

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

Present: Tammie Amsbaugh, Marc Anderson, 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: Finn Cox

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Harms called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

- Anderson shared a piece regarding materialism and opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

ReconcilingWorks was added as a subject in old business.

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

III. Secretary's Report

Boyken moved to approve the March 2026 minutes. Seconded by Greenfield. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council prior to the meeting. March was a strong income month with interest gained from two Certificates of Deposit. These Certificates of Deposit matured and were renewed for 12 and 18 months, respectively. Four permanent funds have been merged with the retirement of the mortgage into the Property Maintenance Fund. The mortgage retirement celebration will occur this coming Sunday, May 3. A reminder will be shared during the mortgage retirement celebration regarding where donations to the capital appeal fund will go.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Yeager asked if the choir could use different colored stoles for Music Sunday. The Worship Ministry Team is OK with this request.
- Anderson asked about handicap spots being designated in front of the south door instead of only on the west side of the church. This suggestion is already being looked at for options.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared there was a roof leak in the narthex, which has now been fixed. Confirmation will be held on Pentecost with three confirmands.

VII. Old Business

- Synod Assembly
 - Steve & Kathy McCracken will serve as delegates.
- Funds to WHLC (Foundation & Thrivent)
 - Council needs to provide the WHLC Foundation information on the planned use of the 2026 disbursement (\$7,359.33). There are also Thrivent funds available to use.
 - Pastor Chris shared ideas and quotes.
 - New laptops for Zach Seifert & Heidi Hennig – \$1,300
 - Electronic sign – new Windows PC \$500 or change controller in sign to be cloud-based \$2,200
 - Lateral file – \$750
 - Handicap parking spots – no quote yet
 - Hearing assistant devices – \$132/each, maybe 2
 - Water bottle filler on drinking fountain – \$2,272
 - Replacement of 3rd floor drinking fountain – \$1,300
 - The door security system from Per-Mar will no longer be supported or repairable after 9/30 – need to transition to next one (hardware/software), no cost yet

Boyken moved to use the WHLC Foundation & Thrivent funds for a total of \$8,500 to pay for the following: 2 laptops, new PC to control the electronic sign, a new lateral file, handicap parking work, two new hearing assistant devices, one water bottle filler station and a replacement 3rd floor water fountain. Any balance of the Foundation disbursement will be donated to Central Iowa Shelter & Services. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Stewardship & Facilities Workshop Team Update
 - Harms reported a team has been assembled, including Matt McNamara, Bill Morris, Rick Wagaman, Linda Anderson, Chuck Safris. The team will meet in May to review the infrastructure, age, updates needed, and potential costs for repair or replacement. Waymire asked to participate when looking at financial implications.
- ELCA Social Statement
 - Council discussed Section II: God Calls All People To Robust Civic Participation. Section III will be reviewed at the May meeting.
- Other
 - ReconcilingWorks
 - Lundell shared the certificate will be framed and hung. The statement and logo will be published on the WHLC website, Weekly Window, worship bulletin, and the electronic sign. Questions about future budget needs were discussed.

VIII. New Business

- Correspondence
 - A thank you letter was received from the Southeastern Iowa Synod for our mission support of over \$67,000 in 2025. A thank you letter was also received from Global Refuge for being a top giving congregation. Finally, a letter from Lutheran World Relief was received regarding receiving WHLC's special gift.
- Child Protection Policy Review Ministry Team
 - WHLC's current safety policy was implemented in 2014. A review of the policy is needed. Zach Meyer will participate with a team. If someone is interested, let Pastor know. Amsbaugh and Watson volunteered for the team.
- Easterseals Community Garden Proposal
 - A proposal was received from Easterseals Iowa Clients Socially Integrated for a community garden at WHLC.

Boyken moved to approve Easterseals to create a community garden at the stated location. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Sunday Evening Prayer Service
 - Many WHLC members attended the first service at Faith Lutheran. WHLC will host on May 17. Hosts for hospitality with coffee, lemonade, and bars will be needed.
- Summer Worship Schedule
 - The Worship Ministry team proposed to hold a Saturday evening worship at 5 PM from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend this summer. The service will be held outside, weather permitting. The 9:30 AM Sunday worship service will continue during the summer as well.

Wenger moved to approve the summer worship schedule. Seconded by Amsbaugh. Motion carried.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group with reading the hymn, "All My Hope On God is Founded".

XI. Adjournment

Amsbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
April 28, 2026