

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 25, 2025
Room 127 & Google Meet

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

Absent: Marc Anderson, Megan Gerasch

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Boyken called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.
- Hyda shared 10 Reasons to Look Up from John Day's *Book of Clouds*, verses from Psalm 147:7-8, and opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Two new business items for the poinsettia fundraiser and new paraments were added by the Worship Ministry Team.

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

III. Secretary's Report

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

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. October was a loss overall with lower general offering and several expenses. Offering is still ahead of budget, and there's a positive income through October.

Harms moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Swanson. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Linda Anderson thanked Jim Spizale and Kevin Nicolet for cleaning the floors in the kitchen.
- Linda Anderson noted the recycling area in the kitchen is full and wondered who is responsible for emptying. Pastor Chris will have Heidi talk with the cleaning service.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris reported he met with his colleagues to talk through the service during the Week of Christian Unity on Saturday, January 24. Anyone interested in helping with a reception may contact Boyken. Steensen volunteered to help in the kitchen along with Boyken. Pastor Chris also shared information to prepare for the Annual Meeting in January. Religious and Science Weekend is February 13-15, and Pastor Chris intended to focus on faith and science during fellowship time as well.

VII. Old Business

- Reconciling in Christ
 - The ministry team presented on Reconciling Works on Sunday, November 23 during fellowship time.

Yeager moved to place the Welcome Statement and WHLC joining Reconciling Works on the Annual Meeting agenda. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Upcoming Events
 - Stewardship Emphasis & Commitment Sunday – December 7
- Year-End / 2026 Items
 - Building/Liability Insurance Renewal
 - A new quote was received with a 3.5% increase. Cyber liability coverage for an additional \$294 premium was discussed. Boyken will communicate to decline the cyber liability coverage.
- Nominating Committee
 - Swanson shared the committee has received positive responses. Council positions are filled but still looking at the president-elect position.
- Annual Report
 - Written reports should be submitted to Heidi by the end of the year.
- Maintenance/Property Issues
 - Lawn Care / Snow Removal
 - A new contract is in place. Matt McNamara worked with AM Landscaping to fulfill our needs and at similar rates to the previous provider.
 - Kitchen Icemaker
 - The new icemaker was installed but stopped working. A technician came out to look at it. The technician recommended a cleaning every 6 months. Linda Anderson is collecting pricing.
 - Parking Lot Signage
 - Matt McNamara has been talking to the Town Centre about the parking spaces. Boyken proposed signage to indicate spaces reserved for the church.

Morris moved to add signs with space for additional phrases. Additional discussion occurred. Motion was withdrawn, and the topic will be discussed next month.

- Other
 - The sidewalk project is complete and includes all the way to Carpenter Street. The savings from the project will go to the shelter permanent fund.

VIII. New Business

- November 9 Synod Meeting
 - Boyken attended a SE Iowa Synod event at St. John's Lutheran. The annual report was presented and talked about synod outreach. Bishop Amy Current met with Pastor Chris, Boyken & Waymire and asked about WHLC's benevolence percentage of their budget, as it is higher than many other churches. Bishop Current asked if WHLC would increase their benevolence support.

- Wedding Music & Performance Fee
 - The fee is \$200 and includes meeting with the couple and performance at rehearsals and weddings. The recommendation is to increase the amount to \$250 to be more in line with current figures. Pastor Chris will have the wedding outline updated, which is shared with the couple when meeting with WHLC.

Watson moved to increase the wedding music and performance fee to \$250. Seconded by Harms. Motion carried.

- Poinsettia Fundraiser
 - Hyda presented that the Worship Ministry Team would like this year's poinsettia fundraiser to have donations go towards DMARC Food Pantry. Poinsettias are purchased, and then all remaining proceeds go towards the donation.

Yeager moved to approve the fundraiser for DMARC Food Pantry. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Paraments
 - Hyda shared the Worship Ministry Team has been researching and reviewing options for new green paraments. The green paraments are used the most during the church season, and the team would like new ones to include the rotation. In addition, a family would like the memorials from a loved one to be used towards a purpose for worship.

Harms moved to approve the use of memorial funds around \$4,500 for green paraments. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Memorials
 - Fund
 - At the end of October, there is approximately \$92,000 in the fund. A proposal to transfer some of the funds to the WHLC Foundation was shared. The funds would accrue a higher return on investment. The principal could be used by WHLC at any time, but the income generated could be used by the WHLC Foundation in annual disbursements.

- Continuing Resolution
 - A draft of a new memorials policy was shared with Council, and it will be considered at a future meeting.
- Other
 - The next meeting date was discussed and moved to December 16.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group with a reading from Isaiah and a prayer.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
November 25, 2025