

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Room 127 & Google Meet

Present: Tammie Amsbaugh, Marc Anderson, Quent Boyken, Stephanie Cox, Finn Cox, Megan Gerasch, Dianne Greenfield, Threase Harms, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Steve McCracken, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Mike Wegner, Donna Yeager
Absent: Barb Waymire, Sally Watson

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Harms called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and council members introduced themselves.

- Boyken shared a devotion from *You've Got This (Because God's Got You)* by KariAnne Wood and opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Boyken moved to approve the December 2025 minutes. Seconded by Gerasch. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council prior to the meeting. Fourth quarter results were good. Finance Committee recommended paying off the remainder of the mortgage as well as combining the property maintenance fund, the ERTC fund, multiple year project fund and the remaining capital appeal fund into one property maintenance permanent fund.

Boyken moved to accept the Finance Committee recommendations to pay off the mortgage and combine the mentioned permanent funds into one property maintenance permanent fund. Seconded by Lundell. Motion carried.

- Council discussed a Temple Talk and written appeal about supporting the property maintenance fund through giving.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Yeager shared about the Thanksoffering donations to the WELCA permanent fund.
- Boyken shared about reading *Manufacturing My Miracle* by former member Jill Viles.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared WHLC's governing documents. The four focus renewal areas of Worship, Service, Scripture and Prayer were discussed. A book for Council to consider reading is *Red State Christians: A Journey into White Christian Nationalism and the Wreckage It Leaves Behind* by Angela Denker on Christian nationalism and its societal effects. Pastor Chris described Lutheran Day on the Hill, which is a synod-wide event on February 26. The event is hosted by Lutheran Services of Iowa and is lifting up the following issues this year: investing in a sustainable model for food access, support for Iowa's mental health system, and support services for refugees and immigrants. The churchwide assembly adopted a new social statement in 2025, and Pastor Chris will talk about the six sections during fellowship time in Lent.

VII. Old Business

- Parking Lot Signage
 - Boyken shared an overview of the parking lot situation. Four signs are suggested with two along the island and two along the north side going to 66th Street. Jim Spizale provided information on costs from Fast Signs.

Boyken moved to order the four signs for installation. Seconded by Anderson. More discussion occurred on the words to be printed: "White line spaces for Church Invitees Only – Violators May Be Towed at Owner's Expense." Motion carried.

- Memorial Funds Policy
 - Pastor Chris shared information regarding the funds and being mindful for use.

VIII. New Business

- Annual Meeting Review
 - Lundell and Gerasch are working to submit WHLC's information to Reconciling Works. A ministry team will be formed to review the needs, discussion, and support for the future.
- General Council Information Review
 - Information on committees, ministry teams, and the WHLC Foundation were provided to Council.
- Appointments
 - Harms appointed the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

Yeager moved to accept the appointments by the president for Jill Hyda as Secretary and Barb Waymire as Treasurer. Seconded by Gerasch. Motion carried.

- Longterm Property Ministry Team
 - The ministry team's focus would be to create a list of major equipment and possible estimates for maintenance and replacement costs to assist with future planning. The office can provide a list of current contractors used. Harms volunteered to communicate the need for members on the team.

- IX. Announcements
- Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

- X. Reflections & Closing Prayer
Pastor Chris closed the group with a reflection on Christian nationalism and prayer.

- XI. Adjournment

Amsbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gerasch. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
January 27, 2026