

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON January 16, 2012**

Members present:

Randy Bachtel, Michele Krichinsky, Donald Ludwig, Charlie Beckhardt, Karen Ganjon, Rich Schuster, Nancy Taylor, Deborah Brennan, Ron Fairchild, Johanna Monka, Linwood Van Horn, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson

Members Absent:

Ted Forman, John Yarish, Al Doermann, Mike Shipley

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, President of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Pastor Kevin led devotions. Karen Ganjon will lead devotions in February. The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Charlie asked if there were any additions or corrections to the proposed minutes of the regular meeting held on December 19, 2011. Randy Bachtel asked for an addition to the proposed minutes. The minutes were approved as amended.

President's Report:

Charlie passed around a proposed contact list for council members to check for additions or errors. Charlie thanked the council members for their attendance at the council installation services held on January 9, 2012. Charlie announced that effective Jan.12, 2012, in a mutually agreed upon decision, Sonia McCarthy will no longer hold the position of Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry at Grace.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. Pastor Martha also discussed a very successful confirmation student servant event. Our youth baked cookies, cleaned the Christian Ed closet, started a craft for the first communion students, and made Hospice and AIDs kits with the women of the ELCA. It was truly an intergenerational event and was followed by the sharing of cookies and lemonade. Pastor Martha would also like to remind everyone of the upcoming Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be held Jan. 29, 2012 at Grace Hall.

Treasurer's Report

Don Ludwig reported that comparing the months of Dec. 2010 to Dec. 2011 general giving was up \$5000.00. The Christmas offering was \$32,000.00. January to December 2011 shows a loss of \$132,724.00. This loss contains a \$30,000 investment loss. There was a recommendation from Finance Committee to change auditors this year. Our auditor is now Laura Barwick CPA,LLC.

Old Business:

The Risk Management Committee met and completed their review of the insurance policies. A decision was made to move our insurance to Barnes Bollinger Insurance. The premium is \$1,800.00 less per year. There is a 3 year guarantee on the policy premium rate.

Prayers of the church were offered by Council members.

New Business:

Executive session was entered at 8:15pm to discuss a recommendation from Finance Committee.

Executive session was ended at 9:18pm.

There was a review and re-authorization of the credit card holders. The council liaison list was presented. All members agreed to take on the responsibility of their assigned committees. Two candidates were presented and affirmed as new committee chairs. Dena Hodges will lead the Fellowship Committee. Gary Ganjon will take over as chair of the Property Committee.

Pastor Kevin informed the council that there will be an opening for a member of Grace on the board of Shepherd's Staff. He is open to suggestions of names for interested people who would share a sense of vision for this valuable ministry.

Announcements:

Pastor Martha would like to remind us that Lent begins soon after our next meeting. We will need to sign up for one of the soup suppers. Michele Krichinsky would like to thank the pastors and Ronnie Wentz for all of their support at the wedding of her son on New Year's Eve at Grace. Randy Bachtel would like everyone to remember the Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, Jan. 21, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary