

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Congregation Council Minutes  
March 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 called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. She provided a report about the status of things at Grace. There is an interim pastoral candidate identified by the synod who will hopefully attend the April council meeting. She offered a brief scripture reading.

**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 February meeting minutes – Marti Bert made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.
- C. President’s report – Susan Ryder encouraged council to talk to their friends and encourage them to return to church in person. Also, allow for extra time after services to connect with members of the congregation.
- D. Pastor Cover’s Resignation Announcement - next steps - Susan Ryder has been contacted by the synod and she will be working with a synod rep. regarding plans for an interim pastor.
- E. Jen Graf made a motion to accept Pastor Cover’s resignation with regret, with the last Sunday among the congregation to be May 8, 2022, and the last date of compensation to be July 31, 2022, due to accrued vacation and sabbatical leave time. The motion was seconded and carried.
- F. Decision regarding interim start date. Consensus was to have the interim pastor start on May 9, 2022, the day after Pastor Cover’s last day. Need to think about the things that we want the interim to focus on: transition back to in person worship, conflict resolution (including education/clarification about issues related to ELCA/synod core values and how Grace has to evolve), taking over all duties after June 19 when Vicar Susan leaves.
- G. Listening Session Recap

- a. Themes – veneration of the past, feelings of losing their church and alienation, objections to ELCA values
  - b. Issues can be discussed further as part of the Strategic Planning process
- H. Council in charge of coffee hour March 20: coffee and a few breakfast/snack items. Several members volunteered to bring items and make coffee.
- I. Strategic Planning
  - a. Contacting people about small groups – a specific email blast was sent out last week and will be sent again this week to encourage members to sign up. Guidelines for these meetings have been compiled.
  - b. Call committee for next pastor will be able to build off strategic planning results
- J. Council Member Nominations – discuss possible candidates to be voted on at the June congregational meeting. Several members were identified as possible candidates. They will be contacted as to their availability and interest.
- K. Day of edification May 14 (as prep for Synod assembly) and Synod Assembly Friday June 3, and Saturday June 4 – all digitally. Should identify two members to participate. A few names were suggested; Susan Ryder will contact them as to their availability and interest.
- L. Endowment funds (Barb Schell) – Discussion about endowments and the guidelines. Barb distributed a detailed report and there was a discussion about the resources available to us.
- M. The mugs for the anniversary have come in and were \$418. Pastor made a motion that the money for mugs and luncheon cost come out of council endowments. The motion was seconded and carried.
- N. Grace bank accounts in two different banks – Discussion about merging them. A new account was opened with Mid Penn Bank and payroll has been taken from this account. We still have some money with M & T Bank and Susan Dickenson wonders if we have retained a second bank because of FDIC laws – she will look into further. Jen Graf made a motion that Mid Penn should be our primary bank. The motion was seconded and carried.
- O. Exec. Committee felt that the cash retained in the safe in the office can be up to \$200 before it has to be deposited in the bank. After further discussion, Marti Bert made a motion that the cash retained in the safe in the office can be up to \$500 before it has to be deposited in the bank. The motion was seconded and carried.
- P. Letters will be sent out to members who have not given to the church or haven't attended in several years, requiring them to notify the church or they will be removed from the rolls.
- Q. Approval of expenditure to repair the two front lights that illuminate the steeple. Tom Blackburn made a motion to approve the entire \$1052 cost involved with this repair. 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) – Rick Keen made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded and carried. Audit report status – team not available until summer to work on this.
- E. **Pastor's Report** – Will be having exit interview at the April council meeting. Pastor has spoken to Jason Pringle about taking over payroll duties.
- F. **Intern Report** – see attached. She has been recommended by the seminary for approval for ordination.
- G. **Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Report** – see attached
- 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)
  - f. Property (Randy Hamme) – see attached
  - g. Kentland Task Force
  - h. Stewardship (Brigitte Storey/Rick Keen)
  - i. Worship & Music (Beth Jury)
  - j. COVID Task Force

## Other Business

**Adjournment** – Bob Hillegas made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM. The motion was seconded and carried.