

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Room 127 & Google Meet

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

Absent: Tammie Amsbaugh, Marc Anderson, Finn Cox

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Harms called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- Waymire shared a lesson about sacrifice from *52 Lessons from A Wonderful Life* by Bob Welch and opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Greenfield moved to approve the January 2026 minutes. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council prior to the meeting. January was a good month in net income and puts WHLC in a good cash position. The mortgage has been paid off and will show in the February financials.

- Financial Reports & Permanent Funds Orientation
 - Waymire gave a tutorial on the documents provided monthly to Council.

Yeager moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- None to report

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared about the synod assembly, which consists of 60% lay people to 40% clergy. This year is an election of a bishop. Synod Assembly will be held May 15-16 in Cedar Rapids. Pastor Chris spent part of Tuesday in a Lent Renewal Event with Bishop Current. These are seasonal events led by the bishop that include

worship, lunch, and a time to hear from Bishop Current on timely issues in the life of the church.

VII. Old Business

- Parking Lot Signage
 - Signs were created and are ready to install in the spring. Thank you to Jim Spizale for working with Fast Signs.
- ReconcilingWorks
 - Lundell reported our application was turned down, as additional editorial language on racial equality is needed. A revised WHLC Welcome Statement was shared, and the last paragraph will read, “As we continue on our journey with Christ, we pray that the Lord guides us with his life-giving Spirit, and moves every human heart; that barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatred cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice **with racial equality** and peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.” The language does not add to the Welcome Statement beyond what the congregation already approved during the Annual meeting. The anniversary date for WHLC will be listed as January 18, 2026, when the congregation approved the statement at the Annual Meeting.

Watson moved to approve the WHLC Welcome Statement with the additional of “with racial equality” language. Seconded by Gerasch. Motion carried.

- Council Book
 - Pastor Chris asked Council if the preference was to read Pastor Angela Denker’s book on Christian nationalism or the ELCA Faith & Civic Life social statement. Council agreed to start a review of the ELCA Faith & Civic Life social statement.
- Long Term Property Ministry Team
 - Harms shared she is talking to possible team members.
- Lutheran Day on the Hill
 - Pastor Chris shared the event is this week on Thursday, February 26.

VIII. New Business

- Current Ministry Teams
 - Information on the various ministry teams was shared with Council.
- Lenten Offerings
 - Offerings will go towards ELCA World Hunger. The Executive committee approved the offering recipient.
- WHLC Foundation
 - Boyken presented the recommendation for the WHLC Foundation’s slate of directors. John Ambrosion rotated off. The directors are Norm Carlson, Tony Dahlman, Lori Nicolet, Ken Popken, John Reed, John Swanson, Quent Boyken.

McCracken moved to ratify the directors of the WHLC Foundation. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Synod Assembly
 - The assembly is May 15-16 at First Lutheran in Cedar Rapids. WHLC will have one male and one female member attend. If interested, please let Pastor Chris know.
- Celebration for Satisfaction of Church Mortgage
 - Waymire shared it will take six to eight weeks before the official satisfaction documents are received by the church. Waymire will form a small ministry team to work on a celebration event after Lent.
- Other
 - Hyda asked for approval for donations from the Easter Garden to support the DMARC Food Pantry.

Yeager moved the Easter Garden donations go towards the DMARC Food Pantry. Seconded by Gerasch. Motion carried.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris shared the Week of Christian Unity service offering was donated to the DMARC Food Pantry and was around \$900. Pastor Chris closed the group with the Lord's Prayer.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
February 24, 2026