

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

Members Present:

Randy Bachtel, Ted Forman, Michelle Krichinsky, Donald Ludwig, John Yarish, Charlie Beckhardt, Nancy Taylor, Deborah Brennan, Ron Fairchild, Mike Shipley, Linwood Van Horn, Pastor Martha Clementson, Pastor Kevin Clementson

Members Absent:

Al Doermann, Karen Ganjon, Rich Schuster, Johanna Monka

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Don Ludwig led devotions. Pastor Kevin Clementson will lead devotions in January. Each council member gave a brief introduction of themselves. 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 November 21, 2011. The minutes were approved as written. Charlie asked if there were any additions or corrections to the proposed minutes of the special council meeting held on December 4, 2011. The minutes were approved as written.

President's Report and Orientation:

Charlie reported that the Executive Committee met on December 14, 2011. No independent actions were taken. Charlie expressed our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Karen Ganjon for serving as secretary of the council for the last three years. Her sensibility, compassion, sound judgment and leadership have been invaluable to our council and congregation.

Charlie presented the pastors with a holiday gift from the council for their tireless work for our congregation. Charlie reminded us that the lit candle at our meetings is a reminder that God is empowering us to do the work of the church. He is guiding our thoughts and actions. Charlie presented a copy of the constitution to each council member. Charlie gave an overview of the set up of our constitution. He reminded us that the constitution outlines the authorities granted to the council. This document allows us to take actions, monitor actions and take responsibility for our actions. He encouraged all council members to read and understand the constitution.

Pastor Martha discussed that we are in a Covenant Leadership. Leadership is the heart of Chapter 21 of our constitution. We are charged to see the big picture, serve as personal examples and draw others into ministry and mission. We are not alone!

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided.

Sherri Smith was added to the list of new members who were approved in November.

There was approval for four All Grace Service Sundays in 2012. These will occur on April 15, May 20, September 9, and December 2, 2012.

There was a request for transfer to Lazarus Lutheran Church by Carol and Vince Kicas.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Ludwig advised that the written report was the same one presented at the December 4, 2011 congregational meeting. As of December 12, 2011 total income has reached \$1,000,000. A motion was approved to grant authorization to sign financial instruments to the council officers and pastors. A motion was approved to reauthorize the ability to transfer funds to the pastors and to the Executive Committee. The request must be made in written form to BB&T bank. A motion was approved to accept and refer the financial report to the Audit Committee.

Old Business:

A motion was presented from Executive Committee to establish a Capital Campaign Committee to be chaired by Randy Bachtel. This committee is charged with the tasks of improving our financial picture, and to provide funding for modest renovations and repairs to the sanctuary prior to the refinancing of our note due November 2013. Our hope is to reduce the principal due to below \$2,000,000 and to prove to financial institutions that we have the resources to cover note payments for three years. The motion was approved.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Council members.

New Business:

The Risk Management committee is currently reviewing our insurance coverage. The final meeting is set for December 20, 2011. A final decision will be made on who will provide coverage for the church.

The Congregational Council will be installed on January 8, 2012 at both the 9:00 and 11:15am services. Please try to attend both services.

The Congregational Informational Meeting will take place on May 6, 2012 after the 11:15am worship service.

Announcements:

Charlie pointed out that Ted Dix is an extremely skilled music coordinator and leader. He deserves our thanks for the outstanding Christmas Cantata presented December 18, 2011.

Pastor Martha would like anyone who wishes to be a reader at a Christmas service to please contact her. All Council members should consider which committee they would like to serve on as Council liaisons for the year.

The Council expresses thanks to Randy Bachtel for all of his work on the Property Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary