

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL OF GRACE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011 AT 7:00 PM**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Dena Hodges, Tim Stanton, Al Doermann, Karen Ganjon

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the council, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Don Ludwig led devotions and offered prayer. Elissa Streaker will lead devotions in February. The council members adopted the agenda as written.

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 December 20, 2010. The minutes were adopted as written. Charlie Beckhardt asked for a motion and a second to approve referral of the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Congregation of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Westminster, Maryland held on Sunday, December 5, 2010, to the General Meeting of the Congregation to be held in December 2011 for final approval. The motion passed.

President's Report:

Charlie Beckhardt thanked the Council members for attending the installation services held on Sunday, January 9, 2011. The Executive Committee met on January 12, 2011. No independent actions were taken during this meeting. The church has received a bequest from Julia Devilbiss, one of the original residents of Carroll Lutheran Village. The bequest is for \$23,624.73. The council thanks her and her family for remembering Grace Lutheran Church. Charlie recommends that all council members review the financial gifts policy prior to the next meeting.

Old Business:

Sanctuary Ceiling Project: Randy Bachtel reports that the project committee recommends that we allow their committee to spend \$1,450.00, funded through the sale of BB&T stock and the council discretionary funds, to hire Acoustical Design Collaborative Inc. to consult on our ceiling project. Finance Committee supports the expenditure. The motion was approved.

Reassessment of Direction of Stewardship Committee: The Council considers addressing our mortgage issues to be a vital priority. The Council charges Stewardship Committee to respond by June 2011 with ideas for a new approach to a Stewardship campaign.

Congregational Meeting: A motion was made and approved to hold the Congregational Informational Meeting on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 12:15 pm.

Pastors' Report:

Pastor Martha provided a written report to the Council. She did want everyone to take note that on Sunday, January 30, 2011, in Grace Hall there will be a Worship Service sponsored by the Westminster Ministerium as part of the internationally-recognized Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Approximately ten local congregations are participating.

A winter Adult Education Series "One Body for the Sake of the World," will take place on February 2, 9, 16, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report:

Preliminary reports for December 2010 were presented. We are currently in a better cash position than we were in 2009. Expenditures are down and general giving is up somewhat. Finance and Audit committees are asking for approval to spend \$6,800.00 for an audit review with a 2-year comparison for the year 2010. The motion was approved.

There was a discussion of scholarship funds. No funds are available for 2011. The Council will again consider the allocation of scholarship funds in December 2011 when setting up the budget for 2012.

Prayers of the Church were offered.

New Business:

Pastor Martha commissioned Glenn Bair, Dena Hodges, Matt Sherlock, Tim Stanton, and Elissa Streaker as the nominating committee for 2011, in accordance with Constitutional requirements. She encourages them to lead the efforts for seeking nominations for Church Council and committees.

Charlie Beckhardt presented the list of Committee chairs and Council liaisons. There was a motion and second to reaffirm the current chair people. The motion passed.

Announcements:

There were none.

After the praying of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Nancy Taylor, Council Member