

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025
6:30 pm

Summary of motions:

- 4.) Council Reorganization - Ed Becker made a motion to accept the executive council as voted on above, seconded by Marty Hauser, the motion carried unanimously.
- 5.) Approval of Minutes of the February 23rd Annual Congregation Meeting - Pastor Staub made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented, Monique Becker seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.
- 6.) Approval of Minutes from the February Regular Council Meeting - Motion to approve as presented by Pastor Scott, seconded by Monique Becker, motion carried unanimously.
- 9.) Approval of Staff Reports - A motion was made by Ed Becker to approve staff reports as presented, seconded by Monique Becker, the motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Treasurers Report - A motion was made by Marty Hauser to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for audit, seconded by Scott Geiser, the motion carried unanimously.
- 10.) Property Use for Elections - Todd Rothermel made a motion to allow the use of the property for primary and general elections in 2025. The motion was seconded by Marty Hauser. The motion carried unanimously.
- 12.b.) 2024 Audit of Accounts - A motion was made by Marty Hauser and seconded by Monique Becker to approve the audits as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- 17.) Meeting Adjournment - Ed Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Scott Geiser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Call to Order at 6:34 p.m.

2. Attendance: (* = excused absence; ^o = late arrival)

Becker, Edward	Staub, Pastor Scott	Andy Van Dyke*
Becker, Monique	Hauser, D. Martin	Peto, Yvonne *
Geiser, Scott	Rothermel, Todd	

3. Devotions

- a. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with a prayer.

4. Council Reorganization

The following officers of the 2025 Congregation Council were determined:

- a. Financial Secretary: Scott Geiser
- b. Treasurer: Ed Becker
- c. Secretary: Monique Becker (possibly temporary)
- d. Vice President: Marty Hauser
- e. President: Todd Rothermel

Scott Geiser will revise the Council executive committee email list. Ed Becker made a motion to accept the executive council as voted on above, seconded by Marty Hauser, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes of the February 23rd Annual Congregation Meeting

Pastor Staub made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented, Monique Becker

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025
6:30 pm

seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes from the February Regular Council Meeting

Motion to approve as presented by Pastor Scott, seconded by Monique Becker, motion carried unanimously.

7. 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 * |

8. 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.

9. Staff Reports

Reports are on file. Several items were noted by Pastor Staub:

- a. Staff is planning for the future given the pastoral transition.
 - b. Nikki's clinical professional education ends in May 2025, and she will take on more pastoral duties in the summer.
 - c. Patricia's report was missing but will be sent out. Patricia's report includes information about worship services, choir rehearsals, the kids choir performance, and planning of the talent show.
 - d. Nikki is no longer the liaison to the scouts. Scott Repa is the chartered organization rep.
- A motion was made by Ed Becker to approve staff reports as presented, seconded by Monique Becker, the motion carried unanimously.

10. Treasurer's Report

- a. Ed Becker reported a deficit of \$18,351, with income at 16.7% and expenses at 18.7%.
- b. Income is \$58,000 which includes a \$10,000 endowment distribution.
- c. Expenses are a little high due to singular annual expenses and snow removal.
- e. Cash on hand at the end of March was \$65,368.
- f. Updated financial information is in the bulletin. Council considering whether to include information about the Learning Center loan payoff in the bulletin.

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025
6:30 pm

- g. Income is on target YTD, and expenses are slightly above budget, which is normal for the early part of the year.
 - h. Learning Center loan closing update:
 - i. Loan is secured; the building project is 50% complete. Signing is expected this weekend. Four entities are involved: Truist Bank, NHELC, Cornerstone, and Schwab.
- A motion was made by Marty Hauser to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for audit, seconded by Scott Geiser, the motion carried unanimously.

