

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011**

Members Present:

Randy Bachtel, Glenn Bair, Charlie Beckhardt, Al Doermann, Ted Forman, Karen Ganjon, Dena Hodges, Donald Ludwig, Rich Schuster, Matt Sherlock, Nancy Taylor, John Yarish, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson

Members Absent:

Tim Stanton, Elissa Streaker

Guests: Stacie Dowling, Sonia McCarthy

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the Council called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Pastors Martha and Kevin led devotions in loving memory of Jack Moores and Bill Glazier. Matt Sherlock will lead devotions in July. 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 May 16, 2011. The minutes were approved as written.

Old Business:

Stacie Dowling, Search Committee Chair, introduced Sonia McCarthy as the recommended candidate for Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministries. Stacie reviewed the call/search process that had taken place since early May. She described the specific actions that transitioned the Committee from a call committee to a search committee. Mrs. McCarthy had an opportunity to meet and greet Council members and to talk about her prior experiences as well as her gifts and talents.

After Sonia was excused from the meeting, Council members moved to ratify the recommendation of the Call/Search Committee to hire Sonia McCarthy as Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministries. In addition, the Council approved the compensation package recommended by the Personnel Committee with a mutually agreed upon start date.

Charlie expressed the Council's appreciation to the Call/Search Committee members: Bill Comegna, Stacie Dowling, Sharon Glass, Al Law, Heidi Sherlock, Karen Ganjon, Charlie Beckhardt, Pastor Hobbs and Pastors Martha and Kevin.

President's Report:

Charlie reported that no independent actions were taken by the Executive Committee at its meeting.

However, the Council did take action and presented our Pastors with a certificate for one bonus weekend off in appreciation for their extra time, efforts and the additional

responsibilities they assumed “to hold things together” during the time Grace was without office staff.

Pastors’ Report:

A written report was provided by Pastor Martha. She highlighted the visit of Bishop Herz-Lane with the Westminster Conference on June 21st. Pastors will be on vacation June 25 – July 5. Pastor Dave Bare will be leading worship both weekends.

Treasurer’s Report:

Don Ludwig presented the written financial reports. Don reported that we are “holding our own” in terms of budget. As always, we encourage members to remember their summer offerings as attendance varies because of vacations and family schedules. Don noted that contributions are being received in memory of Jack and Bill. In collaboration with the Finance Committee, there will also be some subheadings added to the budget to capture more detailed information in regards to the Capital Improvement line item.

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

Prayers of the Church were offered by Council members.

New Business:

At the Synod Assembly held in Ocean City, Grace Lutheran Church was recognized as the congregation that has given the most money to world hunger. Those members of Council in attendance (Al, Rich, and our Pastors) reported that this was an uplifting assembly focused on ministries. They noted an increase in youth/young adult participation and felt that there were more interactions among attendees. In addition, because of the manner in which the budget was discussed, our representatives felt that our input had an influence on the final budget approved by the members in attendance.

Announcements:

Pastor Kevin noted that software for facilities use is being researched. He asked if any Council members had knowledge of or experience with any such programs, please let him know.

After the praying of the Lord’s Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully,
Karen Ganjon, Council Secretary