

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Minutes
April 11, 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.)

Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:57 PM and all went around the table and introduced themselves as Synod rep. Pastor Beth Martini and prospective interim pastor, Rev. Lois Van Orden were invited guests.

Opening prayer –Pastor Martini offered a scripture reading and an opening prayer. Susan Ryder offered another prayer after Pastor Martini and Pastor Van Orden left.

Action Items

- A. Approval of Agenda – Jen Graf moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.
- B. Approval of March meeting minutes – Tom Blackburn moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.
- C. Interim announcement - Paster Martini introduced Pastor Van Orden, who is trained in intentional interim ministry. Pastor Van Orden addressed the council with her thoughts about the upcoming transitional period. She will not be starting until June 1, 2022. Pastor Houck and Vicar Susan will share worship leadership through the end of May. Pastor Van Orden’s contract will be from June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023. The council can approve the contract for an interim pastor without getting approval from the entire congregation. Ann Hoffman moved to contract with interim pastor Lois Van Orden for the period indicated above. The motion was seconded and carried. Susan Ryder will get input from the office staff about how many days per week they would like Pastor Van Orden to be in the office and we will discuss details further at next month’s meeting.
- D. Exit interview with Pastor Cover. Pastor Cover had submitted a written exit evaluation and went over some of the highlights of her report.

- E. Membership letters. A small number of the letters sent to members who have no record of giving or communing within the last two years were sent to teen-aged or young adult children of active members. Some of these people were upset. There was a discussion about the wording, and all agreed that it could have been more inviting and maybe should have been approved by the Council President before going out and not under the office assistant's signature. Similar letters should be revised for the future.
- F. Strategic planning. The small groups are continuing, and approximately 60 persons are anticipated to participate through the last session, including council members. A date for our next meeting with Jill needs to be set. Susan Ryder will contact her about available dates.
- G. Fire system. During a review, it was noted that some parts are getting older (even though everything is working fine). Replacement would cost \$32,000. Randy and Chris recommend doing nothing at this time, but to look into options for replacement in the next few years. They also feel that the quoted price was excessive.
- H. Status of Organ fund. There is currently approx. \$34,000 in the fund.
- I. 1604 lease. Council approved renewing the lease for another year. By then there should be more concrete direction regarding this property from the strategic planning process. In the meantime, the tenants have asked about having electrical outlets installed – one in the garage and one outside. The cost would be approx. \$300. Nevin Schenk made a motion to direct the management company to have a qualified electrician install two outlets, the cost at the discretion of the Property Board. The motion was seconded and carried.
- J. Synod assembly. This will be held online Friday June 3 and Saturday June 4. Two possible delegates have declined. The online Day of edification on May 14 should also be attended by Synod Assembly delegates. An announcement will be put in the newsletter to see if anyone will volunteer.
- K. Council nominations – status of potential candidates. Several members were asked, but only one had any interest, and may not be willing to commit to 3 years. Will contact the person again to confirm their level of commitment. Other names were suggested and will be asked. We need four new members.
- L. Kentland contract. Trinity Lutheran in Camp Hill has approached us about a long-term contract for rental of Kentland. There was a discussion about the proposed contract. There was concern about the amount of days they wanted to have use of the site and about a clause giving them the first right of refusal should Grace want to sell the property. Pastor Cover will tell Trinity's pastor that we are not ready to enter into such a restrictive and long-term agreement at this time.
- M. Insurance – see attached. We had hoped to get a less expensive policy, but we are unable to do so. Susan Dickinson will confirm that we have bond insurance coverage.
- N. Congregational meeting – Needs to be scheduled for June. The 26th was decided upon as the date for the meeting.

Reports

A. President's Report – see Action Items

B. Secretary's Report – evote – Council voted to consolidate M & T checking accounts 3859 and 6068 into one account and open a saving's account for Grace where budget monies could be stored until deposited in the checking account. 2nd evote – Council voted to extend the lease for 1604 for another year. There will be no increase in rent at this time.

C. Vice-president's Report

D. Treasurer's Report (must be approved) – Audit report status? Deb Hoover is ready to get started in a month or so. Jen Graf made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

E. Pastor's Report – Pastor Cover made a motion to accept the following youth for confirmation: Emma Madden, Cecelia Perella-Carvalhoes, and John Hartman. The motion was seconded and carried

F. Intern Report – Vicar Susan was approved for ordination. Her last day with Grace will be June 19, 2022.

G. Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Report – see attached

H. Director of Music Report

I. Committee/Task Force Reports

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) – Kristopher and Emily Hartman have applied for the Music Director and Organist positions and are the only applicants. Both are well qualified candidates. Interviews are scheduled for later this month and discussions are ongoing about the details.

f. Property (Randy Hamme) – see attached. The chairs stacked in the choir room can be donated or disposed of. The neighbor adjacent to the overflow parking lot has requested to be able to build a fence on our property to block out lights from non-Grace members who park there at night. We cannot allow that. Randy was directed to tell the man to call the police. Jesse has organized a youth crew to help with landscaping around Grace's properties.

g. Kentland Task Force – see attached.

h. Stewardship (Brigitte Storey/Rick Keen)

i. Worship & Music (Beth Jury)

j. COVID Task Force

Other Business

Adjournment – Marti Bert made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 PM. The motion was seconded and carried.