



Congregation Council Minutes

December 10, 2018

APPROVED

Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2018

Council Members in Attendance: Stein Dolan, 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

Members Excused: Marshall Erling, Treasurer Joni Barrott

Staff Members in Attendance: Sherry Grindeland, Susan Hegedus, Dr. Will Simpson, Pastor Drew Yoos

Staff Members Excused: none

Guests: none

Worship:

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words based on Colossians 1:15-23.

Call to Order/Introductory Words:

The December 10, 2018 regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:18 pm by President Scott Lester.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the November 12, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Art Gurtel seconded the motion. Minutes were **approved as submitted** with one abstention.

Staff Updates

- Director of Music Ministries Dr. Will Simpson
 - Saint Andrew's will host *Bells of the Sound* for a handbell concert on December 16. There is a plan in place to accommodate the expected large audience. Dr. Will invited Council members to post flyers for the concert and to help on the day of the concert. The Saint Andrew's Concert Series is one way we welcome people in from the community.



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- Advent / Christmas
 - Special worship music for Advent: December 2 - contemporary worship ensemble, December 9 - Handbell Choir, December 16 - Chancel Choir, December 23 – Children's Choir.
 - Christmas Eve will have three services: Family worship at 4:00 pm, traditional worship at 6:30 pm (Chancel Choir) and 9:00 pm (Handbell Choir.)
- Planning for 2019 is in progress.
- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland
 - Sherry thanked the Council for providing soup supper on December 5.
 - There is still a need for more ushers, greeters, lectors, and coffee hosts. Sherry encourages families to participate, and also invited Council members to participate.
 - Older Wiser Lutheran Saints: the November 20 program was led by Pastor McEachran and was about prayer. The December 18 program will be a Christmas carol sing-a-long with Dr. Simpson.
 - Sherry is working with Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen to plan the mission trip (scheduled for March 21 – April 2, 2019) to the Navajo Lutheran Mission at Rock Point, Arizona.
 - Plans for Pastor McEachran's celebrations on January 5 and January 6 are going well.
- Interim Director of Discipleship Ministries Pastor Drew Yoos
 - Pastor Drew thanked the Council and congregation for the warm welcome and family time he was able to take when his daughter was born
 - Some events have had low attendance. This is not a concern at this time.
 - Pastor Drew and the Discipleship Ministries Committee are focused on the stories and message we are telling: that discipleship ministries is welcoming, and that we are nurturing adult/youth relationships.
 - The Discipleship Ministries Committee has scheduled a retreat for January 26.
 - Sherry Grindeland reported that 11 boys and 2 girls attended the Fire Force (middle school) retreat in October, and she commended Pastor Drew for his leadership.
- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus

Input for the 2018 Annual Report will be due in January. Email reminders about input will be sent to all committees in December

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor James McEachran

- Pastor McEachran noted that there has been no slowdown in ministry, even as Saint Andrew's enters a time of transition.
- Pastor McEachran reported on those receiving pastoral care.
- Pastor McEachran has observed the energy of the congregation and gave three examples:
 - Participation in worship (especially music, the work of the Altar Guild, and the increase in Communion bread baking.)



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- The Love Tree has 16 people participating in the committee.
- Collections in the Narthex/Commons (corner of blessing, socks, and others) have been overflowing.
- Pastor McEachran has noticed increased visitation. He encouraged the Council to greet and visit with people they don't know.
- Pastor McEachran encouraged the Council to be vigilant in tending the children and youth.

Finance Report: Finance Committee Council Liaison Dick Szabo

- The Current Fund had a negative cash flow for November 2018 of **-\$17,665**. The budgeted cash flow for November was \$137. Year-to-date has a negative cash flow of **-\$39,030**, which is better than the budgeted year-to-date cash flow of **-\$48,187**, so we are in a good financial position going into December.
- Current Fund Budget 2019
 - Forecasted income is less than forecasted expenses by \$38,268.
 - There are fewer commitments/pledges than at this time last year.
 - The Finance Committee will continue to track additional pledges and determine budget adjustments needed.
 - Pastor McEachran encouraged a focus on generosity, and noted that giving is in time, energy, monies, and voice.
- Imagine Housing Social Impact Fund
 - At the November Council meeting, \$25,000 was approved to invest in Imagine Housing's Social Impact Fund.
 - Saint Andrew's is in the process of assessing our property value, to help determine if Saint Andrew's is an "accredited investor" for the Imagine Housing Fund.
 - This is an investment, not a donation. The principal will be repaid, and interest will be paid at a fixed rate.

