

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Room 127 & Google Meet

Present: Linda Anderson, Quent Boyken, Megan Gerasch, Threase Harms, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Bill Morris, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Maren Steensen, John Swanson, Sally Watson, Barb Waymire, Donna Yeager

Absent: Marc Anderson, Finn Cox, Stephanie Cox

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Boyken called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
- Harms shared the poem, *Footprints in the Sand*, related to her personal faith journey and that we are not alone. God is always there and carrying us when burdens are high. Harms read passages from Exodus 34:13 and Galatians 6:2 and opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Swanson moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Harms. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Harms moved to approve the September 2025 minutes. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided a verbal report to Council. Approval of the physical report will be deferred. September as the quarter end was a negative net income, as it is a month where benevolence is paid as well as the quarterly insurance premium. However, year-to-date net income continues to be strong. A budget timeline was provided to Council.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Lundell shared Boo Bash was a success. Zach Meyer did a wonderful job. Firefighters and police officers from Windsor Heights participated and handed out candy.
- Yeager shared the Advent Service is being planned for December 7.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris reported he will be at the Boundaries workshop on November 6, which is required for all rostered leaders. Pastor Karen will preach on November 9. A synod event with Bishop Current will be held at St. John's on November 9 from 2-4 PM. The

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service will be held at WHLC on Saturday, January 24. Any volunteers to help host may contact Pastor Chris. Stewardship emphasis will be in November with Boyken, Harms and Swanson giving temple talks. Personnel committee will meet on November 4 to discuss compensation. A new member reception will be held November 16.

VII. Old Business

- Reconciling in Christ
 - Over 90% of participants in the survey recommended adopting the welcome statement, and input was discussed. Boyken thanked the team for all their work and communication with the process. Pastor Chris & Boyken asked the ministry team to review feedback and consider a presentation on the history and work of Reconciling Works prior to January.

- Maintenance/Property Issues
 - Interior Painting & Repairs
 - Jerry Jenkins completed the project list. Boyken thanked Yeager and Watson for compiling the list.

 - Sidewalk Replacement
 - The project is ongoing, awaiting the completion.

- Meals from the Heartland Ministry Team
 - Gerasch shared the ministry was a success and had a good number of participants.

- Windsor Heights Fall Festival Ministry Team
 - Boyken thanked Harms for coordinating the event and all the volunteers.

- Mosaic Breakfast Fundraiser
 - Linda Anderson shared the event was enjoyable. April and her sponsor came and visited the table during the event.

- Upcoming Events
 - Remembrance Reception – November 2
 - Fall Exterior Clean-Up – November 15, starting at 9 AM, bring your own tools to help such as rakes and leaf blowers
 - College Care Packages – November 16
 - Stewardship Emphasis & Commitment Sunday – December 7

VIII. New Business

- Year-End / 2026 Items
 - Building/Liability Insurance Renewal
 - Boyken is communicating with Holmes Murphy for a quote.

 - Annual Meeting
 - The meeting will be held Sunday, January 18 with a back-up date of Sunday, January 25.

Yeager moved to set the annual meeting date for January 18 with the back-up date on January 25. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried.

- Nominating Committee
 - Swanson reported that members of the committee include John Reed, Cheryl Rigler, Donna Yeager & John Swanson.

Swanson moved to approve the nominating committee roster. Seconded by Linda Anderson. Motion carried.

- Lawncare & Snow Removal Contract
 - Boyken reported that the past service provider is no longer handling the services. Matt McNamara is working to line up a new provider, and this will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.
- Operation Christmas Child
 - Gerasch shared about the global ministry, which invites groups to provide boxes with a variety of items to children ages 2-14 around the world. This could be an event with the youth. There are regional locations nearby to drop-off boxes. The next drop-off is November 17-24. Some concerns were shared with the organization. Alternative service project ideas in the local area were discussed, which could also be impactful for the youth and families.
- Worship Ministry Team Proposal
 - Hyda presented information from the Worship Ministry Team on the desire to purchase exterior frames to install on the pillars outside the main entrance. The frames can present seasonal signage and decoration as well as other signage for events such as Vacation Bible School. The team also recommended that any signage beyond the church year seasonal calendar would be reviewed by the Worship Ministry Team, which includes the Arts & Environment team. If the proposed signage is accepted by the team, then the proposal will be presented to Council for approval.

Yeager moved to approve installation of the exterior frames. Seconded by Gerasch. Motion carried.

- Parking Lot Signage
 - Boyken reported that some improvements have occurred with the parking lot. However, signage is likely needed for those not familiar with the parking lot set-up. More discussion will occur on this matter with Executive Committee.
- Kitchen Ice Maker
 - Linda Anderson reported that the ice maker is not working. Chuck Safris researched new ice makers, costing around \$2,500-3,000 and also including installation and removing the old ice maker. The multi-year project permanent fund and memorial funds could be used.

Watson moved to purchase a new ice maker for \$2,500 plus cost for installation and removing the old ice maker with funds used to be decided by the Executive Committee. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group with words on the night prayer and a version of the Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book, which incorporate indigenous words and themes.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
October 28, 2025