

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND HELD ON November 18, 2013**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Al Doermann, Donna Kent

Guest: Carolyn Brocato

Opening of Meeting:

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

Meeting Agenda:

The agenda was approved with one change to the order of business.

Treasurer's Report:

The refinancing mortgage went to settlement this morning. The total closing costs on the mortgage refinancing was \$19,351.00. We paid \$16,245.23 out of the money market and the balance of \$3,105.77 was the difference between the \$1,800,000 we borrowed and the \$1,796,894.23 that we owed to BB&T. We now have full appraisals of the church properties. The church has appraised for \$5,800,000. The property located at 30 Carroll Street is valued at \$140,000. After the settlement costs, there remains \$193,137 in a money market account with New Windsor State Bank. Of the remaining funds, \$75,000 is committed to repairs of the sanctuary. Don Ludwig wishes to thank Neal Hoffman, Greg Hare and Randy Bachtel for all of their hard work in the refinancing process. We are in the process of transferring all of our operating accounts to New Windsor State Bank. The Finance Committee will begin the search for a broker to manage our investment accounts. On Dec. 9, 2013, there will be a thank you luncheon for our faithful group of counters. Don Ludwig and Carolyn Brocato presented the recommended budget prepared by the Finance Committee. All questions were answered. A motion was passed to take the budget as presented by the Finance Committee to the general congregation for approval at the annual business meeting on Dec. 1, 2013.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular council meeting held October 21, 2013. The minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

Karen reported that the Executive Committee and the pastors signed the papers for the refinancing this morning. Many thanks go out to Don Ludwig for all of his work during this process. Flowers have been ordered from the council for the Kent family. An education fund has been set up to honor Mandy Kent, a beloved Sunday school teacher and member of Grace Lutheran Church who died last week.

The Executive Committee recommended that 1% of any bequest, not to exceed \$2,000 annually, be directed to a Legacy Circle of Grace Fund to be used for expenses associated with this program. The recommendation passed.

Pastors' Report:

A written report was supplied. A recommendation was presented and passed that the following persons be accepted into membership on Sunday, December 1, 2013: Donna Balls, Vince Buscemi, Jim and Sabrina Freiberg and daughter, Grace (2), Corina Canon (returning member), Norman Huffman, Noell Huffman, Chuck and Tammy Lowman, Michelle Harold and daughter, Theresa, Laura Miller, Rachelle and Keith O'Connor and children, Shane (11), Dylan (9), Kaitlyn (6), and Carley(4).

The pastors acknowledged and thanked the council members who will be going off council in December. Charlie, Karen and Nancy have served for 6 years. Rich and Al have served for 3 years.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Prayers of the Church were offered by Rich Schuster, Linwood Van Horn, and Pastor Martha.

Old Business:

Ron Fairchild gave a brief update on the Growth through Ministry Campaign. Pledges have been coming in. We need to keep the momentum going. This is an ongoing process of stewardship. The committee will be meeting with small groups to share information.

New Business:

Don Ludwig excused himself from the meeting. Linwood Van Horn, as representative of the Finance Committee, reported that Don Ludwig has reached his 3 year term limit as Treasurer of the Council. We are in the middle of several financial changes. We have 5 church members who have agreed to run for Council during the elections scheduled for Dec.1, 2013. Two of these individuals are qualified to serve as treasurer. Both have declined to accept a nomination to run for treasurer. No current members of council are interested in serving as treasurer. Section C11.02 of the church constitution deals with this problem. This clause allows an officer to remain in office until a successor can be found. It is recommended that Don Ludwig continue to serve as treasurer until a replacement can be found.

Announcements:

None

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Taylor, Council Secretary