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

- The revised Constitution was sent to the Synod for review and approval on November 9. The Synod has up to 120 days to respond.
- Art is preparing a report to give at the Annual Meeting on January 27.

Council Initiatives: President Scott Lester

- Vision: Dick Szabo
 - The Vision Initiative Team reviewed the inputs collected during Adult Discipleship Hour on November 9 and the Council meeting on November 10. Based on these ideas, some modifications have been made to the draft mission statement and values statements. A copy of the most current statements was shared during the Adult Discipleship Hour on December 9, and was distributed to



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- the Council (a copy is attached to the original of these minutes). The scriptural foundation for each value was noted.
- Meetings with middle and high school youth to seek their input are planned for early January
 - The mission and values statements will be finalized and presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 27.
 - Discipleship: Ben Johnson, Vanessa Wilkie
The Discipleship Initiative Team will continue to explore ways to support and work with the Discipleship Ministries Committee.
 - Stewardship: Karen Grams
 - The Stewardship Committee and Initiative Team received positive feedback about Commitment Sunday. The displays and personal stories were appreciated. It was noted that the personal narratives were powerful. The focus was on ministry, not on money.
 - The bulletin inserts leading up to Commitment Sunday also gave ministry narratives and another point of communication about ministry.
 - Building: Dick Swaisgood
 - A meeting with VIA Architecture is being planned for January.
 - Work to explore financial capacity of the congregation for a remodel will be planned with the Finance and Stewardship committees.
 - Building and Property Committee is exploring projects such as furnace replacement and roof repairs, and it has been determined that these can be addressed outside of a potential building remodel.

Grace Lutheran Church Question: President Scott Lester

A question had been asked concerning the closing of Grace Lutheran Church (Bellevue), and has Saint Andrew's reached out to invite their members to worship with us? It was discussed, with a consensus reached that their members will find their own way to new congregation(s).

Former Pathways Hub and Timeline: Jill Nichols-Hicks and President Scott Lester

Plans are moving forward to "refresh" former "Pathways Hub" / Library room. The possibilities discussed include new furnishings, display a timeline history of the congregation on the wall and on the TV monitor, and committee lists. Judy Gowdy is part of the team helping with the redesign.

Committee Chair and Liaison Communication, Updates

- President Scott Lester encouraged committees to use the standardized minutes/notes template recently introduced. Committees can add additional notes to the end of the template if desired.



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- Outreach and Servant Ministries: Jean Wahlstrom
 - The December 16 Adult Discipleship Hour will provide updates on missions: MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School, the Plaster House, Bihar, and Navajo Lutheran Mission.
 - The outreach and servant ministries budget is funding Becca Piel's trip with Lutheran World Relief to Bihar, India. The trip is in January 2019.
 - Pastor McEachran reported that former Saint Andrew's member Ann Rowberg is traveling to the Plaster House in Tanzania.
- Pastor McEachran thanked Sharon Gurtel and all who have worked on the project for the new sound system in the Sanctuary. It is working well.

Annual Meeting Preparation/Nominating Committee/2019 Nominating Committee: President Scott Lester

- The Nominating Committee has identified seven (7) candidates to run for election to four (4) positions on the Congregation Council.
- There is a proposal to identify a slate of volunteers to serve on the 2019 Nominating Committee prior to the January 27 Annual Meeting. Scott Lester has volunteered to serve on the committee, and welcomed other outgoing Council members to consider volunteering.

Other/New Business:

Dick Swaisgood thanked Scott Lester for his stable leadership and service as President of the Council.

Adjournment and Benediction:

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 8:41 pm. The Council went into Executive Session.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hegedus
Council Recording Secretary