



## **Congregation Council Minutes**

**April 11, 2016**

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

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2016

**Council Members in Attendance:** Joni Barrott, Davis Carmichael, Nona Gram, Art Gurtel, David Holzboog, Pastor McEachran, Kendra Mills, Debbie Szabo,

**Members Excused:** Ben Johnson, Scott Lester, Steve Serex, Pastor Telyea, Ann Thorpe, Mark Thorpe, Misty Weber

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Emily Harrow, Susan Hegedus, Will Simpson

The Council met for worship. Pastor McEachran gave a devotional word on 1 Timothy 6:11-16. He wondered if Jesus would take roll when he and his disciples would meet. Jesus said "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Faithfulness and mission are not based on a quorum. Pastor believes that the verses in Timothy are a challenge to remind us whose we are.

#### **Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:26 pm by President Dave Holzboog. There was not a quorum, so the meeting was informational.

Dave thanked Kendra for organizing the Council members in collecting items for complete personal care kits.

#### **Council Liaison Assignments:**

Kendra will be the liaison for Communications. Joni will serve as liaison for Finance and Stewardship since they are somewhat related. Since Worship and Liturgical Arts only meets quarterly, a liaison is not necessary. Pastor McEachran will meet with them.

#### **Updates:**

- Staff Transition Task Force – 4/19 7:00pm
- Signage Working Group – 4/21 4:00pm
- Design Advisory Group – 4/21 6:00pm

It is hoped that after these meetings, each group will have a more definitive timeline on their individual tasks. Lois Nelson is the new chairperson for the Staff Transition Task Force. This is a good fit since she was previously the council liaison.



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### Synod Assembly

May 20-21, 2016

#### Committee Highlights: Discipleship Committee

Emily admits that she tends to paint a rosy picture about how things are going. However, she is running into problems with volunteer burnout and recruiting young families to volunteer. She encouraged us to get acquainted with new faces and offer to introduce them to her. The struggles she is finding are more apparent as she is trying to recruit volunteers for VBS. The lack of key volunteers puts the program in jeopardy. There is someone who is considering the role of Director, but there is still a need for many other key roles.

Emily is reassessing the ABC program. She acknowledges that it is a great program, but the curriculum is not written down. She is looking to expand the program to be for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades, with 6<sup>th</sup> grade as a prep year to provide the building blocks needed for the program. That will also be a time to learn how to ask questions to help with their faith. After a meeting with the current ABC teachers, Emily has learned that there are areas not being addressed (i.e. How to deal with science and faith; how Old Testament survey taught – male roles only, major stories told?) There is also the issue of how to engage the students so that they are actively participating in class. She is also starting to look at other curriculum particularly to fill these gaps when expanding the program. Her hope is to start a new ABC program in the next program year or two.

Pastor McEachran supports the move into discipleship. He provided us with the words to use if members ask us about Discipleship Ministries – “To gather, encourage and equip all people through active learning, how to embody faith in Jesus as they are sent into the world.” This is the mission statement for the Discipleship Ministries Committee. He also recognizes that a major rebranding needs to happen quickly. Some of this has already begun with the bulletin reflecting discipleship rather than education. In the recent issue of the VOICE, Emily has reinforced this with a note on what discipleship is, and has a supporting note from Pastor Telyea.

This is time to help members of the congregation to realize that we have been doing things in discipleship all along. It will take time to recondition members to fully accept the changes toward a focus on discipleship rather than education.



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### Finance Report:

March was the 3<sup>rd</sup> month with a positive balance. There is hope that the Finance Committee chair and/or Treasurer can come to the Council meeting next month to give a quarterly report.

Quarterly giving statements were sent on Friday.

### Committee Reports, Actions, and Other Matters:

- Building and Property – no report
- Discipleship – Davis shared that the committee talked about the possible changes to the ABC program. Easter breakfast served 230-260 people (most in the hour between the two services). Emily has ideas on when to serve in the future. Possibly not before the first service, and then extend into the second service. The Egg Hunt had fewer participants this year. May be due in part to the caucus, start of Little League, school related activities with local school districts.
- Health and Wholeness Ministry – Art shared that Sunday blood pressure checks will be from 9:30-10:30. Packing of personal care kits will happen on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The committee is appreciative of the Council and many committees in their participation with collecting kits. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, the committee will provide lunch for Sophia Way.
- Outreach and Servant Ministries – Debbie shared the Corner of Blessing focus this month is juice boxes. She is disappointed with the low contributions so far. Pastor McEachran shared that there was \$3000 above and beyond giving specifically for Emergency Feeding Program. There was discussion on how there is concern about that program. The number of clients coming to Saint Andrew's has decreased, causing some of the food bags to expire. There is a big concern regarding the larger program. Shelves at the warehouse are empty, and there is a question as to where monetary donations are going. Pastor expressed that there is a hold on financial giving from our congregation until he can get clarification from the Executive Director. He also shared that the City of Bellevue has held their financial support due to an unsuccessful audit of EFP.
- Communications – no report
- Worship and Liturgical Arts – has not met
- Stewardship – They are working on coming up with a theme perhaps tied in with a focus on discipleship
- Human Resources – It is a very active committee which has recently fulfilled many of its goals.

### Staff Reports/Inputs:

Emily – nothing more to share beyond the report on Discipleship Ministries

Susan – She has been working on reformatting information in the VOICE to reflect a focus on discipleship. It is a work in progress. She has also been working on promotional materials for the Concert Series.



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Will – Dave started with sharing his appreciation for the organ concert at Crossroads Mall. There were 20+ people from Saint Andrew's who participated.

He and Erin went to Paul Fritts and Co. Organ builders shop in Puyallup where a pipe organ for University of Notre Dame is being built. They were able to tour the factory. Paul Fritts is known as a preeminent organ builder in the country.

PAFE was in house last week. They had their honor concerts here as well. This is good exposure for our church. Will shared that about 500 students applied to participate which meant a wait list since only 456 were accepted. There were about 28 members from Saint Andrew's who volunteered to help.

Concert Series is free of charge, and those performing are our guests who are treated well. The concerts are a good outreach. This weekend the Seattle Peace Chorus will perform. The music they will share will include pieces from South America and South Africa which are timely with historical relevance. There is something for everyone. Emmaus Trio will perform May 15. On June 5, Tucson Girls Chorus will participate during worship and perform in the afternoon. Will needs help with providing places for them to stay the night.

Orchestra will participate in worship on May 22.

Pastor expressed his appreciation for the vamping before and after the Children's Message.

### Pastor's Report:

Pastor McEachran:

- 1) Talked of branding us as leaders. He passed out new nametags which are provided for all staff, council members and the ushers. He shared that while he was wearing a plaid shirt and jeans, he was instantly recognized as a pastor.
- 2) 54 people participated in Lenten Prayer Partners. The program will be evaluated.
- 3) Pastor passed out sheets of paper face down. He shared that Pastor Telyea's observations since he started here is that we are a congregation that is involved educationally and relationally. During Emily's teaching of the ABC Preparation course she had the 8<sup>th</sup> graders come up with questions for Pastor McEachran to answer. The paper he passed out were the questions from those students. He had council members share one unique question from those written down by the students. Pastor believes this is discipleship in action. The questions were hard, but he will let the students know that if the answers they receive don't work for them, to keep asking. He suggested that the Council do something similar later in the year.
- 4) Next month Outreach will present their recommendation to support LWR in their efforts in India.
- 5) Bellevue City Council has created a Technical Advisory Group to work on the issue of providing up to 250 units of affordable housing within the city. He and Hal Ferris have been appointed to that group. Within that group there are seven members who are interrelated through Imagine Housing.



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6) Pastor shared that his grandson, Noah is 11 pounds, not reading yet, and sleeping about five hours a night. He is crazy about being a grandparent.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**

Pastor McEachran closed us in prayer.

Meeting was adjourned by President Holzboog at 8:16 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be May 9, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nona Gram

Council Secretary