

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON October 21, 2013**

Members Present:

Karen Ganjon, Nancy Taylor, Rich Schuster, Linwood Van Horn, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Brian Sherfey, Bob Lichtfuss, Kevin Dayhoff, Don Ludwig, Mike Shipley, Charlie Beckhardt, Ron Fairchild

Members Absent:

Johanna Monka, Donna Kent, Kathy Rehak, Al Doermann

Guest: Drew Heck

Opening of Meeting:

Karen Ganjon, President of the council, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Devotions were led by Pastor Martha. Karen introduced our guest, Drew Heck, from New Windsor State Bank. Karen thanked Don Ludwig for all of his hard work on the mortgage refinancing. She advised the council that Drew was present to answer any questions we may have prior to the congregational meeting on Oct. 27, 2013 directly after the 9a.m. service. Council had previously voted unanimously to accept the refinancing offer from New Windsor State Bank. The financial specifics of the refinancing were shared via email. Drew shared some background information on himself and offered to answer any questions concerning the mortgage. The loan is a commercial loan that may be renegotiated in 5 years. The loan will be kept at New Windsor State Bank and not sold. Drew will continue to be our representative. There is no prepayment penalty. The commitment letter is for 1.8 million but our current debt is below this amount. We will be able to finance exactly what we need. Our closing costs will be less than standard because this is a refinancing and not a new mortgage. The mortgage documents have been reviewed by Greg Hare and Neal Hoffman. Drew Heck left the meeting at 7:22 p.m. Discussion continued to consider wording for the motion to be taken to the congregation to vote on the refinancing. The motion will be written and sent out electronically to the Council for approval.

Meeting Agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented with 2 additions.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular council meeting held Sept. 16, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

Karen thanked everyone who contributed to Donna Cook's funeral fund. She reminded us to please sign the card for Ronnie before you leave. She thanked Ron Fairchild for the talk to the congregation about the Growth for Ministry campaign. She advised council that everyone should resubmit a pledge form for 2014. She reminded us that 5 members will be finishing their terms on council. Although the nominating committee is primarily the responsibility of the council members whose terms are ending, everyone can recruit new members. Pastor Martha supplied a written description for a volunteer position as Associates in Pastoral Care. The pastors and Executive Council bring as a recommendation to recognize the position of Associates in Pastoral Care. These positions

would be filled by qualified people with appropriate training. They will represent the pastors and serve this congregation. A motion was presented from the Executive Council that we recognize Don Meyers and Craig Giles as our Associates in Pastoral Care for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church as nonpaid staff members. The motion passed. A thank you letter from Human Services Programs of Carroll County was shared with the Council.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was provided. There have been a lot of weddings! New member classes will begin in November. The synod will conduct a "Listening Post" session at Grace on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013 from 9a.m. to noon. This is part of the synod's strategic planning process to get a broad spectrum of input on ministry done by and with the synod.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Treasurer's Report:

September was a better month. We operated at a \$2,144 loss. We are currently at a \$145,932 loss for the year. This will be published in the newsletter. Finance Committee is currently working on the budget. We received a \$25,000.00 gift to Growth for Ministry that is directed to repair the sanctuary ceiling. We now have \$75,000 set aside for the repairs. A motion was passed to refer the Treasurer's report to the audit committee.

Committee Reports:

Rich Schuster presented a report for Christian Education. They request no changes to their budget. The Sunday school classes will adopt 1 or 2 families for the holidays. They are also making food pantry donations. An assistant to the bishop will be at their meeting in November to discuss future education literature. Nancy Taylor supplied a written report from the Youth and Family Ministry Committee.

Old Business:

Ron Fairchild reported for Growth for Ministry. Materials were distributed at all 4 services on Oct. 20, 2013. There will be a follow up mailing of the information. We are hoping to receive pledges within 2 weeks. The pledges help to know what we can expect in 2014. This entire campaign has been internal. The only money that has been spent was for the design of the logo and the folding of pamphlets. Sheila and Dawn have amazed everyone with all of their hard work. We have 400 giving units and 800 friends of this congregation. Please encourage everyone to step up to the plate for this campaign.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Nancy Taylor, Charlie Beckhardt, and Pastor Kevin.

New Business:

The December 2, 2013 Annual Business Meeting will include the election of new members of council, the annual report of the treasurer, the adoption of the budget, the election of members for the synod assembly and any other business as deemed necessary.

Announcements:

Mike Shipley shared that the boiler was installed in the church in 1970. The life expectancy of the boiler was 25 years. The current estimate to remove the oil tank and replace the boiler with a natural gas unit is \$50,000.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary