

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members

Tom Blackburn, pres. (2024)	Barb Schell, VP (2023)	Karen Galle, secretary (2024)
Susan Dickinson, treas (2025)	Wilson Castillo (2024)	Judi Fenicle (2025)
Bob Hillegas (2023)	Ann Hoffman (2024)	*Rick Keen (2023)
Jason Pringle (2025)	Susan Ryder (2023)	*Judy Zeiders (2025)
Pastor Van Orden	Jesse Woodrow	

(End of term indicated in parentheses)
*Denotes absent

Call to Order – Tom Blackburn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda – Susan Ryder made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and carried.

Devotions – Pastor Lois offered an opening prayer.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Dickinson distributed copies of the report and pointed out some highlights. Judi Fenicle made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Action Items:

- Approve minutes of December 12, 2022, Council meeting minutes - Jason Pringle made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Report from Grace Assets Chair – Mike Ryder presented a plan developed for Kentland – making improvements to make it more inviting in order to increase rentals and hoping to break even in 2024. Total cost estimates for improvements are over \$60,000.00. There was a lengthy discussion about options. Mike was asked that the team prioritize the projects and prepare a phased plan to reduce the initial expenditure.
- Fire alarm system – some of the parts have failed and are failing. An estimate was obtained to replace the entire system for \$32,000.00. Mike Ryder feels that the system may still be adequate for a number of years with just making necessary repairs. Judi Fenicle made a motion to pay the \$1071.52 bill for repairs to the system using Fund 1 money from the Property Board line item. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Status report on Wi-Fi/cell phone service – there has been no new action.
- Use of Foundation for Enhancing Communities funds – Grace has received our annual \$2000 donation, and it was suggested to use the money this year to purchase food for West Shore School District food supplement program to provide for students in need. Susan Ryder made a motion to authorize Marti Bert to purchase \$500 worth of food for

the WSSD backpack program. This will avoid possible expiration of the items. We will allocate the additional \$1500 throughout the year, as the grant allows. The motion was seconded and carried.

- Youth Dinner January 22, 2023 – Jesse Woodrow explained that there would be approximately 20 youth and advisors, plus council members in attendance and food service should begin between 5:35 and 5:45. Susan Ryder and Strategic Planning team will plan the menu and then Susan will send out an electronic sign-up sheet for council members to volunteer to prepare food items.
- January 22, 2023 Congregation Fiscal Meeting – Packets need to be prepared by the office and available to pick up this Sunday the 15th. The date will also be announced in the next two newsletters including a link for downloading, Pastor Lois will verbally announce it at this weekend's services, and it will be projected on the screen during Sunday morning announcements. Susan Ryder made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
- ELCA model constitution 2022 revisions – Tom Blackburn would like to appoint a committee to go over these changes and decide which changes to incorporate – some are mandatory and others are optional. Susan Ryder volunteered to spearhead this effort.
- 2023 Budget – Susan Dickinson pointed out some highlights from the budget she distributed and answered council's questions. There was a brief discussion. Susan Ryder made a motion to approve the 2023 budget as presented. The motion was seconded and carried. Barb Schell made a motion to approve transferring Memorial Funds so that we have the required amount in Fund 1 to start the year, pending congregation's approval of the proposed budget. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Christian Education and Community Outreach Ministry Coordinator – The Personnel Committee has prepared a job description which was distributed to council. This position was developed in response to the Strategic Plan. There was a request to table this until the February or March meeting to give council members more time to review it and formulate questions and comments.

Reports

- A. President's Report** – Representatives to Synod Assembly – we need two members, a man and a woman, to attend the meeting in June as well as March and May preparatory meetings. Council members are encouraged to consider volunteering to attend or to think of other candidates in the congregation so they can be appointed at the February Council meeting.
- B. Secretary's Report**
- C. Vice-president's Report**
- D. Pastor's Report** (attached) – Pastor distributed her report and encouraged council members to send her ideas for the vision statement prior to the February meeting.

E. Ministry Reports

- a. Children, Youth & Family Director (Jesse Woodrow) - attached
- b. Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Melinda Bechtel/Wilson Castillo)
- c. Endowment (Michelle Knight/Barb Schell)
- d. Fellowship (Hope Pankake/Bob Hillegas)
- e. Personnel (Marti Bert/Jason Pringle)
- f. Property (Mike Ryder/Susan Ryder) - attached
- g. Grace and Community Outreach Ministry (/)
- h. Stewardship & Finance (Barb Schell, Jason Pringle) - attached
- i. Tech (/)
- j. Worship & Music (Beth Jury/Karen Galle) – included in Pastor's report
- k. Safety and Security (Jason Pringle, Rick Keen, Judy Zeiders)
- l. Call Committee (John Ozimok/Wilson Castillo) - attached
- m. Ministry Partner Giving Pantry (Garri Ann Hearn/)
- n. Sunday School Coordination (Hope Pankake)
- o. Strategic Plan Implementation (Pr. Van Orden, Ann Hoffman, Susan Ryder, Barb Schell) - attached
- p. Grace Assets Task Force (Mike Ryder/Rick Keen) – attached and presented above

Other Business

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer at 9:11 PM.