

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON September 16, 2013**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Charlie Beckhardt, Ron Fairchild, Johanna Monka, Donna Kent

Opening of Meeting:

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

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 August 19, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

Karen sent out a thank you to the entire body of the church who participated in Rally Day. It was a wonderful day that was full of enthusiasm. She thanked the pastors for a wonderful start to the new year. We had involvement from the some of the youngest to the senior members of the congregation. The video presentation was moving and powerful. Many thanks go out to Beth Clementson for creating the video.

One tenant of the properties on Carroll Street is taking advantage of utilizing a church lot parking space. The tenant will pay the church \$30 per month for the use of the space. Ronnie is still off work and healing. He has always done the nightly security closing of the church property. Currently, Gary Ganjon, Dave Monka, Pastor Kevin and Arthur Pease are covering. Arthur is covering 5 nights. The process takes about 15 minutes and generally occurs at 9:30p.m. We are looking for someone to help cover an evening. Rich Schuster volunteered to help. We also have opportunities to serve as delegates to the Board at Carroll Lutheran Village. Our current delegates are Jim Handley, Greg Hare, Ed Leister, Elissa Streaker, and Dave McGinnis. Four of these delegates are reaching the end of their terms. Please try to think of people who may be interested to serve in this capacity. Delegates can serve two terms and then require an intentional year off the board. The term is currently three years. No independent actions were taken at the executive meeting.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was supplied. Enrollment at Little Friends of Grace is 97 students. One of our new teachers is a Diaconal minister. She is the current Youth Director at Jerusalem Lutheran Church. She has been a director of a preschool in the past. We are blessed to have her join the staff of Little Friends of Grace.

#### Treasurer's Report:

It has been a difficult summer. Our income for August was \$77,093.56 but our expenses were \$92,076.80. This is a net loss of \$14,983.24. We are showing a net loss for the year of \$143,788.25. We have kept our expenses below budget. Our cash account stands at \$109,000. We are paying our bills in a timely fashion. Our mortgage is \$1,793,502.82. The treasurer's report was referred to the Audit Committee.

We need to refinance our mortgage by November 2013. The Finance Committee put together packets consisting of 3 years of audited church statements, current financial statements for 2013 through July, current congregational statistics, mortgage history and a report on Growth for Ministry. These packets were delivered to New Windsor State Bank, Thrivent for Lutherans, and BB&T. New Windsor State Bank seems interested. We hope the new mortgage will not include a prepayment penalty.

#### Committee Reports:

Mike Shipley reported for the Property Committee. We are hoping to switch from oil to natural gas in the next year. We have a 12,000 gallon tank on the property that will need to be removed. We need to get more opinions for this process. We will buy oil for this year. We will try to estimate and purchase only enough oil to meet our needs for the winter.

Karen reminded everyone that committee budgets for the new year need to be turned in to the Finance Committee.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Karen Ganjon, Al Doermann, and Pastor Martha.

#### Old Business:

Pastor Kevin presented an update on Growth for Ministry. The committee is working diligently. The kick off is Oct. 20, 2013. A graphic was created that will be the hallmark of the campaign. The graphic has incorporated the church logo rising up and growing. We are not hiring professionals fund raisers which can cost \$50,000 to \$80,000 for this campaign. The campaign is a constant learning process. Pastor Kevin shared an ELCA posting he had seen that states if you don't tell the need you can't expect a miracle! The committee will visit each member of the congregation in the coming months. They will be asking Council for help with this effort.

#### New Business:

There was no new business

#### Announcements:

The Tail Gate Party is Saturday September 21 at 6:15p.m. The Carroll County Historical Society will most likely begin to use our space in January.

#### Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:04 p.m.

#### Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary