

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011**

Members Present:

Randy Bachtel, Glenn Bair, Charlie Beckhardt, Al Doermann, Ted Forman, Karen Ganjon, Bill Glazier, Donald Ludwig, Rich Schuster, Matt Sherlock, Tim Stanton, Elissa Streaker, Nancy Taylor, John Yarish, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson

Members Absent:

Dena Hodges

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the Council called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Al Doermann led devotions and offered prayer. Nancy Taylor will lead devotions in May. The Council members adopted the agenda as presented.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Charlie Beckhardt asked if there were any additions or corrections to the proposed minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on March 21, 2011. The minutes were adopted as amended.

President's Report:

Charlie Beckhardt highlighted the wonderful Lenten program, meaningful messages, and great fellowship we experienced this Lenten season. On average, weekly attendance was 60-70 participants.

The Council approved Beth Clementson as the young adult representative at Synod Assembly.

The Council received a letter from the Administrative Assistant to the Bishop informing us that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Constitution and Bylaws Committee reviewed our congregation's revised constitution bylaws (approved by the GLC Congregation on December 5, 2010) and recommended approval for the changes. The Delaware- Maryland Synod Council/Executive Committee approved the changes.

Charlie was delighted to welcome another class of new members to Grace on April 17, 2011.

There will be a Congregational Informational Meeting on May 1, 2011 immediately following the 11:15 service in the sanctuary. The agenda will include devotions and reports from the Council president (Charlie), Pastors, treasurer (Don) and property committee chair (Randy). Questions from the congregation will be taken following the reports.

No independent actions were taken by the Executive Committee at its meeting.

Old Business:

Charlie provided the Council with an update on the refinancing proposal discussed at the April Council meeting. Since that time, we have learned that there is a significant prepayment penalty with BB&T. Therefore, the application process with Thrivent has stopped. Given the Council's fiduciary responsibility to be good caretakers, we will continue to research and explore and put this effort "on hold" for now. Subsequently, the Stewardship Committee will be asked to look at a capital campaign for the fall.

Pastor Martha and Charlie provided an update on the Call Committee and position vacancies. The Call Committee is committed to finding the “right” person for the job of Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry rather than meeting the “right” timeframe. Committee members have generated interview questions and they are poised and ready to interview identified candidates. Pastor Martha continues to work with Pastor Hobbs and to touch base with him regularly for news about any candidates. Should we not have candidates by mid June, the Committee will regroup and discuss other options and/or next steps.

In regards to office staff, ads were placed in several papers for the positions and Pastor Martha has received many resumes. The Personnel Committee meets Thursday, April 21, 2011, to interview full-time candidates. Two weeks later, the Personnel Committee will meet to interview for a financial secretary. In the interim, Ginny Cunningham is serving as the full time secretary and Rachel Fairchild is helping with the checks. In addition to recognizing Ginny and Rachel for their help, the Council acknowledges and thanks Dena Hodges and Viera Sabol for their volunteer efforts in providing additional office support.

Randy provided a written report on the sanctuary ceiling/renovation project. He reminded the Council that this project is the final phase of the Ministry and Mortar Program. Randy emphasized that safety and structural soundness is the focus on the proposed project. Estimated costs for the proposed renovation project range from \$80,000 to \$100,000.. At the May 1, 2011, Congregational Informational meeting, Council wants to make it clear to the congregation that funding must be secured before the Property Committee will move forward. By consensus vote, the Council supports the sanctuary improvements for safety reasons and appearance subject to attaining funding. Additional information will be provided to the congregation after the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Contingent on funding, it is estimated that it will take 4-6 weeks to accomplish the work.

#### Pastors' Report:

Pastor Martha provided a written report to the Council.

The following persons (family) were added to our active membership role: Sandra Harrison, Marvin Ellis-El, Erika Ellis-El and Haley Ellis-El.

In addition, Pastor Martha highlighted 2 dates:

May 13 from 4-7 the hospitality dinner for European visitors and June 21<sup>st</sup>, the covered dish dinner for the Bishop's visit to the Westminster Conference.

Two requests for assistance were noted: greeting people on Easter Sunday at the new glass doors and helping to move Easter flowers after the services to the office doorway for pick-up.

The Council approved the following recommendations from the Pastors.

1. There will be a 5:00 pm worship service in the sanctuary when an All Grace Service is held on Sunday at 10:00 am in Grace Hall.
2. For the remainder of 2011, we have an All Grace weekend schedule on weekends when we previously had a holiday weekend.
3. The following dates were adopted for 5:00 pm services and All Grace Services for the remainder of 2011:

May 21-22 Confirmation  
May 28-29 Memorial Day Weekend  
July 2-3 Fourth of July  
September 3-4 Labor Day Weekend  
December 3-4 Annual Meeting  
December 24-25  
December 31-January 1

4. For the remainder of 2011, Ted Dix is granted 4 Saturday evenings in addition to his 4 vacation weeks on which he can arrange for a supply organist who will be compensated by Grace.
5. The 11:15 Worship Service be moved to 10:30 am between Memorial Day and Labor Day, except for All Grace Services (effective the first Sunday in June through the last Sunday of August).

Treasurer's Report:

Don Ludwig presented the written financial reports. Don reported that our budgeted expenses are down and that our income is, as of March 2011, up by \$24, 179.77. We are "holding our own" in terms of the budget.

The treasurer's report was approved and referred to the Audit Committee.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Council members.

New Business:

It was recommended by the Property Committee and approved by Council to purchase heat tape for the gutters on Fellowship Hall for an estimated cost of \$5200.

As a result of the free will offerings received at our Lenten meals, \$1,261 was donated to the ELCA Disaster Response.

Announcements:

The Council offered their congratulations to Sean Corbin and Ben Forman who received the Eagle Scout Court of Honor on April 4, 2011.

After the praying of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully,  
Karen Ganjon, Council Secretary