

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

Members Present:

Randy Bachtel, Glenn Bair, Al Doermann, Ted Forman, Karen Ganjon, Dena Hodges, Donald Ludwig, Rich Schuster, Matt Sherlock, Tim Stanton, Elissa Streaker, Nancy Taylor, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson

Members Absent:

Charlie Beckhardt, John Yarish

Opening of Meeting:

Randy Bachtel, vice president of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Glenn Bair led devotions. Randy Bachtel will lead devotions in October. The Council members adopted the agenda as amended; adding a Music and Worship Committee report under New Business.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Randy Bachtel asked if there were any additions or corrections to the proposed minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on July 18, 2011. The minutes were approved as written.

Vice President's Report:

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

Old Business:

Randy Bachtel, Chair of the Property Committee, reported on several items.

- The Stoner Building chimney was removed.
- The general work day was cancelled because of the hurricane and the Boy Scouts will assist in painting the lines on the parking lot.
- Estimates were obtained to remove the tree behind Shepherd's Staff that has split and another tree near the front corner of the parking lot. The bid submitted by Carroll Tree Service was accepted for the tree removal.
- Leaks in the sanctuary continue. Bids from two companies have been obtained to determine where the leaks are coming from to solve the problem.
- The Property Committee is investigating adding lighting to the back parking lot.

Tim Stanton reported that the Social Ministry Committee was interested in exploring environmental stewardship. Randy noted that the Property Committee was presently working on an Operations Manual and gave several examples of actions being taken to support environmental stewardship (energy audit, recycling). It was suggested that a joint meeting between the Property and Social Ministry Committees may be helpful. Randy and Tim will follow-up.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided by Pastor Martha. She noted that Grace has been assigned a Teaching Parish Student for the 2011-2012 school year by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His name is Joshua "Drew" McCaffery. His first Sunday at Grace will be September 25, 2011. Drew will join us on Sundays and assist in leading the liturgy and do some preaching and teaching. We will again ask members to host Drew for lunch so he can get to know what it means to be a member of our community of faith.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Ludwig presented the written financial reports and reported that the Audit and Finance Committees met with the CPAs to review the audit for fiscal year 2010. There were no significant modifications to the financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009.

As Don reviewed the financial reports, he noted that there was a significant loss in investments due to the economy. The decrease in summer giving is also evident at this time. Unbudgeted property items will have a negative impact on the budget, too, as we address identified property concerns/issues. In terms of our profit and loss budget performance, our expenses have exceeded our year-to-date budget.

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

Prayers of the Church were offered by Council members.

New Business:

The Council approved the following recommendations.

1. Given that Christmas and New Year's Day are on Sundays this year, the Council approved to hold an All Grace service on December 25th in the sanctuary and an All Grace service on January 1st, the location to be determined at the discretion of our Pastors. The Christmas Eve schedule of services will remain the same (noon, 4, 6, 8, and 10:30 pm).
2. The Council approved to create a Hospitality Center and a Visitor Welcome and Information Center in the Upper Gathering Space by using existing funds and by making the project known to the congregation and asking for donations to be used for the items needed to complete the project.
3. The Council approved that the Memorial Monies given in memory of Bill Glazier be used toward the Visitor Welcome and Information Center and the Hospitality Center and that a small plaque be placed on the side of the Visitor Center in memory of Bill.
4. The Council approved policy revisions to Continuing Resolution C12.05.C10: *Facilities Use Policy-General* to reflect actual practice. In summary, the fee structure was moved out of the policy into an addendum so that it can be reviewed annually and changed by the Council as needed without changing the Facilities Use Policy itself. Some terminology was updated and the Procedures and Forms section was rewritten with greater detail and clarity.

5. The Council agreed to increase the fee from \$400.00 to \$450.00 for the use of Grace Hall per day or use. Also, the Council asked that the kitchen be considered as an addition to the fee schedule.

Pastor Kevin reported on a stewardship program entitled *Tithing: A Leap of Faith!* The program focuses on conveying the importance of our commitment to God through tithing. The program encourages our congregation to prayerfully consider an increased level of giving. Members will be asked to consider increasing their giving by 10% for 10 weeks (up to a full tithe). The program will be introduced to the congregation on October 9, 2011. Council members are asked to sign-up for Temple Talks for each service for the next four weeks.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Pastor Kevin requested that the Council reconsider the charge to the Stewardship Committee to develop a capital funds campaign. Because the campaign is quite an undertaking and needs more people resources, Pastor Kevin recommended that the Council identify an ad hoc committee of members who would have the sole responsibility of working with him to dedicate time, effort and energy toward the capital funds campaign. Council members are asked to identify persons to assist with the campaign and to email the names of those individuals to Pastor Kevin. The Executive Committee will review the names with Pastor and the Council will revisit the charge next month.

Announcements:

On Sunday, September 18th, the Boardroom at Carroll Lutheran Village was named in honor of Jack Moores.

Four members of Grace Lutheran Church serve on the Board of Directors for Carroll Lutheran Village. They are: Neal Hoffman, Ed Leister, Kay Betz and Ron Fairchild.

After the praying of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully,
Karen Ganjon, Council Secretary