

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011**

Members Present:

Randy Bachtel, Charlie Beckhardt, Glenn Bair, Karen Ganjon, Bill Glazier, Dena Hodges, Rich Schuster, Tim Stanton, Elissa Streaker, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson

Members Absent:

Al Doermann, Ted Forman, Donald Ludwig, Matt Sherlock, Nancy Taylor, John Yarish

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the Council called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Elissa Streaker led devotions and offered prayer. Dena Hodges will lead devotions in March. The Council members adopted the agenda as amended.

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 January 17, 2011. The minutes were adopted as written. Charlie thanked Nancy for recording the minutes for January when Karen was out-of state.

President's Report

Charlie Beckhardt recognized and thanked all who were involved in the respectful and uplifting Christian Unity Service hosted by Grace Lutheran Church on January 30, 2011.

Charlie highlighted the Lenten program planned for this year. Again, there will be a soup meal each Wednesday followed by a service. The Council has agreed to help with the soup meal on March 23, 2011. Randy will coordinate the Council's efforts to have soup, desserts, bread and volunteers for preparation and clean-up.

The executive committee met on February 16, 2011. No independent actions were taken during this meeting.

Old Business

A written update from the Property Committee was given by Randy regarding the sanctuary ceiling project. The update required no action. During the property discussion, the Council expressed favorable comments on the new cloister doors and understood that the door button should always be used to open the door to keep the system in top working order. Also, Randy noted that switches will be installed for the fans in Grace Hall.

The second report was given by Pastor Martha on the progress of the Search Committee for the position of Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry. Pastor Martha provided a copy of the job description to the Council for their approval. She explained that the Search Committee had met with Pastor Hobbs from the Bishop's office to provide guidance and information on the process used if we were looking for a rostered person to fill the position. As the discussion unfolded with the Search Committee and after a conversation with the Executive Committee, it was recommended that a rostered person would best meet our identified needs. Therefore, the Search Committee would be a Call Committee and the process would include completing a profile to submit to the Bishop's office (Synod). As part of the process, a brief congregational survey will be conducted the first Sunday in March at all services to collect baseline data for this point in time.

After discussion, 3 motions were adopted by Council.

1. The Congregational Council acknowledges that the Search Committee appointed on December 20, 2010, is now engaged with the Delaware-Maryland Synod in a call process for a lay rostered leader. Further, the Council authorizes the committee to perform in that capacity, as needed, until the conclusion of the hiring process for the Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry.
2. The Council approved the job description for the Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry, as presented.
3. The Council approved the recommendation that Stacie Dowling serve as the Chair of the Call Committee.

Pastors' Report

Pastor Martha provided a written report to the Council. It was recommended and approved by Council that Allison Stiles be appointed to chair the Contemporary Worship Committee. In addition, the Council approved Disa Strevig as one of our congregational representatives on the Board for Little Friends of Grace.

For information only, Pastor Kevin noted that a problem was corrected regarding online information submitted to Synod about our projected mission support.

Treasurer's Report

Pastor Kevin provided a brief report. At this point in time, our financial outlook is slowly improving; expenses are down, general giving has increased and mortgage debt is decreasing. We continue to be grateful that our balance compared to last year has improved by approximately \$19,000.00.

New Business

A written update from the Music and Worship Committee was received. The Eternal Light in the sanctuary is damaged and needs to be replaced. The Council approved the replacement of the Eternal Light and expressed its sincere appreciation to the Schuster/Oddis families for donating the monies for the new Eternal Light.

Announcements

On May1, 2011, at Carroll Lutheran Village, a dinner will be held from 4-7 pm in recognition of outstanding volunteers in the Delaware/Maryland Synod.

Prayers of the Church were offered and the praying of the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully,
Karen Ganjon, Council Secretary