



Grace
Lutheran

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Room 108, 21 Carroll St., Westminster, MD 21157

www.gracelc.org

Meeting held on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Members Present: Council President Ron Fairchild, Rev. Martha Clementson, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Don Meyers, Linwood Van Horn, Rich Chaney, Treasurer Bill Comegna, Brian Sherfey, Bob Lichtfuss, Arthur Pease, Kevin Dayhoff, Patt Patterson Jones, Jan Mickey, Jo Monka, Carrie Oddis.

Members Absent: Kari Ebeling and Donna Kent

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Fairchild at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Patt Patterson Jones and seconded by Brian Sherfey to adopt the meeting agenda. The motion carried.

Devotions were led by Jan Mickey. She shared insights provided by a book, "The American Bible Challenge." She began with reading from Chapter 2 of Ephesians, and concluded with a brief discussion about God's love and grace shining down on us.

The July 18, 2016 meeting minutes were previously approved by email vote during the month of August, in which the council did not meet.

President's Report

Ron Fairchild discussed highlights from the August 10, 2016 final report of the ad hoc committee to review of the performance of Grace's Co-Senior Pastors

A motion was made by Linwood Van Horn and seconded by Jan Mickey to officially accept the report and forward it on to the personnel committee.

Pastor Kevin shared that an unintended benefit of the review, due to the input of committee member Kara Schuster, was for Pastor Kevin and Kara to begin meeting weekly on the campus of McDaniel College. These meetings give an opportunity for Grace Lutheran Church to have a presence on the campus of McDaniel College.

Ron Fairchild shared a report of the recent combined meeting of the finance and stewardship committees; on planning for a future year-round focus on stewardship.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Martha shared that their daughter, Beth Clementson, will be ordained on October 23, 2016 at Grace Lutheran Church. Pastor Beth was called on August 28, 2016 to serve as Assistant Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Middletown, MD.

Pastors Martha reported that she and Pastor Kevin and Ted Dix recommend that Grace purchase a used electronic organ for Grace Hall. The cost is \$2,000 plus a new lithium battery, transportation and professional cleaning and or repair of the instrument, including set up in Grace Hall.

The Dix and Clementson families are committed to sharing in the cost of the organ. It is proposed that each family contribute \$670 and the church pay the remaining \$660 as well as the cost of battery, transportation, and professional set up. The church's amount would come from account # 1210-52, the organ fund. A motion was made and seconded for the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Kevin led a discussion of the "Exploring Contemporary Worship Practices," initiative which met on Wednesday September 7, 2016. From June 5 through the end of July last summer, members of the church visited contemporary worship services at other Lutheran congregations to gather ideas and direction for improvement of our own contemporary worship service. At the meeting four aspects of the 9 a.m. praise service were discussed: liturgy, music, technology, and pastoral leadership and sermons. A final report will be presented in the near future.

Ron Fairchild mentioned that two meetings have taken place to discuss contemporary social issues and the need for deeper conversations about how to be the body of Christ in the midst of the violence and brokenness in our world.

Pastor Martha mentioned that this group's efforts are serendipitous as it coordinated well with an ELCA initiative about social issues, faith, sexism, and justice.

Pastor Kevin encouraged us to be sure to look over and read the ELCA document on developing a social statement, "Talking together as Christians about tough social issues."

Treasurer's report was presented by Bill Comegna. We still have a deficit. An independent accountant's review of the church financials as of year-end December 31, 2015 by Laura Barwick, CPA, was distributed. Bill announced that preparations are underway to put together next year's budget.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Committee Reports: Patt Patterson Jones reported for the Evangelism committee; that due to some formatting and venue changes at the annual Westminster Fallfest celebration, Grace will not participate this year. It is hoped that after some study, Grace Church will participate next year,

Brian Sherfey shared a report from the youth and family ministry committee that Tiffany Cox has agreed to be the new chair. He reported that the committee has expressed an interest in international mission trips. One trip is currently planned for Belize. The high school youth have expressed an interest in doing more work camp mission trips as opposed to the service oriented mission trips. As a result a trip is being planned to go to New York in the Adirondacks for a work camp mission trip.

Prayers of the Church –Carrie Oddis led prayer for mental health services, suicide prevention; and for the students, teachers, and staff for the new school year...

Patt led prayer for those who are suffering, our political system, and an end to the current violence and acts of racism...

Pastor Kevin prayed for the Delaware Maryland Synod in transition, and for the incoming Bishop Bill Gohl - and the outgoing Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Carroll Lutheran School, Carroll Lutheran Village, for the upcoming celebration of Trinity Deer Park Lutheran Church's 150th anniversary – and for Dottie Whitson. Mrs. Whitson is the widow of a longstanding past pastor at Grace, who retired on June 29th, 2003

New Business and announcements: Pastor Martha mentioned that we have welcomed Marian Shipley to the office today, September 19, 2016, as the new membership and financial Associate.

A vote to reallocate \$5,000 within budget from seminary support to Forward in Faith, was introduced. After some discussion the measure was tabled for future consideration.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Kevin E. Dayhoff, substitute council secretary for
Donna Kent

Our Mission: Gifted with God's grace, redeemed by God's Son, and filled with the Holy Spirit, we grow in our relationship with God, one another, and community. Through word and sacrament, we gather to worship, learn, and go into the world empowered to serve.