



Grace
Lutheran

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

<http://gracelc.org/about-us/council/meeting-minutes/>

Meeting held on Monday, April 17, 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, Johanna Monka, Jan Mickey, Robin Hoff Skrtic, Patt Patterson Jones, Kari Ebeling, and Ginger Myers.

Members Absent: Rich Chaney,

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

Devotions by Jan Mickey - She read for us from the book, "The Jesus Code," by CS Hawkins, a devotion inspired by Daniel 3: 14, asking "Is it true," in talking about tolerance in the world as it was in Babylonian times and in today's world. The author asks, "Is it true that we do not bow to the gods of this world?" He says, "Don't give in, don't give up and don't give out."

Approve Minutes & Adopt Agenda - A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed. A motion was and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

President's Report: President Bob Lichtfuss thanked everyone for all their hard work for the Lent Season and Easter Season.

Leanne Elliott, the Grace Director of Christian Education, Youth, and Family Ministry, is recovering well from her recent surgery. A gift of edible fruit that was delivered to Leanne on behalf of the congregation and the council will be paid by personal donations by the council members.

Bob said that there were three mentions of Grace Lutheran Church in the Carroll County Times over the weekend.

Bob reported that he has met with several individuals involved with the Shepherd's Staff expansion and facilities upgrade planning process. At the March meeting, Bob had reported that a committee had been established to coordinate future plans for Shepherd Staff concerning the possibility of adding on to the current building at 30 Carroll Street.

Bob encouraged the council members to stay positive about the recent developments in pursuing an early refinancing of our current mortgage. The council learned on April 3, 2017 that our recent discussions with Thrivent Financial, a Lutheran financial services company, were unproductive, as were earlier discussions with New Windsor State Bank.

A discussion followed as to how to proceed with future plans with respect to refinancing the mortgage next year. At the upcoming congregational information meeting there will be some discussion about the importance of ending the year in the black - with income exceeding expenses.

Pastors' Report: There was discussion about the latest effort in the community to provide meals for people in need. The Salvation Army Carroll County Service Center's new soup kitchen, Brass Hat Café will provide free meals three nights a week.

This Saturday night, April 22, 2017, there will be consecration service for Laura Heller. Delaware Maryland Synod Bishop Gohl will be here at Grace. Laura has been accepted as a Minister of Word and Service. She has accepted a position as a coordinator of creation care ministry task force for the Delaware Maryland Synod. The council members took up a collection for a gift from the church and council to give to Laura to celebrate her achievement.

Pastor Martha mentioned that she has tickets available for the April 29, 2017 ["Taste of Grace" progressive dinner](#) in Grace Hall. At 6 p.m. this Saturday.

Ginger Myers asked a question about a matter on the pastor's report. The report noted that Pastor Martha chaired a meeting of the Bishop's Mutual Ministry Committee. It was explained that this committee functions as a support to the bishop of the synod as he serves in this important and stressful role. The committee members offer support and counsel to enhance the bishop's spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being.

There was discussion about the church softball team. A motion was made, and seconded to pay the \$450.00 registration fee for the 2017 season. The funding source was identified as the council discretionary fund (5150-99.) The motion passed. Pastor Kevin mentioned that some young adults in the congregation have approached the pastors about joining the team.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Comegna reported as of April 17, 2017, the church is operating at a year to date deficit of \$16,200, which included a recent \$11,000.00 payment against the mortgage principal. It was discussed that the attendance has been strong in recent weeks, especially over the Easter weekend.

Don Meyers noted that we need to continue to pay close attention to our net operating income and expenses. This was followed by further discussion about aspects of the budget and the church finances.

Prayers of the Church were led by Jo Monka, Ron Fairchild, and Pastor Kevin

New Business: Pastor Kevin led us in a discussion that the church needs a new sign. After some discussion, there was a consensus to ask the property committee to investigate a new sign for the church.

There were no announcements

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Kevin E. Dayhoff, Grace Lutheran Church council 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)
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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.