11. Unfinished Business and Prior Meeting Action Items

- a. Parking Lot:
 - i. Food Ministry Space Usage (Jim)
 - ii. Additional Sound System Training (Steve)
 - iii. Directional Signage (Steve)
 - iv. Solar Energy research (Property)
 - v. Unconventional Building Usage Requests (Jim)
 - vi. Pictorial Directory (Nancy)
 - vii. Historical Record Digitization (Steve)
- b. Completed Recently:
- c. Ongoing Actions:
 - i. Property:
 - 1. Marty Hauser is the new property liaison, replacing Steve and Jim.
 - 2. Sanctuary AC unit effort is still in progress
 - a. Switching existing air conditioners over to heat pumps to minimize the use of oil unless below 41 degrees. Oil backup will remain.
 - b. Quotes from contractors are taking longer than expected.
 - c. A recommendation was made to consider contacting Youngs (Berkshire Mechanical) for the project.
 - 3. The March meeting was postponed due to Jim's illness.
 - 4. Rain gutter repair over the food ministry pantry is completed.
 - 5. Cracks in the parking lot are being addressed.
 - 6. Garden of Hope - Water should be turned on before April 19th for planting.
 - ii. Cemetery
 - 1. Jim Gross and Ron Hedrick haven't met since the last meeting (February).
 - 2. Job descriptions from 2001 were sent to the committee for updates.
 - 3. Equipment status is unknown, the list is outdated.
 - 4. Cemetery money market funds were discussed
 - a. Don Swavely to be added as a read-only member.
 - b. Cornerstone is ready to roll over the cemetery account to Schwab.
 - c. A voided check from the cemetery checking account is needed.
 - d. Treasury reports should be distributed to the membership of the committees.
 - iii. Reconciling in Christ
 - 1. The survey results will be presented by Josh Young, highlighting positive responses, but also some negative feedback. 58 responses were received

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025
6:30 pm

2. A town hall meeting is planned in the fellowship hall and via Zoom.
3. The council is supportive, which is important for a potential vote.
- iv. Pastoral Transition Committee
 1. Members include Monique Becker, Carolyn Fleming, Allan Care, Haley Quigley, Brian Hansley, Nicole Ewing, London Meeker, Jeff Reninger, Sharon Tracy, and Sue Lowry.
- v. 325 Anniversary Committee Update:
 1. The 325th-anniversary committee proposed a Revolutionary War encampment reenactment on the property, near the existing electronic sign on Swamp Pike.
 2. The reenactment would include cooking and gun cleaning demonstrations.
 3. Concerns were raised about having guns on the property, contrasting with the historical accuracy of the reenactment.
 4. Concerns were raised about the accessibility of the proposed location due to ongoing utility construction and parking issues.
 5. The proposed timing for the encampment is in the fall, around September.
 6. Suggestions include limiting the reenactment to a hospital camp theme, prohibiting firing guns and military actions, and focusing on demonstrations like gun cleaning.
 7. The Council recommended the encampment display be held in the field adjacent to the parking lot or on the ball field.
 8. The Council rejected a request to have a gun firing volley over the cemetery.
 9. The 325th committee has an alternative plan of a cemetery tour.
- vi. Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions
 1. 2025 updates from the ELCA are expected. The Constitution needs to be updated every three years due to synod changes.
 2. Bylaws and continuing resolutions need updating.
 3. Opportunity to organize differently with fewer committees.

12. New Business

a. Property Use for Elections

Todd Rothermel made a motion to allow the use of the property for primary and general elections in 2025. The motion was seconded by Marty Hauser. The motion carried unanimously.

b. 2024 Audit of Accounts

The 2024 audit of accounts document was sent out, including Building Fund, Cemetery Fund, Chris Education Fund, Mission Service Fund, Picnic Grove Fund, Memorial Fund, Flutter, and NYG.

A motion was made by Marty Hauser and seconded by Monique Becker to approve the audit as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Blood Drive

Scott Gieser would like to coordinate a blood drive with the Red Cross. He is willing to be the coordinator and contact the Red Cross. The council discussed and agreed this was needed.

13. Correspondence

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025
6:30 pm

- a. None

14. Upcoming Events

- a. 325th Anniversary Box City is this weekend (March 22nd and 23rd) hosted by NHELCC. The children will join for worship, with a roped-off area in the balcony.

15. Council Highlights (from this meeting)

- a. Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of February 28 of \$18,351. The income for February (16.7% of the year) was 16.7% and expenses were at 18.7%.
- b. The approved 2025 General Fund budget is a deficit budget of ~\$60,000. In order to eliminate the deficit, provide for timely benevolence payments, continue programs, and maintain our staff the Council is strongly encouraging each giving unit to increase giving to the extent possible by 20%. On average across all giving units this equates to \$7/week, \$30/month, or \$361/year. Please consider your giving in 2025.
- c. The 2025 Council has 8 Councilmembers out of 12 expected positions. Council members may be appointed by the standing Council at any time of the year to 1-, 2-, or 3-year terms. If you have an interest in serving as a Councilmember, please talk to any current Councilmember.
- d. The Council has reorganized for 2025. The following Council members hold executive positions:
 - i. President Todd Rothermel
 - ii. Vice-president Marty Hauser
 - iii. Secretary Monique Becker
 - iv. Treasurer Edward Becker
 - v. Financial Secretary Scott Geiser
- e. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
- f. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes please see Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving)
- g. Space utilization - please let Susan Gutshall know if you are planning to use any church space for events and meetings
- h. Next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for April 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

16. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

17. The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Ed Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Scott Geiser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

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