

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL OCTOBER 9, 2025 (AMENDED NOVEMBER 13, 2025)

Members Present: Pastor Jenn Kopacz, Teresa Wooten, Peggy Stevens, Nick Gandy, Lori Ann Firehammer, Mary Grant, Kevin Lundgren, Janet McPherson (Absent: Randi Buehner, Karen Bradley, Debra Nelsen)

DEVOTION: Pastor Jenn led the opening devotion

CALL TO ORDER: Teresa called the meeting to order @ 7:10 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA: The September minutes and Treasurer's report were taken off for separate discussion. The Worship & Music and Stewardship Committees did not have a report this month. Janet made a motion to approve the Community Ministry and Fellowship Committee reports, Mary seconded and it passed unanimously.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES: Pastor Jenn made some revisions to the minutes: regarding the discussion about changing date of Oktoberfest: it was noted that it was changed back to original date of October 5th (from the 12th) by email from Mary, and that there was not a motion or vote taken by the Council. Also, Peggy will follow up with Kelly Wenum about the possibility of her taking over the Church website design. Randi has been working with Sarah Springer about exploring different options for church property, and will keep the Council updated. Peggy made a motion to accept the September minutes as amended, seconded by Teresa, and the motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peggy noted the Family in need fund is \$500.00 in arrears. This is a pass-through fund. It doesn't have an amount budgeted in the spending plan. Pastor Jenn has been providing assistance with her own funds. The Council agreed to have a special offering for the Family in need fund in November. Peggy also said there were additional expenses of \$12,000.00 so far this month, due to insurance payment and I.T. costs related to resolving problems with the mother board used for live streaming. As of September 30, expenditures are \$33,353 over income/offerings. If all members increased their offering by 10%, it would probably eliminate the deficit. There was a discussion of whether it would be better to pass the offering plate around during worship services, instead of having the offering basket in the back of the church, as well as providing different envelopes for those who don't have a box of offering envelopes. Pastor Jenn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Teresa seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS/CONTINUING BUSINESS: Pastor Jenn is planning her sabbatical for mid June to mid-August 2026.

As of today, no additional updates on discussions with Sarah Springer on rental of church property.

IT/COMPUTER UPDATES: Kelly Wenum needs to get administrative access to the church website. Lisa has a new computer, which is working better. Most of the problems with the network have been resolved. The cable TV desk will be moved from the Choir room. Also, new printers have been installed in the church office. I.T. Solutions is the vendor Grace uses. It will need to be decided by December whether to do a three-year contract with MetroNet. The telephone system is also being upgraded.

TIME & TALENT SHEETS: have been sent out to Committee chairs.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SAFETY AT GRACE: The Council discussed issuing an announcement about personal safety in the building, especially after hours, such as when the custodial company is in the building, or when Altar Guild volunteers have to come in to set up Communion. Being sure that doors are properly locked, as well as watching out for anyone loitering around the parking lot was discussed.

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: Peggy met with staff of the Property Appraiser, who measured space in the building's square footage. Grace's space is between 10,000 and 19,000 square feet, which will mean an increase of \$345.00 per month for fire protection. The only space exempt from this fee is the sanctuary.

COUNCIL APPROVAL OF KEVIN LUNDGREN AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Peggy made a motion to approve Kevin as Financial Secretary, seconded by Pastor Jenn. The motion carried unanimously. Pastor Jenn will send a thank you letter to Dave Grant for serving as Financial Secretary. Teresa also recommended forwarding Don Blancett's letter to the council to Kevin for review.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: Nick signed Grace up to participate in the Halloween event on October 30 at the civic Center. ***Volunteers will be needed to pass out candy.*** Mary will be sending out information about doing a new church picture directory. November 26-30 will be available for taking new pictures.

NEXT MEETING: November 13 @ 6:30 PM.

Pastor Jenn led the Lord's Prayer, and the meeting adjourned @ 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Janet McPherson
Secretary