

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2024
7:00 pm

1. Call to Order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Attendance: (* = excused absence; ° = late arrival)
 3. Becker, Edward Gross, James Staub, Pastor Scott *
 4. Becker, Monique ° Hauser, D. Martin Wise, Jeff
 5. Eisenhart, Steven Peto, Yvonne White, Nancy
 6. Geiser, Scott Rothermel, Todd °
3. Devotions – Nancy White opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the January Regular Council Meeting
 - a. It was noted in item 7 that Nancy White seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer’s reports for audit.
The edited minutes were approved: Nancy White motioned; Jeff Wise seconded; Marty Hauser and Yvonne Peto abstained.
5. Approval of Minutes from December Congregational Meeting
The minutes were approved: Ed Becker motioned; Scott Geiser seconded; Marty Hauser and Yvonne Peto abstained.
6. Approval of Minutes from February Congregational Meeting
The minutes were approved: Scott Geiser motioned; Jim Gross seconded; Marty Hauser and Yvonne Peto abstained.
7. Council Reorganization
 - a. Each member introduced themselves.
 - b. Appointments
 - none
 - c. Election of Executive Committee
 - President – Todd Rothermel
 - Vice-President – Marty Hauser
 - Secretary – Steve Eisenhart
 - Treasurer – Ed Becker
 - Financial Secretary – Scott Geiser
 - d. Selection of Committee and Board Liaisons
 - Audit – Ed Becker
 - Building Fund – Jim Gross
 - Cemetery – Jim Gross
 - Christian Education – Yvonne Peto
 - Constitution – Nancy White
 - Endowment – Jeff Wise
 - Evangelism – open
 - Fellowship – Scott Geiser
 - Finance – Ed Becker

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- Flutter – Yvonne Peto
 - Food Ministry/GOH – Todd Rothermel
 - History & Archives – Steve Eisenhart
 - Memorial Fund – Steve Eisenhart
 - Mission Service / Social Ministry – Scott Geiser
 - Mutual Ministry – Nancy White
 - NYG – open
 - Peer Support – Monique Becker
 - Personnel – Todd Rothermel
 - Picnic Grove – Scott Geiser
 - Property – Jim Gross
 - Stewardship – Ed Becker
 - Worship & Music – Steve Eisenhart
- e. Approval of Board Officers
- Building Fund - board to elect officers and report to council for approval.
 - Cemetery: President – Ronald Hedrick; Secretary - Jeffrey Renninger; Treasurer - Donald Swavely
 - The board was approved unanimously: Marty Hauser motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
 - Christian Education - board to elect officers and report to council for approval.
 - Food Ministry: President – Steve Weidner; Secretary – None; Treasurer – Todd Rothermel
 - The board was approved unanimously: Monique Becker motioned; Marty Hauser seconded.
 - Flutter - board to elect officers and report to council for approval.
 - Peer Support: Treasurer – Monique Becker
 - The board was approved unanimously: Steve Eisenhart motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
 - Picnic Grove: President – Sally Sugita; Secretary – Sally Sugita; Treasurer – Kelly Hauser
 - The board was approved unanimously: Scott Geiser motioned; Nancy White seconded.
 - Memorial Fund: President - Steven Eisenhart; Secretary - JoAnne Wirt; Treasurer - JoAnne Wirt
 - The board was approved unanimously: Marty Hauser motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
 - Mission Service - board to elect officers and report to council for approval.

8. 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 + |

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| f. Endowment ⁺ | m. Memorial Fund ⁺ | t. Swamp Picnic ⁺ |
| g. Evangelism ⁺ | n. Mission Svc/Social Min. ⁺ | u. Worship & Music ⁺ |

9. Staff Reports

The staff reports were unanimously approved: Jeff Wise motioned; Ed Becker seconded.

