

**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 16, 2026**  
**6:30 pm**

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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

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

Becker, Edward	Hauser, D. Martin	Rothermel, Todd
Becker, Monique	Mack, James *	Singley, Dee
Eisenhart, Steve	Peto, Yvonne	Andy Van Dyke
		Nikki Young

3. Devotions

a. Vicar Nikki opened the meeting with a prayer.

4. Approval of the minutes of the March 19, 2026 Council Meeting

a. Andy noted that item “8a” should read: “...money will come from the Stewardship budget”  
The minutes were unanimously approved with the above change: Todd Rothermel motioned; Yvonne Peto seconded.

5. Staff Reports

a. There were no comments regarding the staff reports.

The staff reports were unanimously approved: Todd Rothermel motioned; Monique Becker seconded.

6. Treasurer’s Report

a. Ed reported that the actual total deficit 2026 YTD as of February 28, 2026 was \$19,558.

b. Ed reported that the total deficit 2026 YTD as of March 31 is \$32,054.

c. Ed noted that total income at the end of March (25% of the year), the income was at 24% and expenses were at 21.3 %.

d. Ed indicated that the first quarter distribution from the Endowment Fund (\$11,347) will be deposited in the General Fund later this month.

e. Ed noted that the SLC checking account had an increase due to several new Fall registrations.

f. Ed shared that Dorothy is now the bookkeeper for the SLC.

g. Todd noted that 10% of the Sarah Bowman estate will be coming to the church, but the amount is still unknown.

h. Ed noted that the Carol Estes estate paperwork is in progress and the “extremely generous” bequest amount will be coming to the church in the near future.

The Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved for audit; Marty Hauser motioned; Steve Eisenhart seconded.

7. Unfinished Business and Prior Ongoing Action Items

a. Tabled:

1. Additional Sound System Training (Steve) – Steve to consult with Bill Fitch

b. Ongoing Action Items:

1. Property

a. Sanctuary A/C project – Steve reported that installation of the sanctuary system has begun.

b. Ad Hoc Building Use Committee – Steve provided pricing for the following items

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requested by the school:

- Create an electrical closet (new room 36) to separate it from the classroom (new room 37).
- Build a partition between classrooms 23 and 24
- Air conditioning improvements to the Sunday School corridors and “Heaven”
- Access control door modifications to the All Purpose Room
- Renovations of the Volunteer’s Office into a Conference Room
- Renovations of “Heaven” into a Youth Room
- Securing of a storm sewer grate near the playground

Much discussion ensued about the need for these items and who should be responsible to pay for them. Yvonne motioned that the Council approve moving forward with the projects on an as-needed and as funds are as available basis with the financing to be charged to either the learning center fund or the capital projects fund.

The motion carried unanimously; Marty Hauser seconded.

2. SLC

- a. Todd reported that the paperwork is nearing completion for the Grace ELC merger.
- b. Todd presented a recommendation from the SLC Board that the church provide unemployment compensation to all staff members. After discussion, a motion was made by Dee Singley to provide PA SUTA unemployment compensation benefits for all NHELIC staff as part of a partial successorship (lowest cost) of the benefits from the Grace Early Learning Center.

The motion carried unanimously; Marty Hauser seconded.

3. Food Ministry Board

- a. Todd reported that the budget is in the black through March 2026.

4. Call Committee

- a. Monique reported that she has heard nothing regarding a candidate.

5. Organ Refurbishment Project

- a. Steve reported that following:
  - Work will begin next week on the new organ console in the Dieffenbach shop.
  - The existing instrument will be re-voiced during the week of May 18 – 21. During this time, the sanctuary will be off-limits. This reservation has been placed on the church calendar.

6. New Business

- a. Todd reported Pastor Mark Singh-Hueter, the current NHELIC Vice-Pastor, will be on sabbatical from mid-May thru mid-August 2026. Pastor Leah Woehr-Grande of Grace Lutheran Church, Royersford will provide coverage during Pastor Mark’s sabbatical. Pastor Leah will provide her vacation and continuing education dates to Vicar Nikki. Pastor Leah will assume responsibility to receive and approve the council agendas and be contacted if there is another need for an ordained pastor. As would be the case for Pastor Mark, such involvement would be paid for by the congregation as spelled out in the existing Vice Pastor contract. Except for extenuating circumstances, we do not anticipate any such involvement.
- a. Nikki motioned that the following 11 students will be confirmed on May 31:
  - Rae Bechtel

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- Payton Comtois
- Genesis Garcia
- Madison Hansley
- Ava Hubley
- Ainsley Lucas
- Melaina Meeker
- Alexa Moser
- Miller Quigley
- Landon Woods
- Kayleigh Urbassik

The motion was approved unanimously; Yvonne Peto seconded.

b. Nikki motioned that the following individuals be accepted into membership:

- David and Laura Richardson

The motion was approved unanimously; Steve Eisenhart seconded.

- c. Nikki reported that Doris Callow's celebration of life will be held at the church on May 22. Doris's nephew, a Catholic priest, may be assisting Nikki at the service.
- d. Nikki noted that there is no event sexton available to clean up after the Peto/Sander wedding on April 25. Steve will contact the property board and ask if anyone is willing to assist.
- e. Nikki reported that several inactive folks have been seen in worship recently. She also noted that several couples have indicated their intention to join. Nikki will hold a new member "mixer" for these folks.
- f. Nikki reported that she accepted the invitation to be the emergency contact for Grace Lutheran Church, Pottstown.
- g. Ed reiterated that our payroll company was going to drop services at the end of the second quarter. Dorothy indicated to the Finance Committee that she could offer payroll services. After some discussion, it was determined that she should be offered the contracting job. It was determined that a vote was not necessary (continuing budgeted role) and the Finance Committee will coordinate with her.

7. Upcoming Events

- a. Peto/Sander Wedding – April 25
- b. Boy Scout Court of Honor – April 25
- c. Coffee with Council – May 3

8. Next Council Meeting: Thursday May 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

9. The Council Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

The adjournment was unanimously approved: Marty Hauser motioned; Monique Becker seconded.

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