



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, November 20, 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, Kari Ebeling, and Rich Chaney.

Members Absent: Patt Patterson Jones, and Ginger Myers.

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

Devotions were led by Robin Hoff Skrtic. Robin shared with the council a discussion on gratitude and thankfulness in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday. She read from "An Attitude of Gratitude," a faith reflection written by Max Lucado, on October 8, 2013, "A grateful heart sees each day as a gift. Thankful people focus less on what they lack and more on the privileges they have... A grateful heart is like a magnet sweeping over the day, collecting reasons for gratitude." She concluded her remarks by reading from John 14: 2 - "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

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

President's Report: Council President Bob Lichtfuss reported that it has been particularly busy at Grace.

He reported that a slate of candidates continues to come together for the upcoming council election at the annual congregational meeting on December 3, 2017. Four council members will be leaving the church council after serving two three-year terms: Bob Lichtfuss, Ron Fairchild, Johanna Monka, and Linwood Van Horn. Also two - one-year terms need to be filled, for the vacancies left by council members Arthur Pease and Kari Ebeling.

Among the recent events at Grace, mentioned by Bob, were the presentation, "Lutheranism 101," by Pastor Martha on October 25; the pot luck dinner and the screening of the Rick Steves' movie about the history of Martin Luther, which took place on October 27. That weekend there were four worship services at Grace on Oct. 28 and 29, which celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and the Westminster Conference joint Reformation worship service on Sunday, October 29 in Big Baker Chapel on the Campus of McDaniel College

Bob also mentioned that he recently attended the Lutheran men's dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown. He reported that he is on the president's report for the upcoming annual meeting. He noted that all this activity is a testimony as to how much we have been able to get accomplished at Grace in the last 12-months.

Bob reported that he attended Westminster Conference meeting at Carroll Lutheran School last Sat., Oct. 18th, with Pastors Martha and Kevin. The meeting, a "Conference Consultation on Cooperative Ministry" was also attended by Synod Bishop Bill Gohl, for the purpose of discussing the Lutheran Churches in the conference sharing more resources in the future.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Martha also noted that it has been a busy time of the year. She encouraged us to be sure to review the upcoming holiday schedule that we approved at the last meeting.

Pastor Kevin made a motion to receive into membership on December 3, new members: Michael and Barbara Shipley, Johnny Bowers, John Cocker, Mary Hall, and Heather Harrison. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Comegna presented the council with a treasurer's report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Bill led us in a lengthy discussion of the proposed budget. Our budget includes a 1 per cent increase in the staff salaries, however it will essentially be a slight decrease in the budget over the last year as a result of the many various committees being very frugal. In part, as a result of the discussion, the council determined that it would like the budget process to start earlier next year in a manner in which it may be present to the council at the October meeting for review.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the proposed budget be approved by the congregation at the upcoming congregational meeting on Dec. 3.

Bill brought forward a motion from the finance committee concerning the refinancing of the church mortgage next year. A motion was made to initiate the process to refinance the mortgage, currently held by NWSB, with the Mission Investment Fund with the following terms: a 20 year term with an initial interest rate of 3.875% for the first five years, including a one-time payment of \$850 for a loan processing fee. In the following brief discussion it was noted that after the proposed refinancing with the MIF, our mortgage payment for an approximately \$1.546 M mortgage could be reduced by as much as \$2,000 per month. A motion by the finance committee was approved.

There was a brief discussion, led by the chair of the stewardship committee, Ron Fairchild, about working with the Mission investment Fund on a future capital campaign.

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

Under Committee Reports, Ron Fairchild gave a brief report from the Stewardship Committee.

Earlier in the meeting, Jan Mickey had called to our attention that audio visual technology committee will be investigating some of the equipment in Grace Hall that may be some attention.

Rich Chaney, with property committee, is looking into and exploring certain security procedures.

Pastor Martha mentioned that Greg Hare, Kevin Dayhoff, Caroline Babylon, and Pastors Martha and Kevin attended a Critical Incident Preparedness training for local Church leaders hosted by the Carroll County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday, Nov15, 2017.

There was a follow-up additional discussion about security issues. It was determined that council refer the matter to risk management committee.

Arthur Pease called to our attention that all the lights on bell tower are all working.

Under new business, President Bob Lichtfuss called to the council's attention that soon Pastors Kevin and Martha will be celebrating their 10th anniversary at Grace. He made a motion that the council approve an anniversary gift of a one-time additional week of vacation be given to the Pastors, to be taken at such a time the pastors may choose. The motion was seconded and passed. The pastors will be told of the anniversary gift when it will be announced at the congregational meeting on Dec. 3, 2017.

Announcements: It was noted that Bob Lichtfuss, Ron Fairchild, Johanna Monka, Linwood Van Horn, and Arthur Pease will be leaving the council after this meeting. There was a discussion about how much we appreciated the work and leadership of these council members and that they will be missed.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30.

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

Looking Ahead: Our next meeting will be held on December 18th with Brian having devotions and Bob, Linwood, and the Pastor(s) leading the Prayers of the Church.

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)
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.