

**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 21, 2026**  
**6:30 pm**

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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm via a Team virtual meeting..
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. Todd Rothermel opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2026 Council Meeting
  - a. Ed noted that item “6a” is not applicable and should be struck from the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved with the above change: Todd Rothermel motioned; Andy VanDyke seconded.
5. Staff Reports
  - a. There were no comments regarding the staff reports. The staff reports were unanimously approved: Marty Hauser motioned; Dee Singley seconded.
6. Treasurer’s Report
  - a. Ed reported that the total deficit 2026 YTD as of April 30 is \$27,708.
  - b. Ed noted that total income at the end of April (33% of the year), the income was at 26.8% and expenses were at 29.4 %.
  - c. Ed indicated that the first quarter distribution from the Endowment Fund (\$11,347) was deposited in the General Fund in April. The Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved for audit; Marty Hauser motioned; Steve Eisenhart seconded.
  - d. Ed noted that he recently signed the final paperwork for the Carol Estes estate. The total value will be between \$560,000 and \$600,000. Discussion ensued about the distribution. Ed made a motion that 50% of the final amount of the Estes bequest be transferred to the General Fund (to be divided 5% to the Synod; 5% to our standard Benevolence distributions and 40% to the General Fund) and the remaining 50% to the Endowment Fund. The motion was unanimously approved: Andy VanDyke seconded.
  - e. There was some discussion on how to alert the congregation to the gift. It was decided that it should be announced, but not disclose the value unless asked.
  - f. Andy described our annual auditing procedures and those who have performed the audits in the past. He noted that Barbara Akins was recommended by the Audit Committee to perform a review of the 2024 fiscal year as outlined in the letter of agreement provided by her. Her cost would range between \$3,000 and \$3,500. Andy made a motion to engage the proposal by Barbara Akins, CPA, to perform the agreed-upon procedures of our primary Truist checking account and primary Truist money market account for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 at cost range between \$3,000 and \$3,500. Ed Becker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved:

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Ed Becker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved:

- g. Ed noted that we can change signers for the GF checking account on-line. The executive committee will determine how and when outside of this meeting.

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 was hindered by a short in the wiring which blew out (2) computer boards in the outdoor units and the thermostat under the balcony. Yeakle will return the week of May 25 to make the necessary repairs.
- b. Todd mentioned, per the Property Report, that while the church owns the scout trailers, and the scouts use them, there is a question of who pays for the insurance? It was determined that the church will cover the cost as part the regular premium.
- c. Ad Hoc Building Use Committee – Steve reported that the electrical closet is nearly complete.

2. SLC

- a. Todd reported that Grace will bring to the SLC a positive amount in their bank account.
- b. He also reported that the UC compensation is on a slight delay because the merger hasn't happened yet. Coverage still exists, but the paperwork cannot be completed until the official merger date.

3. Call Committee

- a. Ed reported for Monique that she received word that there is a candidate ready to interview. No other information is known at this time.

4. Organ Refurbishment Project

- a. Steve reported that the existing instrument was re-voiced this past week to the satisfaction of he and Patricia.

5. New Business

- a. Steve made a motion to use \$1,500 of undesignated Memorial Fund monies for new, larger tents for Camp Falckner participants. Ed asked what was to happen to any un-used tents? Answer = Nikki indicated that any used tents could be passed on to the scouts.

The motion was approved unanimously; Ed Becker seconded.

- b. Todd shared that Randy Dotterer would like to approve a “motorcycle social club” and asked if the council had issue with it. Answer = no.

- c. Todd noted that the church has a Zoom account, but it has several limitations. Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of other meeting platforms. It was decided that Todd and Dee would look into the options available.

- d. Nikki motioned that Mark and Kathy Webb be accepted into membership by letter of transfer: The motion was approved unanimously; Dee Singley seconded.

- e. Todd shared a letter regarding the Luther book to be distributed to the membership. It now resides at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, at the Pitts Theological Library and has been

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digitized so all have access to it. All were in favor of the letter and he will work with Susan to distribute to the congregation.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. Confirmation – May 31
- b. Chicken Dinner – June 14
- c. VBS – June 15-19

7. Next Council Meeting: Thursday June 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

8. The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

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

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