

**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**

---

1. Call to Order at 7:01 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 – Pastor Scott opened the meeting with a prayer.

4. Approval of Minutes from the February Regular Council Meeting

a. It was noted in item 10d that the amount was \$50,710.

The edited minutes were unanimously approved: Ed Becker motioned; Scott Geiser 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. Reminders to Committee Liaisons

- a. Committees - please work with your Council liaisons/chairpersons to bring Council pertinent information to meetings.
- b. Please provide all scheduled meeting information (onsite, offsite/online) to Susan Gutshall or Todd Rothermel to add to the church calendar (Google Calendar)
- c. If your Committee/Board has a recommendation for Council, or something that needs to be discussed with the Council, please let Todd Rothermel know in advance of the meeting. He will add it to the agenda.
- d. Keep Committee work at the committee level. Council meetings are not where Committee/Board work should be performed.

7. Staff Reports

- a. Pastor announced that the Veteran’s Coalition has distributed over \$750,000 in retail value of Kimberly Clarke paper and hygiene products. New Hanover played a part in this by picking-up and distributing some of these items to various local individuals and organizations.
- b. Todd suggested that we begin to think about a “Business Development” succession plan to continue the work that Pastor does once Pastor chooses to retire.

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

**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**

---

8. Treasurer's Report

- a. Ed reported that the total deficit as of February 29 was \$1,800. This reduced number from January is thanks to the \$50,710 disbursement from Endowment.
- b. He also noted that income at the end of February (16.7% of the year) was at 28.3% and expenses were at 22.5% (including the Endowment disbursement).
- c. Discussion ensued on how to better present budgetary information to the congregation.
- d. Todd noted that signatory changes are being coordinated.
- e. It was stated that the money in the Memorial Fund has been transferred to an interest bearing account at Truist.
- f. Todd noted that expenses (other than previously approved for recurring invoices) need to be approved by Committee, Board, Staff, or Council before the Bookkeeper makes payment.
  - i. Pastor Scott noted that it was also mentioned in staff meeting.

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

9. Unfinished Business and Prior Meeting Action Items

- a. Parking Lot:
  - i. Directional Signage
  - ii. Mailbox Security
- b. Completed Recently:
  - i. Swamp Pike Sign Repair
    - a. Jim reported that this has been completed.
  - ii. Passing the Plate
    - a. Pastor noted that Worship & Music will reinstate the passing of the offering plates after Easter.
- c. Ongoing Actions:
  - i. Pre School
    - a. Todd reported that several meetings have occurred in order to move the process along: the Pre-School Committee met with Endowment to begin conversations about start-up funding and Property to review possible building renovations and janitorial needs. These meetings will continue to occur as the details are worked out.
    - b. He also noted that the opening will delay beyond the originally hoped-for Fall 2024 date. This is due to the state certification process, township sewer and traffic-study requirements, and the amount of unanswered questions still requiring information to make necessary decisions.
  - ii. Pictorial Directory
    - a. Nancy reported that she has a list of names the team was unable to contact. She was asked to send this to the Council for review.
    - b. Todd noted that membership issues arising out of this directory exercise will be reviewed by the Council, not the directory team.
    - c. Nancy asked how information is provided to folks in assisted living facilities? Answer - it will be personally delivered by either Jean Moser or Pastor Scott.
  - iii. Synod Adoption of NHELIC ratified Constitution
    - a. Nancy confirmed that the synod has adopted the Constitution.

**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**

---

iv. By Laws Update

- a. Todd suggested that we reorganize our existing Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions to follow ELCA guidelines for Constitution organization/formatting  
The reorganization was unanimously approved: Monique Becker motioned; Yvonne Peto seconded.

v. Food Ministry Board Finances

- a. Todd reported that this is no longer an issue thanks to numerous grants coming through.

vi. Reconciling in Christ

- a. RIC team hospitality training (to create a safe environment for all) is an online course (with no travel needed) provided by Reconciling Works (Lutherans for Full Participation). The training is online for 1.5 hours and costs \$210.00 total.
- b. Pastor motioned that the Council move forward with the journey towards the potential recognition of NHELCA as a Reconciling in Christ community. Part of the team's charter is to attend training in providing hospitality to create a safe and inviting environment for all, support of LGBTQIA+ people, and creating honest, open conversation honoring all identities. Therefore, the RIC team proposes that the cost for all team members attending is \$210.00, and shall be reimbursed.

The motion was unanimously approved; Pastor Scott motioned; Monique Becker seconded.

vii. Audit of 2023 Funds

- a. Todd reported that the 2023 audit will be reviewed and approved as follows:
- Individual funds at the April meeting;
  - General Fund at the June meeting.

viii. Tithe.ly Update

- a. Todd noted that it's been used heavily by the scouts to support the Eagle Scout project food drive: \$583.00 has been raised to date using this platform.

10. New Business

- a. Todd asked if Nikki Young was paid for 8 hours of her time in Food Ministry board grant writing support. Answer = no.
- i. Todd will follow up on the check request and re-submit.
  - ii. It was determined that an electronic means of submitting check requests was needed. All were in favor if the required information is provided.
- b. It was noted that three boards still need to have their officers approved.
- i. Todd will send reminders to these three liaisons so that names can be presented and voted upon in April.
- c. Lots of discussion ensued about restructuring committees and where individual funds reside. The discussion was tabled for the time being.
- d. SAMS ID
- i. Todd reported that he has applied for this because it allows us to receive federal grant funds.
- e. Garden Expansion Project
- i. The Garden of Hope Committee has worked with Trellis for Tomorrow to double the size

**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**

---

of the garden to the west (toward 663). The committee has decided to move forward with grant money to fund the project.

- ii. Due to volunteer shortage, low maintenance plants and fruit trees will be utilized.
- f. Pastor suggested that a celebration take place for the completion of AVEL project.
  - i. A fellowship hour was suggested; Yvonne will get a cake. All were in favor.
  - ii. Fellowship will coordinate the date and report it to council.
- g. Nancy suggested that Property investigate solar energy for powering the building.

11. Congregational Feedback

- a. Some folks would like an early Easter sunrise service.

12. Correspondence

- a. Thank you from Bear Creek Camp for our “continued support.”
- b. Thank you from SEPA Synod for “Mission Support” in the amount of \$18,730.00 (2023 Benevolence offering).
- c. Thank you from Pottstown Family Services for our donation of \$500.00 (from Pastor’s Discretionary Fund to assist a family facing eviction).
- d. Thank you from American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for our donation of \$500.00.
- e. Thank you from the ELCA for our donation of \$500.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.
- f. Thank you from the ELCA for our donation of \$3,958.00 to ELCA World Hunger.
- g. Thank you from the Boyertown Are Multi-Service for our donation of \$1,000.00 during 2023.

13. Upcoming Events

- a. Garden Planting: Saturday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m.
- b. Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services.
- c. Easter Sunday breakfast following the service.

14. Council Highlights (from this meeting)

- a. The AVEL capital campaign has been fulfilled! The financial goal to cover all AVEL costs has been reached. Council extends a big THANK YOU to all who contributed
- b. NHELCA is adding a new electronic giving method (additive to the current Simply Giving platform) that allows for users to give via ACH and Credit/Debit Cards without the need to maintain a Tithe.ly account
- c. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door 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, April 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

16. The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

The adjournment was unanimously approved: Yvonne Peto motioned; Ed Becker seconded.

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