

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL OF
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
HELD ON January 21, 2013**

Members Present:

Donald Ludwig, Charlie Beckhardt, Karen Ganjon, Rich Schuster, Nancy Taylor, Johanna Monka, Mike Shipley, Linwood Van Horn, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Kathy McLeod Rehak, Brian Sherfey, Donna Kent, Al Doermann, Ron Fairchild,

Members Absent:

Kevin Dayhoff

Guest: Vicar Karin Albaugh

Opening of Meeting:

Karen Ganjon, President of the council, called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm. Each member of the council introduced themselves. Ron Fairchild led devotions. Ron also expressed his thanks for all the support his family received during Adam's recent hospitalization and recovery.

Meeting Agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular council meeting held Dec 17, 2012. The minutes were approved as presented. Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Congregation Annual Business meeting held on Dec. 2, 2012. The minutes will be distributed on May 5, 2013 at the Annual Informational Meeting for the congregation's review and approval.

President's Report:

Karen reminded us that Lent will quickly be upon us. Traditionally, the Council has hosted and served the first Lenten meal after Ash Wednesday. We will host on February 20, 2013. A sign up sheet was passed to each member to volunteer to cook, serve or clean up following the meal. Karen received a note from Deb Brennan. She is resigning from the council. She thanks us for the experience but believes her talents will be better served in other areas of the church. Given that Deb's first term expires in Dec. 2014, the Council will follow the vacancy procedure outlined in the Continuing Resolution C12.03.A08. It is anticipated that a name or names will be brought to the Council for election in February. Karen shared a thank you note from the pastors to the Council for their holiday gift. Karen attended a meeting of the Finance Committee. She wants all of us to recognize how blessed we are for the talented and experienced group of individuals who are looking out for the financial well being of this congregation. The Executive Council met and no independent actions were taken.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. Pastor Martha pointed out that there were 2 funerals this week. Pastor Martha also presented a recommendation that Keith and Carrie Jenkins be added to the roll of Active, Confirmed members. The recommendation was approved. The church has received three thank you notes in response to our recent tithing donations from the Zepp Trust. The first note was from Pastor Charles Zang of the Tanzanian Task Force Project. The second note was from Brenda Meadows and Shepherds Staff. The third note was from Rev. Laura Sinche. She is the Campus Pastor and Ministry Coordinator for Towson University, Morgan State and UMBC.

Treasurer's Report:

A written report was provided. Don reports we are in a better cash position. Our total expenses are below budget. Our investments are down by \$100,000. This is because we continue to pay our mortgage from our investments. A motion was approved to refer the treasurer's report to the Audit Committee.

Old Business:

The Rental Property Committee is scheduled to meet Jan. 26, 2013. To date, a listing agent has been in 2 of the 3 properties. They plan to inspect the third property this week. The property history is being reviewed to be certain there is no historic ground rent on any of the properties. Hopefully, the properties will be listed for sale by the end of the month. The complete list of Council committee assignments and contact information was distributed. The Capital Campaign Committee held their first meeting. Goals for the campaign were discussed. The primary goal is to strengthen our ministries. A written report was provided.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Karen Ganjon, Rich Schuster, and Pastor Kevin.

New Business:

The Council reviewed the list of credit card holders and credit limits. All credit limits are appropriate. There has been no misuse of the cards. All charges are checked before payments are made. No changes were made based on the review.

Announcements:

In order to decrease expenses and be environmentally conscience, Karen plans to send all information for council meetings electronically. Please print your own hard copies if you would like to have them at the meetings. There are 4 members of Council who are not able to print copies. Hard copies will be provided for these individuals. Pastor Martha reports that in light of the recent school tragedies, Arthur and Anita have discussed ways to enhance security at Little Friends of Grace (LFOG). Several measures have already been implemented. The LFOG Board met recently and the parents are very happy with the measures we have in place.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary