

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2025
6:30 pm

1. Call to Order by President Rothermel at 6.40pm. Meeting was held virtually.
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 were not provided due to virtual meeting audio issues
4. A motion was made by Todd Rothermel to approve the minutes from the June Council Meeting as modified (header text change). Scott Geiser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
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. Food Ministry +	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 +
h. 325th Anniversary *		
6. Staff Reports were presented by Pastor Scott. A motion was made by Todd Rothermel to approve the staff reports as presented. Marty Hauser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
7. Treasurer's Report was provided by Ed Becker and expressed to Council by Scott Geiser and Marty Hauser. A motion was made by Marty Hauser to approve the treasurer report for audit as presented. Andy Van Dyke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Highlights from the treasurers report are as follows:
 - a. Ed reported that the total deficit YTD as of June 30 was \$38,472
 - b. He also noted that total income at the end of June (50% of the year) was 52.3% (52.1% offerings to budget) of budget and expenses were at 54.1% of budget
 - c. Extrapolating through the end of year suggests a \$77,000 deficit.
 - d. Council discussed the plan to consolidate the building fund into the general fund, considering the implications for the Constitution and financial tracking. Andy Van Dyke suggested a separate asset account for better tracking. This approach would ensure transparency and accountability while possibly simplifying financial management. The council decided to send the proposal back to the finance committee for further discussion.
 - 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.
8. Unfinished Business and Prior meeting Action Items

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- 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 – on going (Jim)
 - vi. Pictorial Directory (Nance)
 - vii. Historical Record Digitization (Steve)
 - viii.
- b. Completed Recently:
 - i.
- c. Ongoing Actions:
 - 1. Property (Marty)
 - a. No updates.
 - 2. Learning Center (Todd)
 - a. Todd Rothermel provided an update on the Learning Center construction, mentioning the ongoing marketing efforts, furniture setup, and the need for the occupancy permit to proceed with operations
 - 3. Food Ministry Board (Todd)
 - a. Todd Rothermel shared the Food Ministry's progress, including over a ton of food harvested and 608 volunteer hours. He emphasized the need for more volunteers to help with the garden.
 - 4. Reconciling in Christ Update (Pastor)
 - a. Todd Rothermel and Pastor Scott discussed the Reconciling in Christ team's plan for a straw poll in September and a congregational meeting in October to vote on becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.
 - 5. Constitution Bylaw/Continuing Resolution updates (Andy)
 - a. Andy Van Dyke presented the proposed changes to date to the constitution, which included reducing the minimum number of council members from nine to six and streamlining the organizational structure to allow for more flexibility in forming committees and boards. The council discussed the implications of reducing the minimum number of council members. They considered the challenges of recruiting members and the need to ensure effective governance with a smaller council. Andy Van Dyke suggested that the constitution should define the core boards necessary for the church's operation, while the bylaws and continuing resolutions could provide more detailed descriptions of committees and their responsibilities. This approach would allow for easier adjustments in the future.
 - 6. Transition Committee (retirement - 12/31/2025) (Monique)
 - a. Todd Rothermel informed the council about the ongoing vitality survey and

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the Synod's request to present the results in person. The council agreed to have a special meeting for this presentation.

7. Communication Manager

- a. Todd Rothermel proposed the idea of a communications manager to help organize content and support administrative services. The council agreed on the need for such a position and Todd will continue working on the job description.

9. New Business

- a. No new business was discussed.

10. Correspondence

- a. No correspondence presented.

11. Congregational Feedback

- a. No congregational feedback was discussed

12. Council Highlights

- a. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of June 30 was \$38,472. The total income at the end of June (50% of the year) was 52.3% (52.1% offerings to budget) of budget and expenses were at 54.1% of budget.
- 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 continues to work on updates to the Constitution as part of the regular Council meetings. The expectation is to provide congregation review of the changes prior to possible ratification at the December Special Congregational meeting and Annual Congregational meeting.
- e. As a reminder - the pastor is available for personal meetings Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM by appointment only. Please make an appointment by calling (610) 326-1335 or email at psstaub@gmail.com. Given prior commitments and events, some appointment times are not available.
- f. All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the church office manager. Susan Gutshall, NHELCO Office Manager, manages the master calendar for all activity and facility use to support minimizing conflicts. Committees and boards - please be sure to notify Susan of all activities planned at the church. This is especially important during the Sunshine Learning Center renovation process.

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- g. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
 - h. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes please see Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving)
 - i. Next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for August 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
13. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
14. A motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. was made by Mary Hauser. Pastor Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
15. The Lord's Prayer was recited by all.