

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON March 18, 2013**

Members Present:

Charlie Beckhardt, Karen Ganjon, Rich Schuster, Nancy Taylor, Johanna Monka, Mike Shipley, Linwood Van Horn, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Brian Sherfey, Al Doermann, Ron Fairchild, Bob Lichtfuss

Members Absent:

Kevin Dayhoff, Donna Kent, Donald Ludwig, Kathy Rehak

Opening of Meeting:

Karen Ganjon, President of the council, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Karen welcomed Bob Lichtfuss to the Council and asked all members to take down Bob's contact information. Devotions were led by Linwood Van Horn.

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 Feb. 18, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented. Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the executive session minutes of the council meeting held on Feb. 18, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

Karen announced that due to the inclement weather our meeting will be brief tonight. She thanked the council for all the help in the preparation, serving and clean up associated with the Lenten meal on Feb. 20, 2013. There continues to be great attendance at both the meals and the services. Karen read a letter of thanks from Rev LaVern Rasmussen for our financial support of the Synod during the 2012 fiscal year. She noted that the Executive Council had discussed the scholarship fund and will revisit this topic with Council at a later date with more detail for Council's consideration.

Committee Report:

Mike Shipley, as property liaison to Council, provided a written report for long range improvements. Karen encouraged all members to read the report before the April meeting when we will have a formal presentation and discussion of the recommendations.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided.

Treasurer's Report:

The financial reports for February were provided. A motion was approved to refer the treasurer's report to the Audit Committee.

Old Business:

A motion was made and approved to enter Executive Session at 7:18pm. Executive Session was concluded at 8:22pm. Ron Fairchild presented an update on the Growth for Ministry Campaign. A written report was provided. The campaign is a 5 year stewardship campaign that focuses on strengthening the ministries of Grace. The campaign is designed to pay off our mortgage and make much needed repairs to the sanctuary. Ron invited all members of the Council to demonstrate their leadership and support of the campaign. He charged the council to pray for God to bless the campaign. He encourages each member to determine their current level of giving as a percentage of income. The goal is tithing or an incremental increase each year toward tithing. He requests a pledge form be completed and returned to Dawn Stem before the next council meeting.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Karen Ganjon, Mike Shipley, and Pastor Martha.

New Business:

A new Hospitality Committee is being formed. Cathy Barnes has agreed to organize and chair this effort.

Announcements:

Pastor Martha announced that Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane and Assistant Bishop Ron Schlock will lead a discussion on evangelism and hospitality at St Benjamin's Lutheran Church. The meeting will take place April 13, 2013 from 9am until noon. Council members are encouraged to attend.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary