

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON May 20, 2013**

Members Present:

Karen Ganjon, Rich Schuster, Nancy Taylor, Mike Shipley, Linwood Van Horn, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Brian Sherfey, Al Doermann, Kevin Dayhoff, Donna Kent, Donald Ludwig, Kathy Rehak

Members Absent:

Charlie Beckhardt, Bob Lichtfuss, Ron Fairchild, Johanna Monka

Guest: Vicar Karin Albaugh

Opening of Meeting:

Karen Ganjon, President of the council, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Devotions were led by Rich Schuster

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 on April 15, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented with one correction noted in members attending. Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the executive session minutes of the council meeting held on April 15, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

Karen thanked the Council for their presence and support at the Annual Informational Meeting. Karen also expressed thanks from Ron Fairchild for the prayerful and generous response to the Growth for Ministry campaign. This council has increased their overall giving by 12% beginning next month. Karen noted that the All Grace service held on May 19, 2013 was a wonderful celebration. The video about the upcoming summer series was very well done. Karen reminds us to be an advocate in our congregation to remind people that church continues through the summer months. Karen announced that May 26, 2013 is Vicar Karin's last Sunday with us. There will be a celebration after the 9am and before the 10:30am services. Vicar Karin thanked everyone for their generosity and grace in accepting an intern this year. It has been an extraordinary experience for her. Karen reminded the Council that would like to have a Committee Report from all committees by the end of the year. She distributed a suggested form for feedback. There was one independent action taken by the Executive Committee. Approval was given for a fill-in pastor to cover a Saturday service in November. Both pastors have been invited to perform a wedding and attend the reception together.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. Both pastors and Vicar Karin assisted in training for Stephen Ministers. Both pastors are now certified in Mental First Aid.

Treasurer's Report:

A written report was provided. Don reported that the proceeds from the sale of 18 Carroll were put in the investments account. We are going to pull this money out and put it in a short term CD. We received a gift of 82 shares of stock. The proceeds were \$7235.10. The Finance Committee has a conference call with BB&T to discuss investments. Initial meeting have been set up with several financial institutions to begin the process of refinancing our debt. We are looking at various strategies to improve our financial position prior to the refinancing. These strategies include Legacy Circle of Grace, the sale of the properties, and the overall increased giving through stewardship. We need to have faith and trust in our leaders of this church as we begin this process. A motion was approved to refer the Treasurer's report to the Audit Committee.

Committee Report:

The Property Committee met May 7, 2013. Randy Bachtal has been advised that the current dishwasher should be repaired and not replaced. The garbage disposal should be replaced with a top of the line home model. Gary Ganjon is researching converting the current oil burner to gas. There was a property clean up on May 4, 2013. The Stoner building basement was cleaned out. The entrance to the attic in the sanctuary was worked on. The committee approved an expenditure of \$2000 to upgrade and integrate to the monitoring system the fire alarm and door lock on the south entrance. This was a budgeted expense for this year. There was a motion from the property committee to reestablish the Sanctuary Renovations Committee. This was approved. The committee also asked for approval for 3 unbudgeted expenditures. They are requesting \$2,700 for a Cloister door Mag-lock, \$1,800 for a door replacement to the Stoner office, \$1,200 for parking lot striping. Don Ludwig of the Finance Committee recommends that we approve these expenditures. The requests were approved. A suggestion was made to save bricks from the attic entrance. These could be painted with scenes of the church and sold to support the renovations.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Kathy Rehak, Karen Ganjon, and Pastor Martha.

Old Business:

Pastor Kevin reported on the Growth in Ministry campaign. He reported that letters have been sent to the congregation asking for pledges to pray. Please fill in these cards and return them to the church. Commitment cards will be used to establish a prayer chain. Over the summer, key donors will be visited. All members of the church will be visited during the campaign.

A flea market will be held on June 8, 2013. The information is in the announcements. Please sign up if you are available to help.

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New Business:

There was none.

Announcements:

Pastor Martha reported that the Synod Council approved a \$50,000 grant to support Carroll Lutheran School. There was a matching grant of \$25,000. This will be a tremendous help to the school in these difficult financial times.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary