



*Growing Together in CHRIST to Love and Serve All People*

**Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church**

2650 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE

Bellevue, WA 98006

[www.SALChome.org](http://www.SALChome.org)

**Congregation Council Minutes**

**January 14, 2019**

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APPROVED

**Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church**

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019

**Council Members in Attendance:** Stein Dolan, Marshall Erling, Rebeka Gordon, Karen Grams, Art Gurtel, Ben Johnson, Scott Lester, Dick Swaisgood, Dick Szabo, Ann Thorpe, Jean Wahlstrom, Vanessa Wilkie, Treasurer Joni Barrott

**Members Excused:** Jill Nichols-Hicks

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

**Staff Members Excused:** none

**Guests:** Pastor Brian "Red" Burchfield

**Worship:**

Jean Wahlstrom led worship with a theme of Newness in the Light of the Gospel.

**Call to Order/Introductory Words:**

The January 14, 2019 regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:19 pm by President Scott Lester.

**Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes from the December 10, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Dick Szabo seconded. Minutes were unanimously **approved as submitted**.

**Welcoming Pastor Brian "Red" Burchfield:**

Council and staff members introduced themselves. Pastor Burchfield is excited to be here and in partnership with Saint Andrew's, noting God's presence in newness.

**Staff Updates:**

- Interim Director of Discipleship Ministries Pastor Drew Yoos
  - Planning of adult Discipleship Hour classes through May is nearly complete.
  - Discipleship Ministries Committee has a retreat scheduled for January 26. It will focus on what we are doing to build faith and on relationships,



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- An Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation lunch on January 13. The topic was being Lutheran in 2019.
- Pastor Drew invited everyone to Family Dinner Church on February 9, noting that it is worship integrated with a meal.
- Discipleship Hour on February 17 will be an integrated Sunday School experience, with adults, youth, and children learning and sharing faith together.
- Director of Music Ministries Dr. Will Simpson
  - Dr. Will thanked the many volunteers who helped host approximately 500 people for the *Bells of the Sound* handbell concert on December 16.
  - The next concert is March 9 with the *Seattle Bach Choir* singing "All Night Vigil". Members of the Bach Choir will be available during intermission for informal conversation.
  - Worship planning: Special worship music on March 31--contemporary worship ensemble. Special worship music on May 19--orchestra. Spring choral music will feature both new and comfortable pieces.
  - Dr. Will thanked the Council for its support of music ministries, through finances, prayer, and attendance.
- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus
  - The 2018 Annual Report will be available on January 20. Susan thanked Council members for working with committee chairs to provide input to the report.
  - Susan invited Council members to provide a devotional word for the January 23 edition of the *Trendings* eNews.
  - The terms "Commons" and "Narthex" are both being used. Susan asked the Council to consider if one of these, or perhaps another term, is what they feel this space should be called. This would be a future topic for the Council to consider.
- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland
  - Approximately 420 people attended the January 5 celebration event for Pastor James McEachran. Sherry encouraged Council members to write a note to Pastor McEachran to be included in a scrapbook being prepared for him. The Council applauded Sherry and the celebration committee for their outstanding job in facilitating the celebration events on January 5 and January 6.
  - Our Savior Lutheran Church has invited women from area churches to participate in their Women's Retreat, scheduled for March 1-3, 2019. Saint Andrew's provided a gift basket to the fundraiser for this event.
  - Sherry enjoyed helping to coordinate the Children's Christmas Program on December 23. The youth are amazing and are a delight.
  - The Older Wiser Lutheran Saints program on January 15 is manager Nancy Kartes from Bellevue Botanical Garden.



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- Jean Wahlstrom reported that the death of Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission manager Lea Begay may affect the timing of the adult trip to this Mission in Arizona. Jean asked for prayers for the Mission and Lea's family.

### Finance Report: Treasurer Joni Barrott

- The Current Fund had a year-end 2018 positive cash balance of \$22,505. Finance Committee recommends transferring this surplus to Fund #17, Deferred Maintenance. This would fulfill a request from Building and Property Committee to add money to this fund.
- Finance Committee recommends approving funds requested by Building and Property Committee to pay for replacing the roof over the office wing.
- Report on Current Fund Budget 2019
  - Joni distributed copies of the proposed 2019 Current Fund budget (attached to the original of these minutes.)
  - Forecasted income is similar to 2018 actual income. Commitments/pledges are consistent with 2018 pledges.
  - Some expense requests for the 2019 budget were reduced to align more closely with 2018 actual expense amounts. The proposed 2019 budget is balanced. Joni encouraged committees and groups to spend what is necessary for their ministry.
- Art Gurtel **moved to transfer the 2018 Current Fund surplus cash balance of \$22,505 to Fund #17, Deferred Maintenance.** Stein Dolan seconded. Discussion. The motion was unanimously **approved.**
- Dick Szabo **moved that the 2019 Current Fund Budget as presented be recommended to the congregation for approval.** Art Gurtel seconded. Discussion. The motion was unanimously **approved.**
- Imagine Housing Social Impact Fund: At the November Council meeting, \$25,000 was approved to invest in Imagine Housing's Social Impact Fund. The current net worth of Saint Andrew's is below \$5,000,000, which is the threshold for corporate investors. Options are being explored.

### Partial Roof Replacement:

Ben Johnson **moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$30,000 from Fund #17, Deferred Maintenance, for the purpose of partially replacing the roof.** Vanessa Wilkie seconded. It was noted that the roof that will be replaced is over the office wing and partially over the Narthex. The motion was unanimously **approved.**

### Hub/Lounge Update Budget Discussion:

- Scott Lester showed color swatches for proposed new furnishings, and Joni Barrott reported that the proposed new furnishings (furniture, window treatments, lamps) will be compatible with potential building remodel plans.



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- Finance Committee recommends that if approved, funds should come from Fund #10, Share the Vision.
- Karen Grams **moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$10,000 from Fund #10, Share the Vision, for the purpose of updating/refreshing Room 212 (the "Hub")**. Dick Swaisgood seconded. Discussion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.
- A suggestion was forwarded to the Council for the room to be named "Gathering Place."

### Sanctuary Refresh:

- Worship and Liturgical Arts Committee has requested funds to replace the sconce lights in the Sanctuary and paint the Sanctuary and Sacristy.
- Finance Committee recommends that if approved, funds should come from Fund #10, Share the Vision.
- Dick Swaisgood **moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$5,000 from Fund #10, Share the Vision, for the purpose of painting the Sanctuary and Sacristy, and replacing the sconce lights in the Sanctuary**. Ann Thorpe seconded. Discussion. The motion was **approved** with zero "nays" and two abstentions.

### Committee Chair and Liaison Communication Updates: President Scott Lester

- Committee chairs will have the opportunity at the Annual Congregation Meeting on January 27 to share a report. Scott asked the Council liaisons to work with committee chairs to prepare.
- Scott encouraged committees to use the standardized minutes/notes template recently introduced. Committees can add additional notes to the end of the template if desired.

### Debrief on 2019 Transition and Reflection on Celebration Event: President Scott Lester

- Pastor James McEachran's exit interview has been completed.
- Council members shared reflections about the celebration events held for Pastor McEachran.

### Review of Draft Annual Meeting Presentation and Council Initiatives: President Scott Lester

- Vision Initiative: Dick Szabo
  - The Vision Initiative Team met with eight high school youth on January 6 to review and discuss the draft Mission and Values statements. Helpful ideas, comments, and questions were shared and discussed. The thoughtful participation of this group was a very valuable part of the process.
  - On January 13, the Vision Initiative Team shared the Mission and Values statements with Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation (ABC) students (middle school age) to gauge their understanding of the statements. They showed a pretty good understanding and affirmation of the statements. Because of their relationship with the youth, the adult ABC mentors (including



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three Council members) who were present enhanced the value of the discussion. This meeting was a very valuable part of the process.

- Dick Szabo distributed copies of the Mission and Values Statements (attached to the original of these minutes.) that will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 27.
- Scott Lester has distributed to Council members, via email, a copy of the Council report that will go into the 2018 Annual Report and the February 2019 edition of *the VOICE* newsletter.
- Nominating Committee: President Scott Lester
  - Current adult Council members whose terms are expiring are Stein Dolan, Scott Lester, Jill Nichols-Hicks, and Ann Thorpe.
  - Candidates running for the four three-year positions on Council are Aaron Davis, Stein Dolan,Carolynn Ferris, Dan Johnson, Jill Nichols-Hicks, Rebecca Piel, Ann Thorpe, and Sue Trudell.
- 2019 Nominating Committee: Scott Lester and Amy Myhre have volunteered to serve on the committee. Scott Lester welcomes other volunteers to contact him before January 27.

### **Plan for February Advance:** Vice President Art Gurtel

- February 9 is the proposed date of the Council "Advance" (aka "Retreat") that will also include committee chairs. Times will be determined as part of the planning process.
- The new Council President (to be elected immediately following the Annual Meeting on January 27) and Pastor Burchfield will work together to plan and organize the Advance.
- Art asked Council members to plan to attend the Advance on February 9, and also to communicate the date to their committee chair and invite them to participate.

### **Plan for Synod Assembly:** President Scott Lester

The Synod Assembly in May 2019 is an important one because there will be an election of a new Bishop. Scott encouraged the Council to be considering potential Saint Andrew's delegates to the Assembly.

### **Prayer Partner Reveal**

Council members and staff revealed who they had been praying for the last half of 2018.

### **Parting Words**

- Art Gurtel thanked and honored Scott Lester for his service to the congregation and especially his work as Council President for the past 2 ½ years.
- Scott Lester distributed thank you cards and gifts to each Council member and staff member. He shared his final report (attached to the original of these minutes.)

### **Other/New Business:**

None.



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**Adjournment and Benediction:**

- Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 10:00 pm.
- Pastor Drew Yoos closed with prayer, and Jean Wahlstrom led the singing of the Doxology.

The next Council meeting will be an "Advance" ("Retreat"), tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2019, at a time to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hegedus  
Council Recording Secretary