



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
COUNCIL OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rm 108, 21 Carroll St., Westminster, MD 21157 www.gracelc.org
Church council - About Us – Meeting Minutes:
<http://gracelc.org/about-us/council/meeting-minutes/>
Meeting held on Monday, January 16, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Members Present

Rev. Martha Clementson, Co-Senior Pastor, Rev. Kevin Clementson, Co-Senior Pastor, Bill Comegna, Bob Lichtfuss, Ron Fairchild, Linwood Van Horn, Kevin Dayhoff, Brian Sherfey, Arthur Pease, Don Meyers, Jan Mickey, Robin Hoff Skrtic, Kari Ebeling, Patt Patterson Jones, Rich Chaney, and Ginger Myers.

Members Absent: Johanna Monka.

Opening of Meeting: President Bob Lichtfuss called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Devotions: In honor of Martin Luther King Day, Rich Chaney led a discussion about The Rev Dr. Martin Luther King, who said in his sermon at the [Temple Israel of Hollywood](#) on Feb. 25, 1965, “And I believe it because somehow the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice...” Chaney also shared a reading from the Book of [Isaiah 9](#), “... The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...”

Approve Minutes and Adopt Agenda: A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 19, 2016. The motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

Council President’s Report: Bob Lichtfuss thanked everyone for all the help that contributed to a wonderful Christmas season at Grace. He also shared a brief discussion about the work of the church at the [Cold Weather Shelter](#).

Pastors’ Report: Various business matters were discussed. Pastor Martha led the council through an annual review of the church credit cards, the cardholders, the balances, and the credit limits.

A letter, that was developed to mail-out to the congregation with [Grace Notes](#), was passed around to gather the signatures of the council members. The letter thanks the congregation for its response to financial needs of the church in the fall of 2016.

Pastor Martha also discussed an upcoming congregational conversation on Feb. 12, 19, and 26, 2017 about justice for women in church and society. This

conversation will provide Grace Church the opportunity to provide feedback to the ELCA in the development of a [social statement](#) on “Faith, Sexism, and Justice,” that will be proposed to our entire ELCA. Social statements help guide the church in discussing and advocating social issues in the greater community.

Pastor Martha shared that as leaders of Grace, she hoped that the council would consider being a part of this excellent educational opportunity and that our presence will mean a lot to other participants. (The conversation at Grace will be led by Kelly Conover Zavandro, Mari Selby, Leanne Elliott, Judy Reilly, Bob Lichtfuss, Carrie Oddis, Ann Thomas Gilbert, Taylor Glass Button, Sharon Glass, Ron Fairchild, Jan Mickey, and Viera Sabol.)

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Comegna reported that earlier in the day the council sponsored an annual luncheon for the church members who count and document the collection at the church services. He noted that the entire council executive committee attended.

Comegna reviewed the treasurer’s report. Although the numbers for the calendar year 2016 had not quite been finalized, the deficit for the year has been reduced in recent months from \$120,000.00 to approximately \$21,000.00.

He then led a brief discussion about the merits of negotiating a re-amortization of the church’s mortgage with New Windsor State Bank. After thorough discussion of the unanticipated complexities involved, a consensus was reached to not go forward with the initiative.

Comegna also reported that in 2016, the congregation contributed \$21,571 more than was needed to make the mortgage payments. A motion was brought forward by the church finance committee to maintain \$11,000.00 in reserve – dedicated to debt reduction as specified by the congregation. This is the equivalent of one mortgage payment and anything in excess of that, would be put towards the church’s mortgage principal. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to forward the treasurer’s report to the audit committee. The motion passed.

Members of council were asked to be thoughtful about an opening on the finance committee and that the committee is still in need of a new chair,

Prayers of the Church were led by Don Meyers, Patt Patterson Jones, and Pastor Kevin.

Under new business, there was a discussion to confirm the council's 2017 committee assignments. It was noted that folks were needed to help with adult education, finance, and audit committees.

There were no announcements. At 7:55 p.m., the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Kevin E. Dayhoff, Grace Lutheran Church secretary.

Rev. Martha Clementson, Co-Senior Pastor
Rev. Kevin Clementson, Co-Senior Pastor
Bill Comegna (1st term expires Dec 2017)
Bob Lichtfuss (2nd term expires Dec 2017)
Ron Fairchild (2nd term expires Dec 2017)
Johanna Monka (2nd term expires Dec 2017)
Linwood Van Horn (2nd term expires Dec 2017)
Kevin Dayhoff (2nd term expires Dec 2018)
Brian Sherfey (2nd term expires Dec 2018)

Kari Ebeling (1st term expires Dec 2018)
Arthur Pease (1st term expires Dec 2018)
Robin Hoff Skrtic (1st term expires Dec 2019)
Ginger Myers (1st term expires Dec 2019)
Rich Chaney (2nd term expires Dec 2019)
Don Meyers (2nd term expires Dec 2019)
Patt Patterson Jones (2nd term expires Dec 2019)
Jan Mickey 2nd term expires Dec 2019)

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.