

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2024
7:00 pm

1. Call to Order at 7:05 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 opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the August Regular Council Meeting
The minutes were unanimously approved: Scott Geiser motioned; Monique Becker 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 +
		v. 325th Anniversary +
6. Committee Action Items
 - 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. No discussion occurred.The staff reports were unanimously approved: Monique Becker motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.
8. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Ed reported that the total deficit as of August 31 was \$43,600.00.
 - b. He also noted that income at the end of August (67% of the year) was at 68.2% and expenses were at 71%.
 - c. Ed shared that the second quarter Endowment distribution caused our deficit to drop.
 - d. Ed noted that the Endowment Fund experienced a 10.8% year to date increase.

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The treasurer's report was unanimously approved for audit: Steve Eisenhart motioned; Pastor Scott 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 – (Steve)
- v. Reconciling in Christ (Pastor)
- vi. Solar Energy research (Property)
- vii. Unconventional Building Usage Requests (Jim)
- viii. Pictorial Directory (Nancy)
- ix. Historical Record Digitization (Steve)

b. Completed Recently:

- i. None this period

c. Ongoing Actions:

i. Sanctuary Air Conditioning Status

- Jim reported that the Property Committee will be reviewing additional proposals for the work.

ii. Learning Center

- Steve reported that the sewer agreement is in the process of being recorded with the County by the Attorney.
- It was noted that the traffic study has begun.
- Jim noted that the Learning Center and Endowment Fund committee have determined that a maximum of \$200,000 can be borrowed from the Endowment Fund. The Learning Center is going to apply to both the Mission Investment Fund and Truist Bank for loans to cover the balance of the cost.
- Jim noted that there are informational meetings planned for the congregation: Sunday, September 29 after worship and Tuesday, October 8.

iii. Food Ministry Board

- Marty reported for Todd - reported that the Loaves and Fishes budget is moving into the red.
- Pastor reported for Todd - he will be reapplying for the NAP grant this month.

iv. Garden of Hope Expansion

- Marty reported for Todd - the expansion is complete, with the exception of the planting of the dwarf fruit trees.

v. Audit of 2023 Funds

- Todd reported that the General Fund audit is expected for approval at the September 2024 Council meeting.

The 2023 Audit was unanimously approved for audit: Jim Gross motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

vi. Reconciling in Christ Update

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- Pastor noted that a video will be shown this weekend in worship.
- He also noted that there will be a question/answer session in the Fellowship Hall on October 6 following worship.
- There was considerable and positive discussion about the program and the suggestion was made to have a single, concise statement regarding the intentions of this effort. Pastor will work on providing this.

10. New Business

- a. Ed noted that budget season is coming up. Committee chairs should prepare their budgets and submit them to the Finance Committee by the end of October 16.

11. Upcoming Events

- a. Cemetery Tour – Saturday, October 5

12. Council Highlights (from this meeting)

- a. Discussion and discernment on the Learning Center feasibility study continues. Informational meetings are planned for the congregation: Sunday, September 29 after worship and Tuesday, October 8.
- b. Finance continues to monitor the 2024 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of August 31 was \$43,600.00. Total income at the end of August (67% of the year) was at 68.2% and expenses were at 71%.
- c. The Finance Committee is preparing to develop the 2025 budget. Committee chairs are asked to prepare their budgets and submit them to the Finance Committee by October 16.
- 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)
- f. Space utilization - please let Susan Gutshall know if you are planning to use any church space for events and meetings.

13. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

14. The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

The adjournment was unanimously approved: Jeff Wise motioned; Yvonne Peto seconded.

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