

**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of the
Congregation of
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Westminster, Maryland
Held on Sunday, December 2, 2012**

Opening of meeting

Charles Beckhardt, President of the Council called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and declared a quorum. Vicar Karin Albaugh opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

Approval of Prior Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the annual meeting held on Dec. 4, 2011 be approved as printed and distributed. The motion was adopted. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of Annual Informational Meeting of the congregation held on Sunday, May 6, 2012 be approved as printed. The motion was adopted.

Election of Congregational Council Members

The slate of nominees was read: Kevin Dayhoff, Donald Ludwig, Donna Kent, Kathy McLeod Rehak, and Brian Sherfey. Nominations were called for from the floor. No nominations were made. Profiles of the candidates were provided in written form. There were 5 vacancies and 5 nominations for council. A motion was presented and approved to elect the entire slate of nominees by acclamation. The motion was approved.

President's Report

Charlie referred the congregation to the report of the Congregation Council that was printed in the Annual Reports packet. He said we should allow ourselves a moment of satisfaction for many jobs well done. He reminded us to never divert our attention from the God who is our strength, the savior who is our example and the Holy Spirit who is our companion as we do the work of the church. He spent a moment thanking the staff for their leadership, support and contributions to our work here at Grace. He publically thanked the council for their collaborative spirit and for being faithful to their Leadership Covenant. Charlie reminded us that in three years, Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate 150 years of ministry. He challenged the congregation that together, all of us, in Christ our Lord, joyfully share what 150 years of ministry has meant for us and the community. He suggested that we glorify our God with a year long commemoration of what He has done and is doing for us. This celebration is 3 years away but we will need the entire congregation to plan, fund and participate in this important commemoration.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Martha presented the Pastors' Report as written in the Annual Report. Pastor Martha reminded us that life can quickly take twists and turns. Foremost is Pastor Kevin's absence. She expressed gratitude for how God's hand has been at work with his illness and healing. She thanked everyone for their prayers and support. She feels blessed to be here at Grace. She noted that rarely is this building empty and that much happens

here at all times of the day and evening. She expressed gratitude to the staff for all their work. She offered a special thanks to Charlie Beckhardt and Randy Bachtel for their unending work as officers of the Council. She started her sixth year at Grace yesterday and is looking forward to the next year of ministry.

Election of Voting Members to the 2013 Synod Assembly

The slate of nominees was presented. We need 5 representatives to serve. Nominations were called for from the floor. There were none. A motion was made and approved to elect the slate of nominations by acclamation. The representatives are Al Doermann, Sharon Glass, Richard Schuster, Leanne Elliott, and Arthur Pease.

Treasurer's Report

A written copy was provided to the congregation. A correction was made on page 35 of the report to replace a period with a comma. A motion was made and passed to refer the Treasurer's report to the Audit committee.

Presentation and Adoption of the Annual Operating and Capital Budget for 2013

Don Meyers presented the proposed budget as distributed and written on a separate report. The budget that has been approved by Council is not indulgent. Our committees work hard to control their budget. We have a 1.17% increase in the budget compared to 2012. Don presented an analogy comparing how operating a motorcycle is similar to operating a business or a church. We are a congregation with a large budget, a beautiful church, and awareness in the community. We are noticed. We need to be mindful of how we maintain and manage our resources. We have our investments as reserve but can not continue to use these for our operating budget. Each year, we fall short of our budgeted income. Despite the challenging economic times, we continue to maintain our ministries at Grace. Don offered thanks to Don Ludwig, all the staff and committee members for all of their hard work. Questions were taken from the congregation

Greg Hare requested an update on the sale of the rental properties and the sanctuary ceiling repair. There is a leak in the roof. The roof needs to be sealed before we can repair the ceiling. There needs to be wind and rain to locate the source of the leak. We need to have funding in place to begin this project. The rental properties are being listed for sale. Hopefully, some funds will be available from the sale of the properties to apply to the ceiling repairs.

A motion was made and passed to approve the budget as presented for 2013.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Taylor, Council secretary