

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2026
6:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.
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. Nikki opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. Review of the minutes of the August 20, 2026 Council Meeting
 - a. There were no changes or comments.
5. Staff Reports
 - a. Nikki noted that she is in the process of determining how many youth will be attending the NYG. It was noted that there is \$11,885.40 in the NYG account available to be used toward the trip.
 - b. Nikki shared confirmation classes begin this Sunday.
 - c. Nikki commented that the hymn sing held on Sunday, August 27 (during her sickness) was well received.
 - d. In addition, she commented on the partial loss of building power yesterday and the chaos it caused with the SLC.
 - e. Dee Singley had a question about the expenses for the new bell tables and bells noted in Barbara's report. The bell choir received a large donation recently from which the tables and bells will be purchased.
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Andy reported for Ed that the total deficit 2026 YTD as of August 31 is \$8,297.
 - b. He noted that total income and expenses as of August 31, 2026 (66.7% of the year) - congregational giving was 60.48% and expenses were 51.84% of the approved 2026 budget.
 - c. Andy indicated that funds from the Grace ELC have been transferred to the SLC. Todd noted that going forward, all expenditures will be required to go through the SLC board.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved for audit; Andy VanDyke motioned; Marty Hauser seconded.
 - d. Todd and Andy presented the Finance Committee's recommendation for pastoral compensation, with the total package being \$135,778 plus a one-time relocation subsidy of \$3,500.

Andy motioned that the compensation package as presented be sent to the candidate for approval and negotiation. Marty Hauser seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.
7. Unfinished Business and Prior Ongoing Action Items
 - a. Tabled:
 1. Additional Sound System Training (Steve) – Steve to consult with Bill Fitch

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2. Unconventional Building Usage Requests – on going (Steve)
- b. Ongoing Action Items:
 1. Worship and Christian Education Board
 - a. No report
 2. Property
 - a. Sanctuary A/C project – Steve reported that all work (Fellowship Hall and second floor) is scheduled to be completed next week (September 21).
 - b. Marty presented the recommendation by the property committee to rehang the Bucholtz painting in the SLC. After some discussion it was decided that the picture should not be rehung and that the existing plaque is a sufficient acknowledgement of the 27-year-old gift.
 - i. It was decided that the Memorial Fund draft a policy regarding plaques and pictures and send it to the council for approval.
 - ii. It was also decided that Marty will contact the Bucholtz family and notify them about the council's decision to not re-hang the picture.
 3. Community Outreach Board
 - a. Food Ministry – Todd reported that the Loaves and Fishes ministry is in the red by \$4,175.45 and the Garden of Hope is in the positive by \$21,775.78. There was some discussion about the future of the Loaves and Fishes ministry and how to possibly fund it through grants.
 - b. Call Committee – the tentative time line for the meet and greet, trial sermon and congregational vote is tentatively scheduled for October 18.
 - c. NA – Andy reported that the groups will begin meeting in the Welcome Center. Their leaders will enter through the timed-unlocked Portico door and allow quests in the WC door. Their items will be stored in the closet in the Lounge. Some concerns were expressed; however, the general feeling was that this was a good idea.
 4. SLC Board
 - a. Todd noted that the UC benefit process is still on going.
 - b. He also noted that shed has been placed and the toddler playground site-work has been completed and is awaiting the surfacing material and fencing.
 - c. Todd also shared that Susan is now managing the child safety clearances.
 5. Executive Committee
 - a. It was requested that Susan find coverage for the office during her paid time off. These individuals will need their clearances. Monique volunteered to email Susan to get a list of her existing volunteers and ask that she begin to develop this coverage.
8. New Business
 - a. Nikki shared an overview of the Stewardship Drive that will occur this fall. It consists of a letter to the congregation, bulletin inserts and “mission moments.” She read the congregational letter to the group and all were in favor of sending it and proceeding with the program as presented.
 - b. Todd presented the items to be addressed at the upcoming “Coffee with Council”
 - i. Pastoral candidate
 - ii. Financial update

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- iii. SLC
- iv. Food Ministry
- v. Renovation of “Heaven” and the upcoming transformation of the Volunteer’s Office to a Conference Room.

9. Up-Coming Events

- a. Coffee with Council: September 27

10. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

11. The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

The adjournment was unanimously approved: Yvonne Peto motioned; Marty Hauser seconded.

12. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.