

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2024
7:00 pm

1. Call to Order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Attendance: (* = excused absence; ° = late arrival)

Becker, Edward *	Gross, James	Staub, Pastor Scott
Becker, Monique *	Hauser, D. Martin	Wise, Jeff
Eisenhart, Steven	Peto, Yvonne *	White, Nancy *
Geiser, Scott	Rothermel, Todd	
3. Devotions
 - a. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the April Regular Council Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved: Nancy White motioned; Scott Geiser seconded.

 - a. Todd asked what is needed to have the minutes posted to the NHELCC website after they are approved by the Council. Answer = per Scott, the approved minutes are needed in Word format. Minutes were sent on the Monday prior to the Council meeting in Word format, no changes prior to approval.
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 +
		v. 325th Anniversary *
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. Todd noted that Barb Eisenhart, Niki Young and Pastor Scott represented NHELCC at the Synod Assembly.
 - b. Pastor noted that all three music directors are doing a great job. Thanks to Barb Eisenhart for reporting the music used in our worship to the appropriate license holders.
 - c. Pastor stated that Rosalie Lisa and Marlene Hansley are handling the PEER support ministry

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at this time. Rosalie is delivering the donated paper products to those in need and Marlene has updated the PEER support page on the website.

- d. Jim asked if a PEER support counselor would be hired again. Answer = not at this time.
- e. Pastor asked if the council was agreeable to reaching out to some elected officials to seek funding for the Food and Garden ministries. All were in favor.
- f. Pastor noted that NHELCC is hosting an affirmation of baptism celebration dinner on Saturday, May 18 for the confirmands, their parents and sponsors.
- g. Pastor shared that Nikki Young and Lindsey Waltermeyer are looking to host a “Box City” next year in the grove.

The staff reports were unanimously approved: Marty Hauser motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

8. Treasurer’s Report

- a. Scott reported for Ed that the total deficit as of April 30 was \$23,404.75.
 - b. Scott also noted that income at the end of April (33% of the year) was at 37.4% and expenses were at 40.4%.
 - c. Scott noted that subsequent Balance Sheets will show the actual value of our bequest investments at Schwab.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Todd asked if a Learning Center fund code was set up to track expenses/income for this ministry. Answer = no. Scott requested that a list of categories of income be submitted to the Finance Committee so that this can be set up. Todd will provide.
 - f. It was noted that the Endowment transfer for the first quarter of 2024 check is coming.
- The treasurer’s report was unanimously approved for audit: Nancy White motioned; Steve Eisenhart seconded.

9. Unfinished Business and Prior Meeting Action Items

- a. Parking Lot:
 - i. Food Ministry Space Usage (Jim)
 - ii. Additional Sound System Training (Steve)
 - iii. Benevolence vs. Debt (Finance)
 - iv. Directional Signage – on going (Steve)
 - v. Reconciling in Christ – hospitality training (Pastor)
 - vi. Solar Energy research (Property)
 - vii. Unconventional Building Usage Requests – on going (Jim)
- b. Completed Recently:
 - i. Passing the Plate (Worship & Music)
 - ii. Synod Adoption of NHELCC ratified Constitution (Harry)
 - iii. By Laws Update (Harry)
 - iv. AVEL project completion (Steve)
- c. Ongoing Actions:
 - i. Pre School
 - Todd reported that the traffic study may experience a savings because Traffic Planning and Design (Pottstown) already did a traffic study for the golf course and they are

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willing to share it with us. NHELCC will share the recent minor subdivision plan with them if permission is granted to do so from the plan owners – the owners of our former parsonage. Steve will request permission from them to do so.

- Todd noted that an agreement with the township is being prepared stating that we will buy three EDU's prior to or at the Learning Center opening and meter our usage and report the usage to the sewer authority. The metered usage will be used to determine if additional EDU's are required.
 - Todd stated that construction drawings have been started which will be used to obtain pricing. The team has a lot of decisions to make before these can be completed. The goal is to have a construction estimate by the end of June from three contractors.
 - Todd also stated that funding sources need to be determined, of which there are several options. Meetings will continue to occur between Endowment, Finance and the Learning Center to come to a decision sooner rather than later.
- ii. Pictorial Directory
- No discussion occurred due to Nancy's absence.
- iii. Food Ministry Board
- Todd shared that the ELCA Grant for \$8,000 was awarded and the check is being sent.
 - Chef Chris will be on unpaid medical leave from May 20 to July 15. Jim Davidheiser will cover his duties at half of Chef Chris's salary.
- iv. Garden of Hope
- Todd shared that Bill Allen has donated his shed to the Garden. Water and electric at the shed are being considered and may be provided as part of the improvements required for the Learning Center and the Garden of Hope expansion.
- v. Marty expressed he is working on the documentation of certain discretionary funds, specifically the Stern Nester bequest prior directives and potential use of funds for discretionary proposes
- vi. Reconciling in Christ Update
- Pastor reported that the educational portion of this is being deferred until the fall.

10. New Business

- a. The 325th Anniversary Committee is requesting that the Congregational Dinner, Fastnacht Social and Talent Show be held on March 2, 2025 due to the fact that Shrove Tuesday (Fastnacht Day) is March 4. The Congregational Meeting would be held as early in the year as possible.
- i. It was suggested that the meeting and dinner occur on the same date in February and the Fastnacht and Talent Show occur on March 2. All were in favor; the meeting date will be determined closer to the time of occurrence.
- b. Todd announced that Mark Wiley's wife passed away recently and suggested that NHELCC may want to show its condolences in some way. Mark is our IT contractor. All were in favor and Todd will email the Council with a suggestion.
- c. Todd noted that Pastor has an unlimited amount of Thrivent Action Team Cards which can be filled out to seek funding for various projects and initiatives. The suggestion was to fill out a card for each food delivery event, resulting in ~\$2,000 per month. This will be investigated further.

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- d. Steve asked if the council was in favor of allowing the Philadelphia Seminary Archives to scan our parochial records and make them available to folks doing genealogical research. All were in favor. Steve and Barbara Eisenhart will coordinate this effort.
 - e. Pastor stated that this year's confirmands are Mason Artim and Ethan Westrich. These young people were approved unanimously for confirmation: Pastor Scott motioned; Todd Rothermel seconded.
11. Correspondence
- a. Thank you from the J-Walkers Volunteer Team for our donation toward the support of Luis and the entire Maradiaga family.
12. Upcoming Events
- a. Affirmation of Baptism celebration, May 19 following the worship service
 - b. The Gathering: June 13; 12 – 3 p.m.
13. Council Highlights (from this meeting)
- a. Space/room utilization requests are to go through the church office to ensure that space is available.
 - b. The Council continues to discuss the Learning Center planning process in support of this future ministry.
 - c. Thank you to Jim Davidheiser for acting as our Food Ministry Chef during Chris Fatzinger's medical leave.
 - d. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
 - e. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes please see Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving)
14. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
- a. Todd asked if the July 18, 2024 meeting could be held virtually. Several folks noted that they will be missing. Todd will consider moving the meeting to better accommodate schedules.
 - b. Todd noted that he will not be present at the September 19, 2024 meeting. Marty will run the meeting in his absence.
15. The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.
The adjournment was unanimously approved: Marty Hauser motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
16. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.