

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Minutes
February 14, 2022

Council Members

Susan Ryder, president (2023)	Karen Galle, secr. (2024)	Susan Dickinson, treas.
Pastor Cover	Tom Blackburn, VP (2024)	Wilson Castillo (2024)
Ann Hoffman (2024)	*Randy Hamme (2022)	Barb Schell (2023)
Rick Keen (2023)	Marti Bert (2022)	Jen Graf (2022)
Nevin Shenck (2022)	Bob Hillegas (2023)	*Jesse Woodrow, youth dir.
	*Susan Scott, Intern	

(End of term indicated in parens.)

*Denotes absent

Call to Order – Susan Ryder opened the meeting at 7:01 PM

Opening prayer – Pastor Cover offered an opening prayer

Action Items

- A. Approval of Agenda – Tom Blackburn made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and carried.
- B. Approval of January meeting minutes – Rick Keen made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.
- C. Consider Members for Synod Assembly. The Assembly date is tentative. See below.
 - a. The business session of the thirty-fifth Annual Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held between May 1 and June 30, 2022, at a location to be designated by the Synod Council. Normally, this notification would include the specific dates and the location, however those details are still being determined and will be announced as soon as possible and no later than 30 days in advance of the assembly. The Day of Edification will be held digitally on Saturday, May 14, 2022.
 - b. At its meeting on November 20, 2021, the Synod Council voted not to hold our assembly at Messiah University, due to a conflict between that institution’s recent public controversy regarding LGBTQIA+ students and the Lower Susquehanna Synod’s status as Reconciling in Christ.
 - c. Since that decision, other alternatives for the business session are being sought. There is the possibility we will need dates alternative to the original dates of June 3 and 4, 2022. Therefore, we ask that you treat these dates as tentative

- d. Council should discuss appointing two members to attend – some names were suggested for consideration, but since the dates have not been finalized the vote was tabled until next month. In the meantime, council members should think about other people who might be good delegates.
- D. The ELCA Youth Gathering has been cancelled. LutheranHANDS, plans to hold a mission trip in Minneapolis on the dates of The Gathering to avoid losing money already paid for flights.
- E. Discussion of the use of Endowment funds that carry over from year to year - how money can be used to bolster the ministries of Grace. For next month, a list of funds which council has discretion over will be provided to council for further discussion. The report will include principal and interest balances, whether there are restrictions on the use of funds, and how the funds are invested.
- F. Follow up from Strategic Planning Meeting. (Sun., Feb. 13 at 1PM) – The first step will be a listening session on Sun. Feb. 27 at 3PM with council members and Jill, but no staff present. It was suggested that a snow date should be provided – the following Sun. Mar. 6 was decided upon, also at 3PM. A list of proposed small session dates to discuss goals was sent around the room for council members to sign up for.
- G. Van usage by Medard’s House – there did not seem to be an objection to lending this organization the van. Marti Bert made a motion that Grace lend our van to Medard’s House to transport Cedar Cliff students to and from Medard’s House for religious instruction on release from school studies, twice per month February through May, 2022, providing that they assure that an adult with clearances be the driver and also two adults be chaperones; they must comply with standard insurance and other stipulations. The motion was seconded and carried.
- H. Posting of Organist position and search committee appointments – Pastor had an exit interview with Bonnie Barton, and the Personnel Committee is ready to address this position next. Council needs to appoint a search cmte. Carolyn Houck has also announced her resignation at the end of May. Pastor will meet with Carolyn next week to have an exit interview and go over her job description. Pastor made a motion to appoint: Marti Bert, Tom Blackburn, Alan Gabel, Ben Galle, and Chris McInnes to serve on the search committee for both positions. The motion was seconded and carried.

Reports

- A. President’s Report** – see Action Items
- B. Secretary’s Report**
- C. Vice-president’s Report**
- D. Treasurer’s Report** (must be approved) – Tom Blackburn made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded and carried. Susan Dickinson has

contacted the Audit committee members and is waiting to hear back from them as to their availability to get started.

- E. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Cover has discussed use of Kentland by Trinity Lutheran, Camp Hill with Pastor Horner for Sunday School type activities, likely on Sunday afternoons. Pastor also brought up the possibility of reinstating coffee hours on Sunday mornings. The consensus was to start up again March 20 with council as the organizers.
- F. **Intern Report** – see attached
- G. **Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Report**
- H. **Director of Music Report**
- I. **Committee/Task Force Reports – discuss which from the list below can be eliminated/updated**
 - a. Kitchen (Audrey Egley/Marti Bert)
 - b. Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Melinda Bechtel)
 - c. Endowment (Linda Lippert/Barb Schell)
 - d. Fellowship and Arts (Hope Pankake)
 - e. Personnel (Marti Bert) – Update on Sexton position – At this point Chris Jury will continue to work 10 extra hours per week for maintenance duties and Audrey Egley will continue to provide cleaning services every other week. Job descriptions for two positions have been finalized but will not be posted until we feel the need to fill these positions.
 - f. Property (Randy Hamme)
 - g. Kentland Task Force
 - h. Stewardship (Brigitte Storey/Rick Keen)
 - i. Worship & Music (Beth Jury) – see attached
 - j. COVID Task Force

Other Business – There was a discussion about the need for volunteers for a number of worship support duties. We need to start working on ways to assure members that the church is taking measures to get back to more normal activities and encourage members to step up for some of these duties.

Adjournment – Marti Bert made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 PM. The motion was seconded and carried.