

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL  
OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER,  
MARYLAND HELD ON April 15, 2013**

Members Present:

Charlie Beckhardt, Karen Ganjon, Nancy Taylor, Johanna Monka, Mike Shipley, Linwood Van Horn, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Brian Sherfey, Al Doermann, Ron Fairchild, Bob Lichtfuss, Kevin Dayhoff, Don Ludwig, Kathy Rehak

Members Absent:

Donna Kent, Rich Schuster

Guests: Karin Albaugh, Marcus Strauss

Opening of Meeting:

Karen Ganjon, President of the council, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Devotions were led by Charlie Beckhardt.

Presentation:

Marcus Strauss gave a presentation and answered questions concerning Thrivent for Lutherans. Thrivent for Lutherans is a faith-based membership organization called to improve the quality of life of its members, their families, and their communities by providing solutions that focus on financial security, wellness and caring for others. Thrivent is a not for profit company. They offer educational workshops. Becky Leister is our local representative.

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 March 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 March 18, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

On Saturday April 13, 2013, Council members Pastor Kevin, Pastor Martha, Ron Fairchild, Don Ludwig, Kevin Dayhoff and Karen attended a workshop on evangelism and hospitality. The workshop was led by Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane and Assistant Bishop Ron Schlak. Our congregation was well represented. Caroline Babylon, Beth Clementson, Sharon Glass and Taylor Glass Button also attended the workshop. No independent actions were taken by Executive Council

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. There were 2 recommendations from the pastors.

1. The pastors recommended the approval of the following persons for Confirmation on May 19, 2013 pending satisfactory completion of requirements:

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Danielle Auth  | Brynn Martin |
| Rachel Border  | Megan Scocco |
| Riley Eppler   | Tyler Snyder |
| Adam Fairchild | Morgan Tyler |

The recommendation was approved.

2. Following conversation with Diane Jones, the pastors recommended that Grace renew its annual agreement with the Carroll County Children's Chorus for the 2013-2014 school year at the same rate agreed upon for 2012-2013. (\$1,500; \$225 if Grace Hall is used for an event) The recommendation was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The financial reports for March were provided. We were in a strong cash position for March. We were able to transfer \$25,000 to our investments in March. A motion was approved to refer the treasurer's report to the Audit Committee.

Committee Report:

Mike Shipley, as a representative of the Property Committee, presented an extensive list of projects and repairs of which we need to be aware. As always, safety and security of our members come first. Priorities for repairs have been established. Some projects are funded. Karen requests that the Property Committee give regular updates to the Council.

Old Business:

A motion was made and approved to enter Executive Session and allow Karin Albaugh to be in attendance as a guest at 8:31pm. Executive Session was concluded at 8:52pm. Ron Fairchild presented an update on the Growth for Ministry Campaign. Ron distributed a revised document for the campaign. He clarified that the goal of the campaign is to increase overall giving, retire our debt, and utilize our resources to invest in the ministries of this church. Each council member is asked to sign a pledge and return it to Dawn Stem by April 28, 2013.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Don Ludwig, Brian Sherfey, and Pastor Kevin.

New Business:

The staff of Grace and Shepherd's Staff have decided to hold a flea market on Sat. June 8, 2013. Members of the church will be able to donate items for sale. The Rescue Mission will take any leftover items.

Announcements:

Representatives of the Finance Committee will meet with financial institutions in preparation for renegotiation of our loan to gather preliminary information. In addition, the small group leading our refinancing efforts will meet with BB&T this month.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary