

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

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Dena Hodges, Tim Stanton, Elissa Streaker, Nancy Taylor, John Yarish

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Karen Ganjon led devotions. Don Ludwig will lead devotions in December. The Council members adopted the agenda as presented.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Charlie asked if there were any additions or corrections to the proposed minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on October 10, 2011. The minutes were approved as written. The proposed executive minutes of the regular meeting of the Council on October 10, 2011 were also reviewed and approved.

President's Report:

On Sunday, December 4, 2011, following the 10 a.m. All Grace Worship service, the annual business meeting of the congregation of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held. Given that one of the agenda items is the election of new members to the Congregation Council, Charlie expressed his appreciation to the five Council members whose first term has expired: Glenn, Dena, Matt, Tim and Elissa. He also reminded the Council that following the annual business meeting on December 4th, the Council will meet to elect officers. As President of the Council, Charlie extended his gratitude to the entire Council for our dedication, commitment, and leadership on behalf of the congregation.

Thank you notes were received from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg for the support Grace Lutheran Church provides to our seminarians. In addition, personal thank you notes were received from Beth Clementson and Sonia McCarthy in appreciation for our financial support and our prayers and encouragement.

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

Presentation and Consideration of Finance Committee Recommendations for 2012 Operating and Capital Budgets:

It will be the Council's responsibility to forward a proposed budget to the congregation for its meeting on December 4, 2011, for their review and approval. Don Meyers, Chair of the Finance Committee, joined the Council to present the proposed budget. Charlie led the Council in prayer before Don's overview and then detailed explanation of the proposed budgets. Don Meyers expressed his gratitude to Don Ludwig and members of the Finance Committee who worked diligently to formulate the proposed budget. After the Council's review and discussion, it was moved and approved to send the proposed budgets as presented, with the necessary known adjustments, to the congregation on December 4, 2011 for their review and adoption.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided by Pastor Martha. She highlighted upcoming events and plans.

In addition, the Pastors recommended and the Council approved persons who desire to be accepted into membership on December 4, 2011. A brunch, sponsored by the Evangelism Committee, will be held at 9 a.m. to welcome new members prior to the All Grace service.

Pastor Martha also prepared a written perspective on membership gains and losses from 2008-2011. She provided this data for Council's information and review. Over the last four years, the data confirmed that gains in membership outweigh losses. We continue to recognize and celebrate individuals who God calls to Grace to be part of our fellowship of believers.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Ludwig presented the written financial reports. After the budget review/discussion that the Council had regarding the proposed 2012 Capital and Operating Budgets, Don briefly reported on two items: 1) the Council will receive a rental properties report from the Finance Committee in January, and 2) the Finance Committee is interviewing another firm to conduct the financial audits.

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 affirmed the nominees for possible election to the Congregation Council: Joette Campanello, Michele Krichinsky, Johanna Monka, Steve Sabol, Jr. and Linwood Van Horn. Should additional persons be identified and agree to be nominees after this meeting and prior to the annual business meeting, Charlie will update Council members by email. In addition, the Council affirmed the nominees for possible election as delegates to Synod Assembly: Sharon Glass, Laura Heller, Arthur Pease, Viera Sabol and Rich Schuster. The Council approved the reappointment of Alice Lockard as a member of the Board of Directors for Timber Ridge.

Announcements: None at this time

After the praying of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully,
Karen Ganjon, Council Secretary