

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL OF
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
HELD ON August 19, 2013**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Opening of Meeting:

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

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 June 17, 2013. The minutes were approved after one attendance error was corrected.

President's Report:

Karen supplied a written copy of an email dated July 25, 2013 from Terry Snyder. She and her husband, Mark, are the current owners of the properties located at 20 and 22 Carroll Street. She requested that the current tenants be allowed to park in the church lot until they are able to excavate the rear of the properties and create additional parking. She anticipates the project will be completed by spring 2014. A copy of Pastor Martha's initial response to Terry's email was also provided. After discussion, a motion was presented to and passed by the Council. The motion states that GLC permits one parking space per tenant in 20&22 Carroll Street. (Spaces will be located in the back of the parking lot on the side of the units.) We request registration information from the tenants (license, registration, contact numbers of owners) to reach them regarding emergencies and special events when their cars may need to be moved onto street parking. A fee of \$30.00 a month is required for each vehicle effective September 1, 2013 – July 1, 2014. An extension may be considered until the parking area work is completed by the rental owners/managers. It is important to note that any nonregistered vehicles will be subject to the same process that is currently in place: cars will be towed. Karen will communicate this information to the Snyders.

Karen reported that our pastors will be traveling to Israel, Jordan and Palestine. The trip will be led by 2 professors from the Gettysburg Seminary and other local Pastors will be attending, as well. This trip is considered continuing education for the pastors. In light of this, the Executive Committee had 3 recommendations. The first is that the pastors be permitted to use the remaining \$1,382.00 in the budgeted Continuing Education funds toward the cost of the trip. The

second is that the weekends that are involved in the trip (Jan 12 and Jan.19, 2014) be counted as continuing education days rather than vacation days. The third is to permit one vacation day from 2013 be carried over to Jan. 27, 2014. This will allow the pastors recovery time from traveling before they return to their duties. The recommendations passed unanimously.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided by Pastor Martha. She noted that there have been many funerals. There was a recommendation from the pastors that we extend the use of Grace Hall to the Carroll County Historical Society in 2014 with the following terms: Monthly Box Luncheons will be held on the 2nd Tuesday from 11:15 -1:15 at a rate of \$900 plus \$25 to be paid directly to Jan Mickey each time the audio-visual system is used and a rental fee of \$350 (custodial fees included) for the Antique Appraisal Day with a tentative date of March 15, 2014 from 9 a.m. -5 p.m. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The Finance Committee has approved the audit of the financial statements from Years Ended December 31, 2012 and 2011. A motion was made and approved to send the report to the Audit Committee. Kevin Dayhoff disclosed his wife is a part of the Audit Committee and abstained from this and any future vote involving the Audit Committee. Don reported that the property associated with the Mildred Harris estate has been settled. Grace will receive \$60, 952.00. This money, minus a 10% tithe, will be placed in a money market account and used toward the refinancing. Don provided a summary of the financial report. Although he reported that we are in a good cash position, we remain concerned because we have a \$128,000.00 loss for 2013. Summer is a difficult time because giving declines. While we understand why that happens, our church takes no vacation from our ongoing operational expenses. On a positive note, our mortgage is below 1.8 million. A motion was presented and passed to refer the Treasurer's report to the Audit Committee.

Committee Reports:

A written report was provided from the Traditional Worship committee. It was presented by Rich Schuster. The report reviewed the current year calendar for All Grace Services. The Committee recommended adoption of the following schedule of 2014 All Grace Worship Services. April 27, 2014 will be the Easter Cantata. June 8, 2014 will be Confirmation. September 7, 2014 will be Rally Day. December 7, 2014 will be the Congregational Meeting. December 28, 2014 will be Readings and Carols. The recommendation was approved. We were also reminded that the Congregational Meeting is December 1, 2013 and it was agreed that on December 29, 2013 there will be Readings and Carols at the 8:30 am and 10:30 pm services and the 5pm Saturday service on December 28th.

Mike Shipley presented a report for the Property Committee. The women involved with work in the kitchen attended the property meeting to discuss potential improvements to the kitchen. They would like to purchase a commercial gas stove. They have funds totaling \$3954. Also, the Property Committee is going to redirect the funds that were approved earlier for new doors to be used instead to repair of the Sanctuary ceiling and roof.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Linwood Van Horn, Brian Sherfey, and Pastor Kevin.

Old Business:

Ron Fairchild gave an update on the Growth for Ministry Campaign. A timeline is being developed for the end of the year and into 2014. An October date is being planned for the Launch of the Growth for Ministry campaign. Prayers have already begun for the Campaign. The Council would like to encourage church members to utilize weekly contributions directly from their bank accounts. This is a secure website. Karen reviewed the proposal from Leanne Elliott concerning the Youth Ministry Network. A recommendation from Executive Council was presented. The motion states that Grace Lutheran Church make our church building available in the months when Little Friends of Grace are not in session for youth groups to stay overnight while they are travelling to/from mission trips and youth gatherings. We will ask for a non-refundable fee of \$50 for groups that are 25 people or less. If the group is large, our Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry will determine a larger deposit according to group size. Groups will be asked to submit their insurance certificate and nonrefundable fee in order to reserve the date. The motion was approved.

Announcements:

Kevin Dayhoff presented some highlights from the ELCA Assembly. Beth Clementson, Evelyn Babylon, Caroline Babylon and Kevin Dayhoff attended along with 952 other voting delegates. Mark Hansen has served as bishop for 12 years. Rev. Elizabeth Eaton was elected as new presiding bishop. A series of social statements were adopted. Kevin will prepare a report for Grace Notes.

New Business:

Karen Ganjon excused herself from the rest of the meeting. Ron Fairchild presented the new business. We are to receive an additional \$60,952 from the estate of Mildred Harris. We tithe anytime we receive a bequest. A proposal has been presented from Don Ludwig, Ron Fairchild, Nancy Taylor, Pastor Martha Clementson and Pastor Kevin Clementson to dedicate \$1,000 of this money to Human Services Program of Carroll County for the Women's Shelter. The remaining \$5,000 of the tithe shall be donated to Carroll Lutheran School. This money would be matched by the synod as part of a larger challenge to help turn around and support the school in this time of transition. The proposal was approved. There will be an installation service for Karen Ganjon and the school staff at Carroll Lutheran School at 7p.m. on Sept. 1, 2013. Please attend if you are able to show our support for the school.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary