

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023
7:00 pm

1. Call to Order at 7:14 p.m.
2. Attendance: (* = excused absence; ° = late arrival)

Becker, Adam	Grant, Nevada *	Repa, Barbara
Becker, Edward	Gross, James *	Staub, Pastor Scott
Eisenhart, Steven	Hauser, Martin	White, Nancy
Geiser, Scott	Mutter, Vicki	Wise, Jeff
3. Devotions
 - a. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the December 2022 Regular Council Meeting
The minutes were unanimously approved: Nancy White motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
5. Committee Reports: (* = report on file; ° = no meeting/no report; + = no report submitted)

a. Audit +	h. Fellowship +	o. Mutual Ministry +
b. Building Fund +	i. Finance +	p. NYG +
c. Cemetery +	j. Flutter +	q. Personnel +
d. Christian Ed +	k. Garden of Hope +	r. Property +
e. Constitution +	l. History & Archives +	s. Stewardship +
f. Endowment +	m. Memorial Fund +	t. Swamp Picnic +
g. Evangelism +	n. Mission Svc/Social Min. +	u. Worship & Music +
6. Committee Action Items
 - a. Worship and Music requests permission to hire a GRACE band leader and add a \$6,000 salary into the budget.
 - After some discussion, it was decided to grant permission to the committee to begin the search, both inside (bulletin & newsletter announcements) and outside (Indeed) the congregation. Donna Kehs and Sharon Tracey will lead the search.
 - Once a candidate is found, and a salary determined, council will vote on the budget increase.
7. Staff Reports
 - a. Update on Carol's Position
 - Pastor reported that Carol agreed to the proposed 3 month transitional support package. Her last day will be January 31, after which the transitional support will begin.
 - b. Pastor noted that the office will have coverage through February. Following that if necessary, he and Steve will work to establish coverage with a temporary office manager.
 - c. Pastor will be holding a "Hospitality Sunday" to combat the recent "that's my pew" comment.
 - d. Pastor thanked the staff for the great job they're doing.

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8. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Ed reported that the year-end totals are where we projected – at \$76,600 to the negative. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved for audit. Marty Hauser motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.

9. Unfinished Business and Prior meeting Action Items
 - a. AVEL Project
 - Steve reported that the AV wiring is complete and the plastering of the openings and construction of the desk will begin soon.
 - b. Sale of Property Request
 - Steve reported that, because neighbor Matt Brown continues to attempt to work with the township on the minor sub-division but is having little success, he has requested that we allow him to construct a fence on the property that he wishes to purchase from the church. Both the church and Matt would submit a fence permit and, upon approval of the minor sub-division by the township, the fence and property will become Matt's.
 - The council was favorable to this idea, however Steve requested more time to investigate this before rendering a decision. All were in agreement.
 - c. Offering Envelope Survey of Simply Giving participants
 - Scott Geiser noted that while he did not conduct a survey, he did order 250 boxes for 2024. These boxes will include AVEL and HVAC envelopes.
 - d. Standing Board Treasurer's Reports in the Council Treasurer's report
 - Ed said he has not been sending these reports to the council but would provide them on a thumb drive for archival purposes in the safe. All were in favor.
 - e. Nursery Staffing
 - Pastor shared that Worship and Music would like to begin utilizing either the Welcome Center or the Library for parents who need to take their children out of worship.
 - Marty offered to donate a TV to the library on which we could stream the service.
 - Steve will talk to Amy Marazas and Scott Repa about streaming the service to the Welcome Center TV.
 - f. Payroll Company Transition
 - Ed reported that the transition is complete and the staff is getting paid.
 - g. Senior Ministry Discretionary Fund Policy
 - Marty noted that legal representation will be needed to look over the policy.
 - h. Council Term & Elections
 - Steve reviewed the following:
 - Those going off in 2023: Marty, Scott, Adam and Nancy
 - Those remaining in 2023: Ed, Steve, Jim, Barbara, Jeff and Vicki
 - Those willing to run in 2023: Todd Rothermel, Scott Geiser and Nancy White
 - i. Synod Assembly Delegates
 - There was no interest at this time.
 - j. Endowment Fund Releasing
 - Jeff reported that there was no mention of this at the last meeting.
 - k. Pre School
 - Donna Kehs presented an overview of the program she is proposing of which the

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anticipated open date is Fall 2023. There were some questions about insurance and other items, which will need to be investigated further.

- Council was in favor of proceeding with Donna's proposal, but will need more information before a decision is made.

10. New Business

- a. Steve noted that the Congregational Meeting and Dinner are set for February 19. He will write the letter announcing this to the congregation.
 - It was decided that the Annual Report will be distributed via e-mail and hard copies will be available in the Welcome Center and in the wooden box under the portico.
- b. Steve asked when the Council Reorganization Meeting should be held. Answer: Tuesday, February 21 via ZOOM.
- c. Steve suggested that the Personnel Committee be revitalized in order to provide better support to the staff if required. Pastor stated that they need a chair person; Nancy White said that she may be interested in this.
- d. Pastor asked if all were in favor of renewing the contract with Trellis for Tomorrow. All were in favor.
 - Marty signed the contract.
- e. Pastor noted that Trellis for Tomorrow would like to build a 30' x 70' greenhouse next to the garden. All were in favor and asked Pastor to provide more information before approval is granted.
- f. The following were presented as prospective members:
 - Robert and Victoria Brett and daughter: AdalynnThey were approved unanimously. Pastor Scott motioned; Nancy White seconded.
- g. Ed noted that the last of the Mission Investment Fund money will be moved into the Endowment Fund at the end of January and mid-February.
- h. Ed requested permission to have all of the executive officers sign a form stating that "Maria can pay all incoming bills as soon as possible" to avoid late fees. All were in favor; Ed will draft the letter.
- i. It was suggested that money be collected for Carol. All were in favor.
 - The collection will occur on Sundays January 22 and 29.

11. Correspondence

- a. Thank You from Jean Buckley for the monthly goody bags delivered to Fredrick Living.
- b. Thank You from Gemma Services (formerly Silver Springs) for the gift cards and children's gifts for Christmas.

12. Upcoming Events

- a. Congregational meeting and dinner on Sunday, February 19 following the 9:00 a.m. service.

13. Action Item Review

- a. Sr. Ministry Discretionary Fund Policy (Marty)
- b. Check with insurance agent about additional coverage for BSA law suites (Jim)
- c. Remind Sally Sugita about printing of council minutes and reports (Marty)

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- d. Provide monthly financial information for the bulletin (Ed)
- e. Contact Seminary Archives for suggestions on how to preserve the Luther book (Pastor)
- f. Look into professional liability coverage for our employees (Jim)
- g. Document the Treasurer's requirements for updating the Pastor's pension/benefits (Ed)
- h. Coordinate a gift and luncheon in honor of Carol (Vicki)
- i. Determine how a family would release their money from the Endowment Fund (Jeff)
- j. Investigate fence permit and any possible future issues (Steve)
- k. Talk to Amy M. and Scott R. about streaming the service to the Welcome Center TV (Steve)
- l. Write congregational meeting and dinner announcement letter (Steve)
- m. Provide more information on the Trellis greenhouse (Pastor)
- n. Draft bill-paying signature letter (Ed)

14. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm

15. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Adjournment was unanimously approved. Pastor Scott motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

16. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.