

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

Members Present:

Randy Bachtel, Ted Forman, Donald Ludwig, John Yarish, Charlie Beckhardt, Al Doermann, Karen Ganjon, Rich Schuster, Nancy Taylor, Deborah Brennan, Ron Fairchild, Johanna Monka, Mike Shipley, Linwood Van Horn, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson

Members Absent:

Michele Krichinsky

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the council, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Al Doermann led devotions. Ron Fairchild will lead devotions in May. 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 March 19, 2012. The minutes were approved. Charlie asked if there were any additions or corrections to the proposed minutes of the executive session of the regular meeting held on March 19, 2012. The minutes were approved.

Presidents Report:

Charlie thanked the pastors for their outstanding work and leadership during the busy Lenten season. He also commented that the musical leadership of both Ted Dix and Erik Piisilla was equally outstanding. His thanks also go out to the facility and office staff for their hard work during this busy time of year. Charlie reminded the council of the upcoming congregational meeting on May 6, 2012 after the 11:15am service. He requests that all council members be present for the meeting. Rich Schuster, Al Doermann and Don Ludwig will serve as ballot counters at the meeting. Executive Council has met twice since our last council meeting. The Gettysburg Seminary has requested that we host a third year seminarian for the upcoming academic year. Don Meyers and Don Ludwig went over the finances to host a student. The impact will be minimal. The pastors have met with the candidate. They are very impressed with her. Hosting a seminary student will help us to fulfill our mission goals and support the pastors. The Executive Committee endorsed the idea and suggested we take advantage of this opportunity.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. Pastor Martha presented a list of nine candidates for Confirmation to take place on May 20, 2012. The candidates were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

A written report was provided. We are up \$27,000 in the checking account compared to 2011. Our total expenses are down \$25,000 but our investments are down significantly compared to 2011. We are holding our own. Bills are being paid in a timely fashion. A motion passed to refer the Treasurer's report to the Audit Committee.

Old Business:

Charlie Beckhardt presented the following motion, which was approved:

The Congregation Council establishes a Call Committee, and charges it to work with the Delaware-Maryland Synod in a call process for a lay rostered leader to fill the position of Director of Christian Education, Youth & Family Ministries. The following persons are appointed to the committee: Stacie Dowling (chair), Heidi Sherlock, Sharon Glass, Bill Comegna, Al Law, Ron Fairchild, Karen Ganjon, Charlie Beckhardt, Sam Stanton, Maddie Lichtfuss, Pastor Martha Clementson, and Pastor Kevin Clementson. The Council further authorizes the committee to perform in the capacity of a Search Committee, as needed, until the conclusion of the hiring process.

Prayers of the Church:

Prayers were offered by Ted Forman, Karen Ganjon, Charlie Beckhardt, and Pastor Kevin.

New Business:

The pastors presented a written proposal which was endorsed by the council for a project called *Grace in our Neighborhoods* to begin in June. The goal of the project is to enjoy time together, make some new friends in Christ, and strengthen relationships in our community of faith.

Announcements:

A reminder was given that Council will meet Sat. April 21, 2012 from 9am to 12pm for a presentation from Legacy Circle of Grace and a facilities tour by the property committee. The Lutheran Mens' Dinner is April 23, 2012. The talent show is April 21, 2012. Please support the Crop Walk. Happy Birthday to Pastor Martha. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary