

**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 12, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**

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1. Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Attendance: (\* = excused absence; <sup>o</sup> = 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. Todd opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Approval of Minutes from the October Regular Council Meeting  
The minutes were unanimously approved: Nancy White motioned; Jim Gross seconded.
5. Committee Reports: (\* = report on file; <sup>o</sup> = no meeting/no report; <sup>+</sup> = no report submitted)

a. Audit <sup>+</sup>	h. Fellowship <sup>+</sup>	o. Mutual Ministry <sup>+</sup>
b. Building Fund <sup>+</sup>	i. Finance <sup>+</sup>	p. NYG <sup>+</sup>
c. Cemetery <sup>+</sup>	j. Flutter <sup>+</sup>	q. Personnel <sup>+</sup>
d. Christian Ed <sup>+</sup>	k. Garden of Hope <sup>+</sup>	r. Property <sup>+</sup>
e. Constitution <sup>+</sup>	l. History & Archives <sup>+</sup>	s. Stewardship <sup>+</sup>
f. Endowment <sup>+</sup>	m. Memorial Fund <sup>+</sup>	t. Swamp Picnic <sup>+</sup>
g. Evangelism <sup>+</sup>	n. Mission Svc/Social Min. <sup>+</sup>	u. Worship & Music <sup>+</sup>
		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 conversation occurred.  
The staff reports were unanimously approved: Nancy White motioned; Marty White seconded.
8. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Ed reported that the total deficit as of October 31 was \$62,213.00. This includes the offerings from the last Sunday in September when there were no counters available to perform the count.
  - b. He also noted that income at the end of October (83% of the year) was at 93% and expenses were at 87%.  
The treasurer's report was unanimously approved for audit: Ed Becker motioned; Marty Hauser

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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. Property

- Todd noted that the dishwasher was installed by Marty.
- Jim asked about how the sanctuary air conditioning will be paid for? Answer = financing will be determined after the Property Committee makes their final recommendation regarding the project.

ii. Learning Center

- Todd stated that, if all goes as expected (waiver of Traffic Impact Fees) at the New Hanover Township Board of Supervisors meeting on December 5, the vote for congregational approval of the loan for the Learning Center initiation will take place at the December 8<sup>th</sup> Special Congregational Meeting. The loan amount is for up to \$680,000 at a 3% interest rate from Truist Bank.

The loan initiation process was unanimously approved for recommendation to the congregation: Marty Hauser motioned; Jeff Wise seconded.

iii. Reconciling in Christ

- Todd reported the following:
  - Sunday November 24 - Temple Talk, post worship discussion about pronouns.
  - Sunday January 12 - "Taking a closer look: What the Bible does and doesn't say about homosexuality"
  - Sunday January 19 - "Allyship"
  - Constitution Updates needed in 2025 if accepted by Congregation (via special vote)

iv. 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

- Steve reported that Mission Service has provided the funds for the erection of a temporary anniversary sign at Lutheran Road and Swamp Pike.

10. New Business

- a. Ed reviewed the proposed budget that he revised per direction given at the October meeting. Discussion ensued on some line items and some minor changes were made.

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The 2025 General Fund Budget was unanimously approved for recommendation to the congregation: Steve Eisenhart motioned; Marty Hauser seconded.

- b. Todd noted that there will be three existing council members going off at the end of 2024 (Jim, Steve, Jeff). Todd asked those on the slate of names assembled by the Executive Committee to think about running in 2025. Todd will follow up with them and encouraged the council to think about other folks to ask.
- c. Todd requested approval for Continuing Education (time only) for Nikki Young during the week of January 6-10; she would not take on any added NHELCC work that week. The continuing education class is about how to handle and manage abuse in the church, which will allow Nikki to review the NHELCC Safe Sanctuary (child protection) policy. It will also require Nikki to develop a class or a sermon (based on what Nikki decides as a final project) on this topic. All were in agreement.

11. Correspondence

- a. Schwab Charities check for \$2,500 to the Food Ministry from a friend of Chef Chris Fatzinger. A thank you was sent from the money counters.

12. Upcoming Events

- a. 2025 Budget Informational Sessions
  - i. Sunday December 1 immediately following worship service in the Fellowship Hall
  - ii. Wednesday December 4 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- b. Learning Center Informational Sessions
  - i. Monday December 2 at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary
  - ii. Saturday December 7 at 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary
- c. Special Congregation Meeting December 8th immediately after worship service in the Sanctuary
- d. Thanksgiving Eve service: Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m.

13. Council Highlights (from this meeting)

- a. Finance continues to monitor the 2024 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of October 31 of \$62,213.00. Total income at the end of October (83% of the year) was at 93% and expenses were at 87%.
- b. Special Congregation Meeting to be held on Sunday December 8th immediately following the worship service. Please plan to attend. Agenda items include the 2025 Budget approval and the Learning Center initiation/loan approval.
- c. The election of new members to the 2025 Congregation Council will take place at the congregational meeting on February 23, 2025. If you are interested in serving, please notify any present member of council.
- 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.

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14. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

15. The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

The adjournment was unanimously approved: Marty Hauser motioned; Nancy White seconded.

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