

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

1. Call to Order at 7:13 p.m.
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 – Steven Eisenhart opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the October Regular Council Meeting
The minutes were unanimously approved: Edward Becker motioned; Jim Gross 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 Endowment Fund Committee requested approval of the revised Endowment Fund Policy.
The policy was unanimously approved: Jeff Wise motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
7. Staff Reports
 - a. Council liked the new report format, but wants to make sure that the Pastor is not writing the reports for the other staff members.
 - b. Since PTO is not tracked in this report format, Todd will track it and the staff will verify its accuracy.
The staff reports were unanimously approved: Todd Rothermel motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
8. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Ed reported that the total deficit as of October 31 was \$93,700.
 - b. He also noted that income at the end of October (83% of the year) was at 79% and expenses were at 83%. The income is behind due to no disbursement from the Endowment Fund.
The treasurer's report was unanimously approved for audit: Edward Becker motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.

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9. Unfinished Business and Prior meeting Action Items

a. Pre School

- Donna Kehs requested an additional \$500 to be paid to New Hanover Township for the sewer escrow account which will allow us to have a conversation with the sewer authority regarding capacity.

The additional money was unanimously approved: Todd Rothermel motioned and Edward Becker seconded.

b. Audit Update

- Steve reported that the audit is complete and that the auditor found no areas of concern.
- He also noted that the final report should be available next week.

c. Food Ministry Board Finances

- Todd reported that they will be going into the red by the end of November.
- He also noted that grant applications are continuously being sought and applied for, including a \$30,000 & \$50,000 grants.

d. Endowment Fund Proceeds to General Fund

- Cornerstone reported first year net gains (after taking out their fees) out was 4.4%.

e. Pastor's Hour Adjustment

- Steve recapped Pastor's proposal and reported the Executive Committee's confidence that the additional weeks will be ably covered thanks to our competent staff and Pastor's oversight.

The proposal was unanimously approved: Todd Rothermel motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

f. Swamp Pike Sign Repair

- Jim reported that the replacement part has been ordered.

g. 2024 Council Terms and Elections

- Steve reviewed the list of names of those going off and those staying on.
- He encouraged the council to find folks who may be willing to run.

10. New Business

a. New Member Acceptance

Benjamin and Alyssa Soupik and children Madelaine and Margo were unanimously approved: Vicki Mutter motioned; Barbara Repa seconded.

b. Ed reviewed the proposed 2024 Budget

The proposed budget was unanimously approved for presentation to the congregation: Todd Rothermel motioned; Jim Gross seconded.

c. The need for additional Sound System training was discussed.

- Steve will contact the system installer and coordinate some training dates.

d. Jim provided an overview of the recent heating issues and reported that the Property Committee is working to remedy them.

11. Correspondence

a. Thank you from Boyertown Multi Service for the \$1,000 donation in September 2023.

b. Thank you from Boyertown Multi Service for food pantry donation in October 2023.

c. Thank you from Boyertown Multi Service for the 225 lbs. from June Harvest in October 2023.

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- d. A note from Bill Bauer retiring from being the cemetery caretaker effective on December 1, 2023.
12. Congregational Feedback
- a. Drinks allowed in the sanctuary were discussed following the bulletin announcement that was recently published.
13. Upcoming Events
- a. Thanksgiving Day Service: Thursday, November 23 at 9:00 a.m.
 - b. Budget Informational Meetings: November 29 at 6:00 p.m. and December 2 at 10:00 a.m.
14. Council Highlights (from this meeting)
- a. The Council and Food Ministry Board expresses a big “Thank You” to Jim Davidheiser for his temporary chef responsibilities for our Loaves and Fishes ministry while Chef Chris Fatzinger was on medical leave for 6 weeks recovering from recent surgery. Welcome back Chef Chris.
 - b. The Council wishes the staff and the entire NHELCC membership a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
 - c. Please plan to attend the December 10th Congregation Meeting for presentation of the 2024 Annual Budget and first ratification vote of the NHELCC Constitution updates (two separate Congregational meetings required to fully ratify Constitution.)
 - d. Council nominations are open! Please see any current Council member if you have any interest in supporting the business side of NHELCC and joining the Council
 - e. The council voted favorably to allow Pastor Scott to take up to 5 weeks of un-paid sabbatical time annually, not to be used all at the same time and revisited annually. This is within acceptable ELCA guidelines for full-time rostered leaders.
 - f. Projected 2024 budget anticipated deficit could be erased if each giving unit increased giving by \$75.00/month.
15. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
16. The council meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.
Adjournment was unanimously approved: Todd Rothermel motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
17. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.