

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL OF
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
HELD ON June 18, 2012**

Members present:

Randy Bachtel, Ted Forman, Michele Krichinsky, Donald Ludwig, Charlie Beckhardt, 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:

John Yarish, Al Doermann

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the council, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Deborah Brennan led devotions. Michele Krichinsky will lead devotions in July. 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 May 21, 2012. The minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

Charlie reported that Sheila Law is celebrating her 25th anniversary as an Associate in Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She is an outstanding leader at Grace in outreach and evangelism. A celebratory reception will be held in her honor on July 8, 2012 between the Sunday services. A motion was passed to honor Sheila Law for her 25th anniversary of her commissioning as an Associate in Ministry with a gift not to exceed \$200.00 that will be funded through the Council's discretionary fund.

Charlie passed a certificate and letter of acknowledgement from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg extending their congratulations to Grace Lutheran Church for the 145th anniversary of our founding. Certificates were also sent to each of the pastors to honor their 30th anniversary of ordination.

Pastor Kevin added that in 5 years when we are celebrating our 150th anniversary of our founding that the city of Westminster will celebrate their 150th Memorial Day Parade. This is the longest continuous running Memorial Day Parade in the nation. We need to be aware and plan for this milestone.

Charlie thanked everyone on council for their help with the celebration in honor of the 30th ordination of both Pastor Kevin and Pastor Martha.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. The first Grace in our Neighborhood Gathering was very successful. Vacation Bible Camp will be held from Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20, 2012. Enrollment is going well. Pastor Kevin is now on the board of Shepherd's Staff. A luncheon is being planned for both the staff at Grace and the staff at Shepherd's Staff along with the new director, Brenda Meadows.

Treasurer's Report

Don Ludwig reported that our cash position now is better than it was in 2011. Our investments are variable. A written report was provided and referred to the Audit Committee. We have received a letter from the Weissemiller Law Group concerning the Lawrence E. Zepp trust. The trust states that a portion of the assets are to be divided equally between 4 charitable organizations. Grace Lutheran Church is one of the recipients. Don Ludwig will write an article for the bulletin on how to gift stock certificates to the church.

Old Business:

There has been minimal interest from within our congregation to purchase the church-owned properties on Carroll Street. We will widen the announcement within the community. There are two parties who have expressed some interest who will be contacted.

The Search Committee has been hard at work with the Delaware-Maryland Synod to find a new Director of Youth and Family Ministry. One interview has been completed. Two more are scheduled. All of the candidates are nonrostered. The council is comfortable accepting the recommendation of the search committee to allow for a candidate to be employed in this position by late summer.

Repair work needs to be done on the Carroll Street parking lot. Three estimates were obtained last fall. The council recommends we hire L.R Hollman, Inc., to repair the parking lot at a cost of \$3950.00

Prayers of the church were offered by Council members.

New Business:

Donations to honor the ordination anniversaries of Pastor Kevin and Pastor Martha total \$4795.00. A motion was passed to dedicate \$1500.00 of this fund to support the Scholarship Endowment at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

A motion was passed to change the date of the July council meeting to July 30, 2012.

A recap of the Synod Assembly was presented. The theme centered on evangelism. Our leaders attended as many workshops as possible. The meeting was shortened to 2 days and felt a little rushed. An action was passed that in the future if the Synod wants to cut the campus ministry budget, the Synod budget must be cut by the same amount. We will hear more about the Malaria Campaign. Timmy the Turtle is still in our possession.

Announcements:

Lemonade and cookies will be served after the 10:30am service on the first Sunday of the month during the summer. Sound dampening boxes are being installed in the theater to improve the acoustics. The cost is being shared with the Carroll Children's Chorus.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary