

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL OF GRACE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Dena Hodges, Nancy Taylor

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Glenn Bair led devotions. Karen Ganjon will lead devotions in November. 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 September 19, 2011. The minutes were approved as written.

President's Report:

Charlie expressed his appreciation to vice president, Randy Bachtel for facilitating the September Council meeting during his absence. He highlighted the following items:

1. On December 4, 2011, at the All Grace service, there will be a Congregational Annual Business Meeting. The congregation will be electing six Council members. Council members whose first term has expired are Glenn, Dena, Matt, Tim and Elissa. An additional vacancy will be filled because of the death of Council member, Bill Glazier. After the Congregational Meeting, there will be a special meeting of the Congregational Council to welcome new members and elect officers.
2. Nominating Committee has been actively recruiting new Council members. Announcements have been in the bulletin asking for nominations and all Council members are encouraged to make themselves available to potential members interested in being on Council. The goal is to have profiles of the potential Council members printed for the congregation's reference in November.
3. At the Council's November meeting, the members will receive the proposed budget from the Treasurer and Finance Committee. 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.
4. Correspondence was received from Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane thanking us for our support throughout the past year, and urging our congregation to consider increasing our giving to mission support. This request is based on a resolution passed by the 2010 Synod Assembly that all member churches work toward a goal of sharing 10% of unrestricted giving. He asked for our faithful support of and giving to our work together as the ELCA and the Delaware-Maryland Synod for the wider church.
5. Charlie reported that no independent actions were taken by the Executive Committee at its meeting.

Old Business:

The Constitution and Bylaws of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (C13.07) outline the process for the annual review of the Senior Pastor(s). In March, the Council formed the evaluation committees in accordance with the guidelines for membership and established the process for the Pastors' evaluations. Because matters regarding Personnel are treated confidentially and with sensitivity, the Council moved into Executive session to discuss the Reports of the Pastoral Evaluation Committees.

Elissa offered prayer as the Council transitioned from executive session back into our regular meeting. Pastor Martha wanted to acknowledge that she really appreciated the process. Pastor Kevin appreciated the discussion and described it as a dynamic process.

Our Pastors expressed that they felt supported yet challenged to look forward in partnership to grow.

Charlie, on behalf of the Council, thanked the Committees and commended all for a job well done. The collaborative process was successful because of open, honest and effective communication. Serving on Pastor Martha's committee were: Sheila Law, Al Doermann, Elissa Streaker, John Yarish , and Randy Bachtel. Serving on Pastor Kevin's committee were: Jessica Morelock, Don Ludwig, Matt Sherlock, Nancy Taylor, and Tim Stanton. The Evaluation Committees have been discharged because their tasks are completed.

Following the adoption of our statements for mission, vision, and ministry focus areas last December (2010), we committed to the congregation that Council would periodically check on our progress. Charlie facilitated a discussion regarding the Council's assessment of our first year of Ministry Focus Areas.

We appreciate and acknowledge that many good actions/activities have taken place; the list of reasons to celebrate was quite extensive. We pray that we continue to see energies directed toward the congregation's ministry focus areas and express our collective appreciation for the works of our committees and other members who dedicate time, effort and a willingness to engage in our ministries at Grace.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided by Pastor Martha. She highlighted upcoming events and plans. In addition, the Pastors provided a written update on the Upper Gathering Space/Hospitality Center. No recommendations were made at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Ludwig presented the written financial reports. As Don reviewed the financial reports, he compared profit and losses from September 2010 to September 2011. He noted that there was a greater loss in investments for September 2011 due to the economy. However, our total checking/savings account shows an increase over this time last year. Unbudgeted property items will continue to have a negative impact on the budget 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 referred to the Audit Committee.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Council members.

New Business:

The Council approved the following recommendations presented by Randy Bachtel, chair of the Property Committee.

- Appropriated \$4,000.00 for repair to the sanctuary roof
- Approved that \$1,000.00 from the Columbarium account be used to put railings on top on the Columbarium
- Approved the purchase of 2,000 gallons of fuel oil

The Council moved into Executive session to discuss a business item that touched on the private affairs of a member. The Council returned to regular session.

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