



Congregation Council Minutes

November 12, 2018

APPROVED

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2018

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

Members Excused: Stein Dolan, Dick Swaisgood, Vanessa Wilkie

Staff Members Excused: All Staff due to Veteran's Day Holiday

Guests: none

Worship:

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words based on Romans 12. It focused on drawing on each others' gifts from God to do the work of the Spirit.

Call to Order/Introductory Words:

The November 12, 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.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the October 8th meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Art Gurtel seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously **approved as submitted**.

Staff Commendations

Scott noted the remarkable response of our staff to requests and their recent work. In particular, he recognized:

- Susan for the amazing Stewardship cards/brochures.
- Mary and Russ for responsiveness and extra efforts.



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- Pastor Drew, Sherry, Will and Kurt for many efforts, large and small, that further the ministry of our congregation.

We are blessed by the work done by our staff and very much appreciate them.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor McEachran

- Recommended several readings to Council members and asked their continued contemplation as Saint Andrew's progresses through its leadership transition. Two specific books he recommended are:
 - Learning to Speak God from Scratch, Jonathan Merritt
 - Subversive Sabbath, A.J. Swoboda
- He requested that we pray for those on our prayer list, review the membership roster and noted the deep connections we have in our congregation.
- Pastor stated that the membership roster is being updated.
- He also indicated that stewardship cards/brochures have clear and potent narratives.

Finance Report: Treasurer Joni Barrott presented the October 2018 finance report.

- October had a negative cash flow of -\$9,288 resulting in a year to date net of -\$21,364. However, this is better than the 2018 budget which had been planned for -\$48,324 at the end of October.
- Preliminary 2019 Expense budget information was briefly discussed. The submitted total budget requests is a 2.65% increase over 2018 budget.
- Imagine Housing has introduced a "Re-Imagine Housing Fund." It is described as a "CD with a mission." This social impact fund was discussed with the following key points made:
 - Investment will be a promissory note with interest. Principal will be repaid, and interest received annually.
 - Money will be used by Imagine Housing as a down payment to build affordable housing on the former Group Health Eastside hospital site. It is a partnership with the YMCA, a commercial Developer, Imagine housing and the City of Redmond.
- Jean Wahlstrom **moved to approve an investment in this fund as detailed below**. Art Gurtel seconded. **Motion was unanimously approved to invest in the Imagine Housing Social impact fund using the following financial resources:**
 1. The former Imagine housing Scholarship fund (\$12K)
 2. General Reserve Fund(\$12K)
 3. \$1K donation by council member.

Final action is pending Finance Committee's recommendation on term of the note. (it is being offered at 5, 10, 15 year terms)



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

Art reminded Council members that they approved the Constitution Task Force's recommended wording changes to several continuing resolutions at the October 8, 2018 meeting. Those resolutions relate to the

1. Constitution Task Force
2. Existing Committees
3. Shared Ministry Committee
4. Committees' Responsibilities or Duties

He indicated that after the Council's October 8th meeting, he worked with Stein, Susan and Mary to prepare a cover letter and copies of the revised Constitution to send to the Synod for review and approval. The cover letter and copies of the revised Constitution were sent on November 9th.

Council Initiatives: President Scott Lester provided a brief summary status of the Council's Initiatives.

- Discipleship; Team members are discussing ideas for the future.
- Stewardship; Commitment Sunday (Nov. 18th) planning is being confirmed.
- Vision; The Visioning initiative team continues to meet with the congregation to gather input. It is focused on maintaining momentum and encouraging broad congregation input. Scott plans to present finalized Mission and Values statements during the Discipleship Hour on Sunday, December 9, 2018 as well as at the Annual Meeting in January.

Pathways Hub and Timeline: Jill Nichols-Hicks volunteered at the October 8th Council meeting to lead a "refresh" effort of the former "Pathways Hub" / Library room. Taking down old information has started. It is desired to make the room more conversational and hence, Jill and her team would like to add nicer furniture to make it more inviting. Jill was encouraged to work with Judy Gowdy and Kurt to facilitate a plan to bring forward.

Nominating Committee: President Scott Lester

Hal Ferris has communicated to Scott that the committee has had an initial poor response due to expected time commitment; uncertainty about selection of a new senior pastor; awkward / "hurtful" feelings / reaction to the nomination / election process occurring at the January 28, 2018 Annual Meeting; and emotional "let down" when not elected to a council position. It was suggested that committee liaisons appeal to their committees to help identify congregation members who could serve and pass on their names to the Nominating Committee.



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Committee Updates: President Scott Lester

A "standardized minutes / notes" form was distributed to Council members. Scott indicated that use of this standardized form by all committees would be helpful. He encouraged committee liaisons to discuss its use with their committees.

Other/New Business:

- Council-led Discipleship Hours - President Scott Lester noted that Discipleship Hour on December 9th has been scheduled for Council leadership to provide information and updates on current Saint Andrew's topics of interest.

Adjournment and Benediction:

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 9:21 pm.

Pastor McEachran closed with a Benediction.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2018 starting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joni Barrott
Treasurer