seek input from youth.
- Discipleship: Vanessa Wilkie
 - The Discipleship Initiative Team members are Ben Johnson and Vanessa Wilkie (co-leaders), Marshall Erling, Dick Swaisgood, and Rebeka Gordon.
 - Vanessa reported that she has begun to informally poll (verbally) groups and individuals and estimates that she has spoken with 45-50 people. The main question has been "What does discipleship look like?" General response has been enthusiasm to bring people in to Saint Andrew's, but to also seek relationships and shared activities outside of Saint Andrew's (i.e. with other congregations.).



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- Stewardship: Karen Grams
 - The Stewardship Committee and Initiative Team members are Andy Hogle, Karen Grams, Jill Nichols-Hicks, Pastor McEachran, and Darcy Johnson.
 - The Committee/Team is pleased with the congregation's response to "Lattes for the Lord".
 - Discussions have focused on how to "stir up energy" and exploring new ideas.
 - Commitment Sunday is November 18. The commitment/pledge card has been modified to include the many ways that members can give financially to Saint Andrew's.
- Building: Dick Swaisgood
 - The Building Initiative Team (Dick Swaisgood, Scott Lester, Art Gurtel) and Wolf Saar of VIA Architecture met. Discussion items included:
 - The current status of the project, noting that the current plans reflect what was determined to be needed and wanted by the congregation.
 - Wolf informed the Team that, to reduce overall cost, plans can be revised and separated into phases. He offered to facilitate a brainstorming session to discuss options.
 - The Team will continue to work with the Finance and Stewardship committees to assess financial capacity of the congregation.
 - Dick Swaisgood noted that some maintenance work and building improvements can be accomplished outside the scope of any building remodel project.

Pathways Hub and Timeline: President Scott Lester

It is desired that the Pathways Hub (Room 212) be changed to feature other initiatives in addition to the building initiative, along with a timeline that highlights growth in ministry. It is desired that the space would be one of conversation and exchange of ideas. Jill Nichols-Hicks volunteered to coordinate this effort and will seek additional volunteers to help.

Committee Chair and Liaison Communication: President Scott Lester

President Lester encouraged brainstorming, new ideas, and collaborations between committees, noting that these conversations initiate ideas for possible implementation.

Nominating Committee: President Scott Lester

Hal Ferris is chair; forward ideas for possible candidates to Hal. It was noted that a document that outlines guidelines for being a Council member exists and could be given to all who are considering being candidates for Congregation Council.

Committee Updates: President Scott Lester

- Refer to the Council packet for committee reports.



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- Building and Property – Dick Swaisgood
 - A police response drill will be held on October 21 during Discipleship Hour.
 - Facilities Manager Kurt Lutterman, Building and Property Chair John Nelson, and Dick Swaisgood recently completed a tour of the facility, noting major pieces of equipment. Kurt has detailed drawings of the facility that includes specifications and ages of major equipment items. Servicing of HVAC units has been completed for 2018.
- Discipleship Ministries – Rebeka Gordon reported that discussion topics have included Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation program, high school ministry, and how to be disciples outside of the church.
- Human Resources – Scott Lester reported that the committee discussed Pastor Drew Yoos' onboarding, Pastor McEachran's celebration, and staff reviews.

Pastoral Transition - January 5 Event: President Scott Lester

Plans are in progress for the January 5, 2019 celebration event honoring Pastor McEachran.

Other/New Business:

- Council-led Discipleship Hours - President Scott Lester noted that Discipleship Hours on November 11 and December 9 have been scheduled for Council leadership to provide information and updates on current topics of interest.
- Inclement Weather Updates - If the weather is questionable on a date that the Council is scheduled to meet, President Scott Lester will send out an email to members in the afternoon to notify them whether or not the meeting is "on as scheduled" or cancelled.

Adjournment and Benediction:

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 9:04 pm.

Pastor McEachran closed with words from Romans 16.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2018 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hegedus
Council Recording Secretary