

# Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Church Congregation Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM

### Attendees

**Present (via video conference):** Mike Dunavant (President), Rob Boyle (Vice-President), Markus Groener (Secretary), Jennifer Edwards (Treasurer), Missy Hill, Phillip Martin, Cindy McClintock, Gwen Newman, Leigh Pickels, David Schiller

**Absent:** Jim Huddle, Sarah Lang

**Sabbatical:** Joseph Bolick

### 1. Call to Order

Council President Mike Dunavant called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

### 2. Devotions / Opening Prayer

Jennifer Edwards led the devotion, reading from **Luke 10:25–37**, the Parable of the Good Samaritan. She reflected on how this scripture calls believers to consider **who their neighbor truly is** and challenges them to extend mercy and compassion beyond their immediate circles.

Jennifer connected this message to her family's experience on the **mission trip to North Carolina**, where they helped hurricane survivors sort through personal belongings and assisted at a community thrift store and food pantry. She described the emotional impact of helping **Tommy Burleson**, a former NBA player, as he decided what could be salvaged from his flood-damaged home, including personal mementos, letters, trophies, and family videotapes. Jennifer emphasized how this experience reinforced the call to serve others with humility and care, embodying the spirit of the Good Samaritan by showing mercy to those in need, regardless of background.

Phillip Martin and Mike Dunavant added reflections, highlighting the **vulnerability** of those affected and the sense of shared purpose and community the trip created. Phillip noted the unexpected depth of emotion involved in handling someone's most personal possessions, describing it as an experience he was still processing.

Jennifer closed by offering a prayer, asking God to guide the Council's hearts and minds, help them speak with honesty, listen with humility, act with compassion, and make decisions that reflect God's will for Epiphany's ministry.

### 3. Consent Agenda


#### A. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2025

#### B. Receipt of Reports from Pastors, Staff, and Ministry Team

Markus noted that only a few reports were received (from Pastor Phillip, Jennifer, and Linda). Phillip clarified that several teams' updates are typically incorporated into staff reports, and some committees are currently inactive.

#### C. Receipt of Treasurer's Report and BOL Update

Treasurer Jennifer Edwards reported that **June income exceeded the budget by \$28,946**, driven by a significant one-time contribution, bringing YTD income to \$11,347, favorable to the budget. However, YTD expenses still exceed income by \$50,105, mainly due to seasonal expenses and increased giving fees. Jennifer noted a positive trend compared to prior months. Phillip added that the recent bank merger from Village Bank to Town Bank required significant work by Debbie and suggested this be considered when recognizing staff contributions later in the year.

- **Motion:** Rob Boyle moved to approve the consent agenda.
- **Second:** Leigh Pickels seconded.
- **Vote:**  Unanimous approval

#### 4. Receipt of Communications

##### A. Open Requests for Communications Received

Mike noted that no new communications were retrieved due to the virtual meeting.

##### B. Sympathy and Support Cards

Sympathy and support cards will be addressed at the next in-person meeting.

#### 5. Old Business

##### A. Status Report: Stained Glass Repair

Pastor Phillip reported the contractor has scheduled the work for **September or October**. The timing is later than initially expected, but it will allow focus on addressing HVAC issues first. A deposit has already been paid.

##### B. AC Replacement Update

Pastor Phillip and Rob discussed efforts to obtain additional bids beyond the initial estimate from James River. Dominion Service visited but had not responded in over three weeks. Another vendor was scheduled to provide a bid the following Friday. The system's complexity and need for commercial expertise were emphasized. Council agreed on a deadline of **one additional week** to gather bids, with the Finance Team authorized to approve a contract without waiting for the next full Council meeting.

##### C. Update on "Epiphany Shines" campaign

Missy Hill reported that the campaign committee developed draft descriptions for necessary subcommittees, drawing on materials from the previous campaign. The next steps include recruiting committee chairs and coordinating timelines. Council members were asked to review materials and suggest potential volunteers.

##### D. Proposed Endowment by-laws changes - report

Rob Boyle reviewed the proposal, noting only minor wording adjustments since the last presentation. The Council plans to vote formally at the **August meeting** so that approved changes can proceed to the congregation for ratification at the annual meeting. The recent HVAC expenses highlighted the importance of this bylaw revision.

##### E. Kneeling pads for the communion rail

Markus shared that he had just emailed Kevin about the kneeling pad proposal since he had not heard back since speaking with him.

**Update received during meeting:** Kevin responded that the worship committee had not yet discussed the kneeling pads.

#### F. Mailbox Security Update

Phillip reported that the matter remains with the property team, and he will follow up to ensure progress.

### 6. New Business

#### A. Safety Concerns and Building Access

Mike shared concerns raised by members regarding:

- **Office coverage and security** while staff are away. Pastor Phillip affirmed future coverage would be prioritized as a safety issue.
- **Exterior doors are being propped open** during SPARC summer programming. Phillip explained that SPARC staff may have done this for ease of supervision. He will remind all groups of security protocols.
- Members raising concerns are also encouraged to participate or lead the Safety team.

### 7. Anything for Hanne?

Markus Groener will provide Hanne and Turner with the approved council minutes from the June meeting for posting to Epiphany's website.

### 8. Next Meetings

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.
- Leigh Pickels will lead devotions and the prayers.

### 9. Closing Prayer

Jennifer Edwards offered a closing prayer, thanking God for unity and guidance and asking for blessings on the congregation and its ministries.

### 10. Adjournment

Mike Dunavant adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Markus K. Groener  
Church Council Secretary