

**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 9, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

**Council Members**

Tom Blackburn, president	Michelle Knight, vice-president	Patty Rohde, secretary
Terry Snyder, treasurer	Pastor Cover	
Tracey Alfano-Douty	Marti Bert	Cody Fickes
Sue Gasswint *	Rick Keen	Nevin Shenck
Nancy Whitcomb	Tom Zimmerman*	

**Guests**

Jesse Woodrow	Bryan Weber
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**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:15

**Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Patty Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marti Bert to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Devotions/ Mission Moment** – The meeting was opened with the Daily Prayer for Advent and the sharing of a meal

**Action Items:**

- Motion by Rick Keen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor Cover to approve Bryan Weber as authorized user on M&T and Members 1<sup>st</sup> bank accounts so he may access information to reconcile accounts. Motion carried
- Budget 2020 – see attached. Income less expenses puts us \$45,000 behind for the projected 2020 budget. Expenses are coming in lower but giving is down significantly (\$48,000 deficit for 2019 year-end). Motion by Rick Keen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracey Alfano-Douty to set up a working group to advise Council on financial matters to improve revenue. Motion carried. Tracy Alfano-Douty offered to serve as Council liaison. The Council will ask for an initial report in 3 months after forming the work group. Council discussed possible candidates. Pastor will approach possible candidates.
- Update of our Constitution – See attached document. Most of the changes do not substantively change our Constitution except for the recommendation to designate one meeting as an Annual Meeting. Motion by Rick Keen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracey Alfano-Douty to present the proposed changes to the Constitution at the January 2020 meeting.
- A new member of Council is needed to replace Brett Weber until June. Motion by Tracey Douty-Alfano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Whitcomb to appoint John Gabler to fill the Council seat opened by Brett Weber until the June meeting. Motion carried.

- Baskets for Youth Silent Auction – Youth Group is moving the silent auction baskets to the spaghetti dinner in March to maximize exposure and ability to raise funds for the mission trip. Youth Group is asking members to donate baskets and would like to have Council sponsor a basket or 2.
- Sanctuary lamps – See attached document. Motion by Rick Keen , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Whitcomb to approve the replacement of Sanctuary lamps and the fixtures by GS Flook not to exceed \$9,000 to be paid from Memorial Funds. Motion carried.

## **Reports**

### **A. President's Report**

### **B. Secretary's Report**

- a. Evote: Minutes November 11, 2019 Council meeting. Motion by Micelle Knight, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Blackburn to approve the minutes and motion was carried by Evote.
- b. Notes from the December 2, 2019 Executive committee meeting were shared with Council
- c. Call Committee update – As per Council decision, Pastor Martini in the Synod office notified the Bishop that we are putting our Call process on hold. We are simply to notify Synod when we are ready to resume the search. If not much has changed, we can use the same Profile. We would need to check with committee members if they wish to continue to serve at that time. The Congregation would need to be notified in the budget discussion at the January meeting.

### **C. Vice-president's Report**

### **D. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Audit Committee – The committee is still working on the audit.
- b. Kitchen loan – Currently we have \$23,000 in the bank for the Capital Campaign and owe \$67,000 to the bank. We are not paying down the loan yet with that \$23,000 right now as we need to have money in the bank to pay the principal plus interest each month starting next year. We do not have that loan payment money sitting in the operating budget to pay the loan otherwise. Consideration needs to be given to paying some or all that \$23,000 and how much it saves us. Terry will get an amortization schedule to help us understand how much we can save. We are also attempting to refinance the loan as the current interest rates are lower.

### **E. Pastor's Report – We received a gift from Betsy Esser to support the Community Meal**

### **F. Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Report – See attached**

### **G. Director of Music Report**

### **H. Committee/Task Force Reports**

- a. Kitchen (Audrey Egley/ Marti Bert)
- b. Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Melinda Bechtel/ Sue Gasswint)
- c. Endowment (Linda Lippert/ Tracey Alfano-Douty)

- d. Faith Connection (Julie Flook/ ??)
- e. Fellowship and Arts (Hope Pankake/ Tom Zimmerman) – Santa Breakfast is Saturday Dec 14 at 9:00 AM
- f. Finance & Budget (Terry Snyder)
- g. Personnel (John Gabler/ Nevin Shenck)
- h. Property (Connie Angus/ Cody Fickes)
- i. Social Ministry (Brigitte Storey/ Michelle Knight)
- j. Stewardship (Brigitte Storey/ Rick Keen)
- k. Worship & Music (Beth Jury/ Nancy Whitman)
- l. 1604 Task Force (Terry Snyder)

#### **Other Business**

**Adjournment** – Motion by Michelle Knight, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracey Alfano-Douty to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 9:08 PM