

2018 Annual Report of St Andrew's Lutheran Church Council Meetings

The role and responsibilities of the council are defined in The Constitution, By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions of The St Andrew's Lutheran Church, and include e.g.:

- The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. One key task is to lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

The council held 11 meetings and it was possible to participate in the meetings also remotely via Skype. Minutes have been filed and here is the brief summary:

1. January 2018 meeting summary was included already in Annual Meeting 2018 materials
2. February 2018 meeting summary was included already in Annual Meeting 2018 materials

After Annual Congregation Meeting 2018 the council members are:

- Naomi Fox (New)
- Mia Hagman, Pastor
- Esko Hulkkonen (New)
- Lauri Kanervikkoaho (New), Vice President
- Matti Mecklin
- Peter Mäkilä (New)
- Pertti Pietarinen, President
- June Rantanen, Financial Secretary
- Raija Reittamo (New), Secretary

3. Meeting March 11, 2018

- Unanimous appointment of the new council officers
 - President: Pertti Pietarinen
 - Vice-President: Lauri Kanervikkoaho
 - Secretary: Raija Reittamo
 - Financial Secretary: June Rantanen
 - Treasurer: open, John Konkola to take care of until new treasurer appointed
- Constitution, By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions training for council members on March 16, 2018 by Jouko Jaakkola

4. Meeting March 22th, 2018

- The council interviewed Sarai Paavola for the office manager position and decided to hire her starting on June 1st, 2018 when Hanna Kiuru was leaving this position
- Council languages decided to be English and Finnish
- New congregation members approved: Kaarina Ijäs, Liisa Sakko, Aino Hautala, Jarkko Hautala, Anna-Maija Hautamäki, Antti Hautamäki. Tapani Kuparinen's membership reinstalled.
- Organizing committees: Matti Mecklin will be the council liaison to Activity Committee, Lauri Kanervikkoaho to head Property and Building Committee (other members Esko Kanervikkoaho), Peter Mäkilä to head Future Planning Committee (other members John Konkola, Robert Morgan, Olli Ojala and Jouko Jaakkola consulting). Deborah Grotke is the congregation representative and Naomi Fox as council liaison to FAHR.
- Decided to seal-coat and paint the parking place with pastor Dexter's help, cost estimate \$1500. Lauri Kanervikkoaho as coordinator.
- Decided to donate Easter Sunday coffee social income to Finlandia University.
- Congregation received an old piano as donation, \$300 reserved for the transportation and tuning
- Because Kanervikkoahos are not able participate in June Synod meeting the council nominated Peter Mäkilä and Matti Mecklin

5. Meeting April 8, 2018

- Treasurer: decided to nominate Sari Mustonen starting on June 1, 2018, when John Konkola retires
- New members approved: Eero Haarjärvi and Liisa Haarjärvi
- Council decided to discontinue the use of styrox cups (as requested by Raija Sipinen)
- Pastor's 5% salary raise approved
- Office open time decided: Wed-Fri 10AM-2PM
- New Sunday service times: the Finnish service will start at 10 AM and the English one at 11:30 AM. Decided to test this new arrangement during Oct 1st – Dec 31st, 2018.
- By e-mail voting decision Kitchen roof emergency fix for \$5100, was done by Bossler Roofing
- Lauri Kanervikkoaho will coordinate the handling of AC issues

6. Meeting May 16, 2018

- Pastor Dexter's request to use the church premises additionally on one Saturday each month, was approved. They will pay \$250/ month for this additional time
- Urgent renovation of Church roof and gutters, supervised by Lauri Kanervikkoaho, completed. Price without gutters \$5400.
- Authorization to sign checks and bank documents approved.
- Laptop purchase for Office manager approved (max \$600)

- New members approved: Silja Anneli Tuutti, Anneli Gerringer, Beverly ja Charles Gillece
- Renewal of the Pastor's work permit and contract: Peter Makila has dealt with Harry Polatsek and actual process will start in January 2019, cost estimate \$430,
- The English AA group, with which we have now a written contract, has started their meetings
- Pertti Pietarinen has negotiated with the Lutheran Church of Finland about setting-up our new web-pages based on their templates, tools, hosting and support. These services will be free of costs to us. Sarai Paavola will start the work during summer.
- The Scholarship Committee – Meija Sillanpaa and Deborah Grotke- proposal to grant a \$1,250 scholarship to Sabrina Rogers, approved
- Decision to renew insurance policies

7. Meeting June 13, 2018

- Annual Congregational Meeting minutes for 2017 and 2018 approved by council, to be ratified by next Congregation meeting in 2019
- Sanctuary carpet renovation was decided based on received bids. Price \$8400, vendor Lewis Carpet and work scheduled for September.
- Pastor's summer vacation arrangements and substitutes approved, covered partly by volunteers
- Council approved pastor's suggestion that Church will pay for 4 registration fees (\$199/each) for GLS 2018 (Global Leadership Summit, Aug 9-11) for Office Manager and 3 volunteers.

•

8. Meeting September 26, 2018

- New members approved: Paavo Kukkaro
- The Fellowship Hall entrance awning replacement decided to be done.
- AC problems report discussed and decided to set a meeting with the vendor Byron Hoppell to agree further actions.
- Pastor represented the new English&Finnish missions for the fall (Freedom Reigns, Fun&Fellowship, "Prayer Clinique", Morning Prayers at the Resthome).
- Contract with the City of Lake Worth to use the church building as a polling place needs to be renewed. Practical arrangements require some clarifications e.g. if pastor Dexter's congregation can take more responsibilities.
- Future Planning committee update was presented. Main options: to sell the church to pastor Dexter and his congregation and us to stay in the building as tenants for any amount of time set by us or to remain as the owner of the building facing major spending cut backs in the future and probable risk of losing the building to ELCA or some other church in years to come.

•

9. Meeting Oct 18, 2018

- Music Director Michael Poutiainen's salary rise \$25/Sunday service was approved.
- Awning renewal: CC, INC-bid for \$1340.00 was selected
- Syystalkoot/working party decided to be on Nov 10th
- Future Planning Committee: Church property appraisal to be ordered. Based on bids the council decided to order the work from Economic Appraisers, costs \$1785
- New members approved: Raili Anneli Lehtisalo
- Pastor's insurance to be renewed (currently from Portico)

10. Meeting November 15, 2018

- 1st version of web site is up and running and will be gradually updated to contain more info. Council appointed Office manager to create a Paypal business account so that the electronic giving option can be added to our web site.
- Church use as a polling location 2019: New contract has been signed with the city of Lake Worth.
- The Council decided to keep the mission support (ELCA) on the previous level (\$2600.00/ a year)

11. Meeting December 20, 2018

- Pastor's visa renewal process starting
- Future Planning Committee Update: Property appraisal received and presented to Council. Pastor and Peter Mäkilä have set a meeting with pastor Dexter on Dec 27th to discuss Dexter's congregation's interest and capability to buy the church building if we decided one day to switch places with them (tenant/owner).
- Web site: Now also electronic giving is available and tested.
- Council decided that Christmas bonuses will be given to preschool teachers, treasurer and office staff (office manager, music director, pastor)
- New members approved: Suvi Katriina Manner-Smith, Brian Smith, Kalevi Urponen, Raul and Anna-Maija Holmborg.
- Dreamleaders, training provided without costs by the Synod on March 8th-10th, 2019. Council approved the participation.
- The Annual Congregation meeting 2019 was set on Sunday, March 10 after Combined Service (10 a.m.). Reports to be ready by end of January.
- After voting decision: The Finnish Sunday service starting time will be at 9:30 from January 13th, 2019 onwards. English service time remains at 11:30 and combined service at 10.00.
- Discussion about the level of co-operation with Kotikirkko, based on the feedback from the congregation

Pertti Pietarinen
Council President