10. Treasurer's Report

- a. Ed reported that the total deficit as of January 31 was \$25,700 and includes \$20,000 in make-up Benevolence expenses for 2023.
- b. He also noted that income at the end of January (8.3% of the year) was at 9% and expenses were at 12.9% (including the make-up 2023 Benevolence expenses).
- c. Discussion ensued on how to better present budgetary information to the congregation.
- d. Ed reported that the total transfer from Endowment Fund to the General Fund for 2023 was \$50,710.

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

11. Unfinished Business and Prior Meeting Action Items

- a. Sale of Property Request
 - Steve reported that this is finally complete and that he has a copy of the recorded plan which he will put in the safe.
- b. Family Learning Center
 - Todd reported that there are (2) informational sessions coming up: Sunday, February 18 following worship and Wednesday, February 21 following Lenten worship.
- c. Pictorial Directory
 - Nancy reported that things are going well and that they will be sending letters to inactive members asking if they would like to be included in the directory.
 - At the end of the process, council will review the list of inactive members and indicate if any should remain.
 - Todd will verify with Susan which lists have been used by Nancy's committee, making sure that new members are being added into the database.
- d. Mailbox Security
 - Jim reported that the new locking mailbox has been purchased and Bill Tracey will be installing it.
- e. Food Ministry Board Finances
 - Todd reported that another grant was awarded and that all accounts are in the black.
- f. Swamp Pike Sign Repair
 - Jim reported that it has been repaired for less than the \$4,000 authorized by council last month.
- g. Additional Sound System Training
 - Todd reported that more volunteers are needed.
 - Once they're found, Steve will schedule a training session with Bill Fitch, the system installer.

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- h. Committee Communication
 - Lots of discussion ensued about calendar updating and general communication.
 - It was determined that we need to revisit scheduling and Susan needs to remain in charge of the calendar so usage and events can be published accurately.
- i. GOH Start-up Money
 - Todd proposed on behalf of the board to provide a \$2,000 payment to the General Fund now and the balance to be repaid on a payment schedule. All were in favor.

12. New Business

- a. Todd announced that the agendas will be distributed on the Monday before the council meeting and any updates must be provided to him by the close of business that Wednesday.
- b. Synod Council and Committee Vacancies were reviewed,
 - Todd noted that Pastor encourages our participation due to grants we've received from the synod in the past.
- c. Jim noted that JoAnne Wirt is looking into ways that the Memorial Fund can earn more interest.
 - It was noted that it would best if she could find an appropriate account at our current financial institution - Truist.
- d. Steve noted that the audit results from all treasuries would be completed in time to be reviewed and approved at the March meeting.
- e. Steve also reported that the inclusion of the year-end financial information in the Annual Report worked well and should be repeated as such in the future. All were in favor.
- f. Nancy noted that Pastor forwarded the approved constitution to the synod.
- g. Steve indicated that the signers must be changed, removing Barbara Repa and adding Marty Hauser.
 - Ed will coordinate this.
- h. Todd introduced a new mechanism for on-line donations: Tithe.ly. The platform, which does not cost the church anything and will not replace Simply Giving, can generate reports to suit Maria and Scott's needs. All were in favor of implementing.
 - Todd will get QR codes for Susan to publish.

13. Congregational Feedback

- a. It was noted that the congregation meeting should be held in the Sanctuary so that as many folks as possible stay for the meeting.

14. Council Highlights (from this meeting)

- a. Council has elected new officers at the February Council Reorganization meeting:
 - President - Todd Rothermel
 - Vice President - Marty Hauser
 - Secretary - Steve Eisenhart
 - Treasurer - Ed Becker
 - Financial Secretary - Scott Geiser
- b. "Tithe.ly" (electronic giving platform) was discussed and will be adopted to provide another electronic method of receiving donations. This is expected to be used in addition to the

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Simply Giving platform. Look for more information in the bulletins and other communication formats.

- c. If you unlock doors for church access, lock doors behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
- d. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes please see Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving)

15. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

16. The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

The adjourned meeting was unanimously approved: Yvonne Peto motioned; Marty Hauser seconded.

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