

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL OF
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2012**

Members Present:

Randy Bachtel, Charlie Beckhardt, Ron Fairchild, Ted Forman, Karen Ganjon, Johanna Monka, Rich Schuster, Mike Shipley, Linwood Van Horn, John Yarish, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Rev. Martha Clementson

Members Absent:

Deborah Brennan, Al Doermann, Michele Krichinsky, Donald Ludwig, Nancy Taylor

Guests:

Vicar Karin Albaugh, Don Meyers

Opening of Meeting:

Charlie Beckhardt, president of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Vicar Karin led devotions. Pastor Kevin will lead devotions in December. The agenda was adopted as amended.

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 October 15, 2012. The minutes were adopted as presented.

President's Report:

Charlie shared correspondence from St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Red House, thanking Council for the \$220.00 gift in memory of Harold Bachtel, Randy's father. In addition, he reminded Council members of the special meeting of the Council following the Annual Business Meeting of the congregation on December 2, 2012, following the All Grace Worship Service. Finally, Charlie expressed his sincere appreciation to Council for their collaborative spirit, commitment and dedication during his tenure as Council president. He especially thanked the executive committee for their support and dedication and to those members whose term will be ending. He looks forward to working with Council during the final year of his second term.

Presentation and Consideration of the Finance Committee Recommendations for 2013 Operating and Capital Budgets:

Don Meyers, chair of the Finance Committee, presented the budget recommendations to the Council. He reviewed the budget items in detail and provided additional clarification or information, as requested. Don again recognized the work of the various committees to keep expenses in budget and also acknowledged the importance and blessings of the bequests and gifts Grace has, and continues, to receive. Don and the members of the finance committee recommended to Council what they believe is a reasonable and doable budget for 2013. Following prayerful consideration, the Council unanimously approved that the finance committee's recommendations for the 2013 Operating and Capital Budgets be forwarded to the congregation for their consideration at the December 2, 2012, Annual Business Meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

A written report was provided. In Don Ludwig's absence, Don Meyers, chair of the Finance Committee, presented the treasurer's report. Don reviewed the written financial report and Council moved to refer the treasurer's report to the audit committee.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. Pastor Kevin highlighted some activities and described the roles and responsibilities he and Pastor Martha have assumed in support of the ELCA; Pastor Kevin as a mentor for pastors and lay rostered leaders in their first call and Pastor Martha serving on the Candidacy Committee at the Synod. In addition, the Pastors recommended and the Council approved, the following persons to be accepted into membership on Sunday, December 2, 2012: Charles Crown; Leanne Elliott; Janet Harrison; Elizabeth Meuse-Cummiskey; Amy Palazzo; Elizabeth Phipps; Fred and Joan Rogge; Mark, Stephanie, Christian, Cosette Schneider; Gary and Letitia Simonette and Pat Wilhelm.

Old Business:

Randy Bachtel, Don Ludwig, John Yarish, and Pastor Kevin serve as the Council's representatives to work through the process of the sale of the rentals and to report their actions/progress to the Council. Randy provided an update on the status of the sale of the rental properties. He reported that Dan Hoff, realtor, is preparing the paperwork to put the properties on the market for multiple listings.

Randy also reported that a meeting will take place with BB&T regarding refinancing. Don Ludwig, Don Meyers, Pastor Kevin and Randy intend to ask questions and gain additional information about refinancing given the anticipated sale of the rental properties.

The Council affirmed the nominees for Congregation Council who will be presented to the congregation on December 2, 2012 at the annual business meeting. The following persons will be presented: Kevin Dayhoff, Don Ludwig, Donna Kent, Kathy McLeod Rehak and Brian Sherfey. The Council acknowledged that this is an open nomination process and is pleased that five persons have been recruited to fill the open slots.

The Council affirmed the nominations for the 2013 Synod Assembly. They are: Al Doermann, Sharon Glass, Richard Schuster, Leanne Elliott, Arthur Pease and Beth Clementson, as alternate.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Pastor Kevin, Rich Schuster, Randy Bachtel and Charlie Beckhardt.

New Business:

The Executive Committee recommended to Council that Perry Crowl serve as Grace's representative on the Westminster Cemetery Board. The Council approved his appointment. Linwood provided information to the Council regarding the apartment that Grace has rented for refugees as part of our social ministry. Given that the apartment has been vacant for some time and that Refugee Relief tries to relocate individuals within like cultural communities, there is reason to believe that the need for the apartment no longer exists. Therefore, George Conover offered to release Grace from its rental lease as of December 1, 2012. The Council voted to accept George's offer to end the lease with its appreciation. Charlie will follow-up with a written correspondence to George expressing the Council's action and appreciation.

Randy provided an update on the insurance review that took place as part of our Constitutional responsibility regarding risk management. Recommendations dealing with safety and security have been and, will continue to be, addressed. The next review will take place in 2013 and the renewal in 2014.

Given there were no announcements, the meeting was adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ganjon, Council Member