

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2023
7:00 pm

1. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Todd Rothermel
2. Attendance: (* = excused absence; ° = late arrival)

Becker, Edward	Mutter, Vicki *	Wise, Jeff
Eisenhart, Steven *	Repa, Barbara *	White, Nancy
Geiser, Scott	Rothermel, Todd	
Gross, James	Staub, Pastor Scott	
3. Devotions
 - a. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the July Regular Council Meeting
The minutes were unanimously approved: Nance 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. The Cemetery Board requests approval to use Larry Gallagher's Memorial Fund Money (\$2,805.00) to purchase (3) benches which will be permanently installed on concrete bases throughout the cemetery.
Unanimously approved: Nance White motioned; Jim Gross seconded.
 - Council to check with Joann Wirt if approved Memorial Fund project list exists/up to date.
 - b. The Finance Committee requests permission to add Jennifer Boyer to the list of pre-approved expenses payable by Maria without waiting for signatures on a check. The following was noted:
 - Direct deposit eliminates time spend signing checks twice a month
 - Property needs communication from Maria when an electronic transfer is made, along with Jen's invoiceUnanimously approved: Todd Rothermel motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.
 - c. The Endowment Fund Committee requests approval to use undesignated Memorial Fund Money (\$1,300.00) to purchase a plaque on which to recognize those who have contributed to the Endowment Fund.
Unanimously approved: Jeff Wise motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.
7. Verbal Committee reports:
 - a. Property - several items were discussed:
 - Recent electrical outages caused basement flooding;

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- 2 trees down on property, 1 will require tree service (by prior parsonage);
- Sunday School windows have been replaced;
- Looking for someone to adopt the flowerbed by electronic sign near Swamp Pike
- Investigating repair for electronic sign.

8. Staff Reports

a. It was noted that the annual planning calendar (August 2023 to August 2024 is rolling. The staff reports were unanimously approved: Ed Becker motioned; Nance White seconded.

9. Treasurer's Report

a. Ed reported that the total deficit as of July 31 was \$67,000 (slightly better than last month).

b. Monthly run rate is ~\$10,000

c. Ledger to Budget sheet needed to be edited - 2nd line item - ("2023", not "2022")

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved with edits for audit: Nancy White motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

10. Unfinished Business and Prior Meeting Action Items

a. AVEL Project

- Recurring costs due to expectation that Amy would be completed by January (YTD ~\$2000 to AVEL project), costing NHELCC more than expected. Need to get project to completion. Equipment rental needed longer than expected as well – needs to be part of AVEL project costs.

b. Sale of Property Request

- Steve signed the plans on behalf of the church and is waiting for a copy for our records.

c. New Insurance Provider – on going (Jim)

- An email vote was conducted unanimously approving the recommendation of the Property Committee to:
 - change to a new insurance agent: James O. Bower
 - change to a new insurance company: Brotherhood Mutual
 - saving NHELCC \$4500 over last years insurance costs

d. Worship Nursery

- Pastor commented that the nursery should be up and operational in September.

e. Constitution Update

- Discussion was had concerning Constitution change ratification by the Congregation (requires 2 congregational meetings to ratify):
- Announcement of meeting(s) required 4 weeks prior to first meeting;
- Plan to use December 10th Special Meeting of the Congregation and February (4th or 11th) Congregational Meeting/Dinner;
- Committee to advise on informational meetings prior to Congregational meeting(s);
- Committee to review plan and respond with recommendation.

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11. New Business

a. New Member Acceptance

Keith and Cathy Crowther were unanimously approved: Todd Rothermel motioned; Ed Becker seconded.

b. Existing Member Removal (by request)

Jen VanDyke and Tyler and Ryan McConnell were unanimously approved: Nance White motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.

c. Consideration of paying Nikki's portion of entrance fee into the candidacy program (\$650.00 by church, \$650.00 by ELCA, \$650.00 by Nikki – Finance to recommend where \$ to come from) - unanimously approved: Nance White motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

d. Susan commented she's not being provided enough information for bulletins, newsletters, calendar.

e. Kirby Smith oversight – recommendation – contract renewal by September 30, 2023 – need focused group (Campaign Committee to meet)

12. Correspondence

a. Informational letter from SEPA - current Bishop will not seek re-election for second term

13. Congregational Feedback

a. Worship Service Readings – two readings versus one was appreciated.

b. Narthex noise before/during church – ushers, AVEL persons need to control noise in Narthex

c. Hymn sing – please sing 2 verses each

d. Welcome Center – can we make it more welcoming? (coffee, refreshments, greeters, parking lot greeter)

e. Accessibility for communion for physically impaired (Worship & Music Committee looking into this)

14. Upcoming Events

a. Swamp Picnic – Saturday, August 26

15. Council Highlights (from this meeting)

a. NHELFC Family Center - zoning variance process in place, overall finance plan to be considered by Council at future date, zoning fee not to be considered “approval” by Council

16. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm

17. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Adjournment was unanimously approved: Ed Becker motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

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