

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023
7:00 pm

1. Call to Order at 7:12 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 January 2023 Regular Council Meeting
 - a. Ed noted a correction in the archival of the Treasurer's reports.
The minutes were unanimously approved with the noted change: Pastor Scott Staub motioned; Ed Becker 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. The Audit Committee requests approval of the 2022 Treasurer's Summary which will serve as part 2022 Audit.
The request was unanimously approved: Vicki Mutter motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
 - b. The Audit Committee requests approval to hire an outside organization to conduct our General Fund Audit. Don Wirt suggested one of the following to conduct our audit:
 - Reinhart - Boyertown for \$3,000
 - Barbara Akins - Bechtelsville for \$5,000The council unanimously approved the hiring of Reinhart: Jeff Wise motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.
7. Staff Reports
 - a. Pastor provided an update on the search for a Praise Band Director: the search is continuing.
 - b. Pastor noted that he has been working the Senior Ministry and they are excited about the future. Items to note are:
 - Archives Room is being cleaned out and organized by Sue Lowery, Jane Manthorne and Sharon Wise under the direction of Lee Wesner.
 - They have several ideas for upcoming programs including: funeral planning, legacy giving and scams.

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- They would like to start working with AARP.
- They are working on transportation resources.
- c. Pastor noted that volunteers are still doing a great job covering the office in the absence of an Office Manager. Sharon Wise has begun coordinating ancestry requests.
- d. Pastor highlighted the success Nikki is having with the Lego Club.
- e. Jazz worship will occur on Transfiguration Sunday where the Doe Club will present a check.
- f. Pastor shared that Kirby-Smith is helping us with a \$50,000 grant for the Food Ministry using tax credits from local business.

The staff reports were unanimously approved: Ed Becker motioned; Barbara Repa seconded.

8. Treasurer's Report

- a. Ed noted that our 2022 Benevolence is paid in full.
- b. Ed reported that the Mission Investment Fund accounts were moved into the Endowment Fund at the end of January and mid-February.
- c. Ed noted that we are at a \$16,000 deficit as of January 31. Some of that is attributed to the high cost of heating oil.
- d. There was some discussion about money just "sitting" in the General, Memorial, Building and Picnic Grove Funds and not earning any interest.
 - Ed will contact Truist to see what our options are.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved for audit: Ed Becker motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.

9. Unfinished Business and Prior meeting Action Items

- a. AVEL Project
 - Steve noted that he has begun construction of the desk and that plastering of the openings has begun.
- b. Sale of Property Request
 - Steve presented the research he did regarding both the church and neighbor Matt Brown submitting for a fence permit: he stated there should be no problem with doing so.
 - Council was in favor with proceeding with the fence permit signed by the church.
- c. Boy Scout Sexual Abuse Law Suits & Additional Insurance Coverage
 - Jim noted that our present insurance company no longer is no longer covering churches and our policy will not be renewed.
 - Jim will be searching for a new provider who will cover all areas of our ministry, including the Boy Scouts.
- d. Nursery Relocation
 - Steve noted that he did not ask Scott or Amy about live-streaming into the Library.
 - Pastor and Nikki are working to transform the Library into a kid-friendly nursery/play area.
- e. Copier Lease
 - Jim reported that proposals are coming.

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- f. 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 Roethermel, Scott Geiser and Nancy White
 - g. Synod Assembly Delegates
 - There was no interest from council members at this time.
 - Pastor Scott and Nikki will be attending.
 - h. Endowment Fund Releasing
 - Jeff will bring this up at the March meeting.
 - i. Personnel Committee Revitalization
 - Pastor reported that he asked former members and chairs to chair the committee and there was no interest.
 - It was noted that the Council Vice President is charged with this task per the Constitution.
 - j. Trellis Green House
 - Pastor stated that we need agriculture and security clearances to do this.
 - Neighboring farmers Mike and Marci are helping us with this.
 - k. Constitution Update
 - Steve reported from Don Wirt that as of January 31 the synod was still reviewing it.
10. New Business
- a. Pastor reviewed the information compiled by the office volunteers regarding the hours required for the Office Manager position. He recommends reducing the number of hours to 25 per week. After some discussion, a motion was made to reduce the hours. The motion was approved unanimously. Jim Gross motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
 - Pastor will communicate this to Susan when he contacts her to learn of her decision whether or not she will return as the Office Manager on March 7.
 - b. The following were presented as prospective members:
 - Lisa Betz and daughter: Carly Di PasqualeThey were approved unanimously. Pastor Scott motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
 - c. Steve reported that Don Wirt suggested that an update be provided to the congregation upon completion of the audit of the General Fund. This would be in the form of an addendum to the Annual Report and could include updates on the progress made with the Endowment and Capital Campaigns. All were in favor.
 - d. It was suggested that approved minutes of the council be made public to the congregation. After a lively discussion, it was decided to post them on the website and in the (2) information kiosks.
 - Steve will request that Barbara update the minutes in the kiosk.

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11. Upcoming Events

- a. Congregational Meeting and Dinner – Sunday, February 19
- b. Council Reorganization Meeting – Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM
12. Pastor will send the link.
- c. Swamp Picnic Spaghetti Dinner – Saturday, March 11

12. Action Item Review (Barbara)

- 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)
- 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. Determine how a family would release their money from the Endowment Fund (Jeff)
- i. Talk to Amy M. and Scott R. about streaming the service to the Welcome Center TV (Steve)
- j. Provide more information on the Trellis greenhouse (Pastor)
- k. Draft bill-paying signature letter (Ed)
- l. Tell Don Wirt about the hiring of Reinhart (Steve)
- m. Send updated minutes to Barbara (Steve)
- n. Contact Truist about money sitting in the several funds (Ed)
- o. Tell Susan about the reduction in hours (Pastor)
- p. Tell Barbara to print and update Council minutes in the kiosks (Steve)

13. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Adjournment was unanimously approved. Adam Becker motioned; Vicki Mutter seconded.

15. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.