

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Agenda
April 24, 2025
6:30 pm

SSummary of motions:

- 4.) Approval of Minutes from the February Regular Council Meeting - Motion to approve minutes as corrected (on file) made by Ed Becker, seconded by Pastor Scott. The motion carried unanimously.
- 7.) Approval of Staff Reports - Motion to approve Staff reports as presented by Ed Becker, seconded by Scott Geiser. The motion carried unanimously.
- 8.f) Approval of Treasurers Report - Motion to approve treasurers report as presented for audit was made by Ed Becker, seconded by Marty Hauser. The motion carried unanimously.
- 16.) Meeting Adjournment - Motion made by Marty Hauser, seconded by Yvonne Peto. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Call to Order (6:33pm)

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

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

3. Devotions (Pastor Scott)

4. Approval of Minutes from the March Regular Council Meeting

Motion to approve minutes as corrected (on file) made by Ed Becker, seconded by Pastor Scott. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Committee Reports: (* = report on file; ° = no meeting/no report; + = no report submitted)

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. Audit ⁺ | i. Fellowship ⁺ | p. Mutual Ministry ⁺ |
| b. Building Fund ⁺ | j. Finance ⁺ | q. NYG ⁺ |
| c. Cemetery ⁺ | k. Flutter ⁺ | r. Personnel ⁺ |
| d. Christian Ed ⁺ | l. Food Ministry ⁺ | s. Property ⁺ |
| e. Constitution ⁺ | m. History & Archives ⁺ | t. Stewardship ⁺ |
| f. Endowment ⁺ | n. Memorial Fund ⁺ | u. Swamp Picnic ⁺ |
| g. Evangelism ⁺ | o. Learning Center ⁺ | v. Mission Service [*] |
| h. Worship & Music ⁺ | | |

6. Committee Action Items

- a. Committee/Board organization updates - Todd Rothermel and Pastor Staub mentioned that committees need to go back to submitting their reports to Council and to Susan. Todd is working on an operational procedure for better organizing committee communications.
- b. Committees - please work with your Council liaisons/chairpersons to bring Council pertinent information to meetings.
- c. Please provide all scheduled meeting information (onsite, offsite/online) to Susan Gutshall to add to the church calendar (Google Calendar).
- d. If your Committee/Board has a recommendation for the Council, or something that needs to be discussed with the Council, please let Todd know in advance of the Council meeting.

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Todd will add it to the agenda.

- e. Keep Committee work at the Committee level, Council meetings are not where Committee/Board work should be performed

7. Staff Reports (Pastor Scott)

- a. Report on file. NHELCC has been selected to give a presentation at Synod Assembly in May about how we created so many new ministries with such a powerful impact. Pastor met with world scholars on Martin Luther, both of whom came to inspect our Luther book. Many exciting finds from their experience give us insight into the political and historical value of the book. Interest in the academic world – a report will be published in the Lutheran Quarterly, handwriting analysis completed, and Metropolitan Museum of Art has interest in authenticating pen and ink drawings within the book. Motion to approve Staff reports as presented by Ed Becker, seconded by Scott Geiser. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Treasurer's Report (Ed)

- a. Ed reported that the total deficit YTD as of March 31 was \$31,665.24
- b. He also noted that total income at the end of March (25% of the year) was at 23.6% and expenses were at 27.9%. Property costs are running high due to oil, electric – driving costs higher on the expense side of the balance sheet. Offerings are trending to less than budget.
- c. General Fund cash on hand at the end of March is \$52,053.70
- d. Endowment monies estimated at \$10,491 will be deposited into General Fund at end of April/early May.
- e. (Reminder) Expenses (other than previously approved for recurring invoices) need to be approved by Committee, Board, Staff, or Council before the Bookkeeper makes payment.
- f. Motion to approve treasurer's report as presented for audit was made by Ed Becker, seconded by Marty Hauser. The motion carried unanimously.

