

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 16, 2025
Room 127 & Google Meet

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

Absent: None

Visitors: Scott Steensen

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Boyken called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- Finn Cox shared a devotion regarding the history of Silent Night 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

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

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. The Capital Appeal Fund is now above the remaining mortgage balance. The Finance Committee will discuss, including resources available for repair and maintenance. A recommendation from Finance Committee will be added to the Annual Meeting agenda and presented. November was a strong month of general offering and lower budgeted expenses. Waymire thanked the congregation and staff for being good stewards.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Waymire thanked Linda Anderson, Donna Yeager, Dianne Greenfield, and Sharman Blake for putting together the Advent Service and reception.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris provided information regarding notification requirements for the Annual Report & Annual Meeting and proposed dates for informational sessions on the 2026 budget. Religion & Science Weekend 2026 will be celebrated on February 13-15.

This year's theme is "Truth Matters." Leading up to the Religion & Science Weekend, Pastor Chris will build in some faith and science sessions during Fellowship & Learning.

VII. Old Business

- Reconciling in Christ
 - Lundell contacted other Lutheran Churches who are Reconciling Works partners regarding their annual contributions. Lundell believes the amount proposed in the 2026 budget is in line. Finance Committee did review other meaningful benevolence giving when making the recommendation for the 2026 budget.
- Year-End / 2026 Items
 - Nominating Committee
 - Swanson shared all three council members and president-elect have been filled with Tammy Amsbaugh, Mike Wegner, Steve McCracken serving Council positions and Dianne Greenfield serving as president-elect.
 - Annual Report
 - The Annual Report will include a Lead Pastor report, Visiting Pastor report, President's report as well as reports from Reconciling in Christ, Windsor Heights Fall Festival, Advent Service, College Care Packages Ministry Teams, and the WHLC Foundation.
- Parking Lot Signage
 - Yeager recommended signage be installed for parking for church activities only.

VIII. New Business

- 2026 Budget Proposal
 - Scott Steensen from Finance Committee presented the budget proposal to Council. The 2025 budget has been followed, and the 2026 budget is similar to 2025. Differences in the 2026 budget include: (1) benevolence is going up 7% with salaries increasing 2-3%, (2) interest income will be down due to federal changes, (3) the mortgage debt retirement will be removed, and (4) facility rent will increase with Heartland Youth Choir's payments. The total income is \$514,000 and will be a balanced budget. Benevolence giving includes a \$2,500 contribution to Reconciling Works. Mission support is increased to 8% as part of the benevolence budget.

Yeager motioned for Council to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried. Council discussed personnel-related matters.

The Executive Session was closed.

- Annual Meeting Action Items
 - Welcome Statement
 - Reconciling Works Member
 - 2026 Budget
 - Election & Installation

Yeager moved to approve these items for the Annual Meeting. Seconded by Harms.
Motion carried.

- Other
 - Swanson thanked Boyken for his leadership at WHLC in 2025.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 27, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group with a litany from the third week of Advent and the Lord's Prayer.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
December 16, 2025