

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2023
7:00 pm

1. Call to Order at 7:05 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 – Pastor Scott opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the November Regular Council Meeting
 - a. Item 9d should read: Cornerstone reported first year net gains (after taking out fees) was 4.4%.
The minutes were unanimously approved: Nancy White motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
5. Approval of Minutes from the December Congregational Meeting
The minutes were unanimously approved: Jim Gross motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.
6. 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 +
7. Committee Action Items
 - a. The Audit Committee requests approval of the 2022 Financial Statements.
The 2022 Financial Statements were unanimously approved: Nancy White motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
 - b. The Audit Committee requests approval to use Reinhart and Company for the 2023 audit, not Cappelletti and Pinter as previously noted. Cost: \$2,500.00.
 - All were in agreement with this.
 - c. The Constitution Committee requests approval of Harry White as the chairperson of the committee.
Harry White was unanimously approved. Vicki Mutter motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
8. Staff Reports
 - a. Pastor reported that Catechism classes and Christmas planning are going well.
 - b. Lindsey Waltermeyer is settling in nicely as the GRACE band leader.
 - c. The Christmas pageant went well.
 - d. We received an invitation for a maximum of a tractor trailer load of paper products from Kimberly Clark for us to share with those in need.

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2023
7:00 pm

The staff reports were unanimously approved: Ed Becker motioned; Nancy White seconded.

9. Treasurer's Report

- a. Ed reported that the total deficit as of November 31 was \$101,500, but this will decrease once the Endowment distribution comes in.
- b. He also noted that income at the end of November (91% of the year) was at 87% and expenses were at 91%.

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

10. Unfinished Business and Prior meeting Action Items

- a. Pre School
 - Donna Kehs reported that the variance for day care and special exception for the pre-school was granted by the township at the December 12 meeting.
 - She also reported that the request to gradually purchase the required additional EDU's was deferred to the sewer authority.
- b. Constitution Update
 - Nancy reported that the first ratification was approved by the congregation at the December 10 Congregational Meeting.
- c. Pictorial Directory
 - Nancy reported that the committee members are gathering contact information. This will continue in new year.
- d. Food Ministry Board Finances
 - Todd reported that they did not go into the red in November and that grants are still being sought.
 - Todd noted that they received an award for a \$15,000 grant from Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation. Payment expected in January 2024.
 - It was also noted that the cost of food is going down because the proteins are being donated to us.
- e. Endowment Fund Proceeds to General Fund
 - Steve reported for Don Wirt that the Endowment Fund Committee is ready to make a distribution to the church as soon as some information is provided to Cornerstone to calculate the last 3 year average balance of the fund.
- f. Swamp Pike Sign Repair
 - Jim reported that the replacement part arrived but it did not fix the problem.
 - Todd offered to help due to some work connections he has with the manufacturer of the sign (Daktronics).
- g. 2024 Council Terms and Elections
 - Steve encouraged all to ask folks if they might be willing to serve.
- h. Heating Issues
 - Jim reported that there have been no recent issues.
- i. 2024 Budget and Constitution votes
 - Steve noted that both were approved at the December 10 Congregational Meeting.

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2023
7:00 pm

11. New Business
 - a. Steve reminded everyone that Annual Reports are due by Monday, January 8, 2024.
 - b. It was suggested that we consider not giving as much to benevolence due to our debt situation. Some discussion ensued but no decision was made.

12. Correspondence
 - a. Advent card from Emma Wagner from Lutheran World Relief.
 - b. Donation from Barbara Hutcher in honor of Yvonne Peto for helping her with a task.
 - c. Christmas card from Julia Frank from Lutheran Congregational Services.

13. Congregational Feedback
 - a. Some folks had questions about the financial part of the congregational meeting, especially the deficit.
 - b. It was suggested that the offering plates be passed again. Steve will review with Worship and Music.

14. Upcoming Events
 - a. Congregational Meeting and Dinner: February 11, 2024

15. Council Highlights (from this meeting)
 - a. Council nominations are open! We are looking for at least 2-3 folks to replace outgoing Council members whose terms have expired. Please see any current Council member if you have any interest in supporting the business and spiritual side of NHELIC and joining the Council.
 - b. Results from the December 10 Special Congregational Meeting:
 - 73 “yes” votes to approve the 2024 budget
 - 72 “yes” votes and 1 “no” vote on the first ratification of the Constitution changes.
 - c. Council reviewed and approved of the 2022 budget audit documents (no issues were found).
 - d. The 2023 budget deficit (\$100,000+) is still a concern of the Council. Please consider increasing your giving for 2024.
 - e. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes (you are using Simply Giving or other electronic giving means) please contact Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall before the end of the year.

16. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2024

17. The council meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.
Adjournment was unanimously approved: Pastor Scott motioned; Ed Becker seconded.

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