9. 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 – on going (Steve)
 - iv. Solar Energy research (Property)
 - v. Unconventional Building Usage Requests – Jim writing a facility use policy in support of the Learning Center. Needed prior to July 31 before Learning Center opens. Todd will provide a deadline to Jim.
 - vi. Pictorial Directory (Nance)
 - vii. Historical Record Digitization (Steve)
 - viii.
- b. Completed Recently:
 - i.
- c. Ongoing Actions:
 - 1. Property (Marty)
 - a. Waiting for quotes for replacement of the Sanctuary air conditioning system.

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2. Cemetery
 - a. Cemetery Board working with Cornerstone on Endowment-style investment proposal.
 - b. Board executives presented: Ron Hetrick, President; Jeff Renninger, Secretary; Donald Swavely, Treasurer
3. Constitution Bylaw/Continuing Resolution updates (Andy)
 - a. Constitution is up for updates for the Synod, to be ratified by the congregation in December 2025 and January/February 2026 congregational meetings
 - b. Todd proposed reviewing a given section of constitution at regular Council meetings. 15 sections in total to be reviewed. Council will start with the first section next month.
4. Learning Center (Todd)
 - a. Status Update
 - i. Construction Update (contingency used, sewer needs) were discussed. Steve Eisenhart anticipates completion by the middle of May.
 - ii. Learning Center Checking/Money Market Account: Loan is in the bank account; bills are being paid.
 - iii. Reviewed letter from Council president indicating the official establishment of the Sunshine Learning Center Board, its executives, and their responsibility for Learning Center financial operations. Council agrees to the letter as written.
 - iv. "New Hanover Sunshine Learning Center" is official on the PA state page for fictitious name look up.
 - v. Learning Center Educational Director hire (Jena Marinelli) starting the second week of May.
 - vi. Looking to hire Administrative Coordinator.
 - vii. Marketing in process (logo, website, social media).
 - viii. Playground sub-committee has been formed - Looking for grants and funding opportunities for playground construction.
 - ix. Appeal for donations – ongoing.
5. Food Ministry Board (Todd)
 - a. Loaves and Fishes budgets in black from grant monies.
 - b. Garden of Hope spring planting complete. NHELCC should receive \$50,000 grant money in July from the PA Urban Ag grant.
6. Reconciling in Christ Update (Pastor)
 - a. General Council consensus of Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program is supportive in general. Council recommends the RIC Committee to emphasize the comprehensiveness of inclusion in future education and slow the

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educational process down and do more one-on-one education with those who have concerns.

- b. General Council consensus of approval for the presented welcoming statement
 - c. The ELCA and Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program are closely related, as RIC is a program within the ELCA that recognizes congregations and Lutheran organizations that publicly welcome LGBTQIA+ people. RIC is a way for ELCA congregations to demonstrate their commitment to inclusion and equity for LGBTQIA+ individuals
 - d. Post Town Hall response from the Council was discussed at length.
7. 325th Anniversary Committee update – nothing new
8. Transition Committee (retirement - 12/31/2025) Monique will reach out to Synod week of April 28 now that Easter is over.

10. New Business

- a. Communications Committee
 - i. organize web content, social media (accounts, content)
- b. Re-organization of Committees (PowerPoint) - affects Constitution efforts. Todd is creating an organizational chart to share with the Council to jumpstart the discussion.

11. Correspondence

- a. None

12. Congregational Feedback

- a. None

13. Upcoming Events

- a. Fashion Show and Tea Party on May 4th
- b. Check the paper and Google calendar before scheduling events. Make sure to get info to Susan.

14. Council Highlights

- a. Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of March 31 of \$31,665.24. The income for March (25% of the year) was 23.6% and expenses were at 27.9%.
- 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

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you have an interest in serving as a Council member please talk to any current Councilmember.

- 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. Check the paper and Google calendar before scheduling events.
- g. Next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for May 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

15. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

16. Adjournment Motion made by Marty Hauser, seconded by Yvonne Peto. The motion carried unanimously.

17. Lord's Prayer was recited