

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 25, 2025  
APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Reverend Dr. Scott Paeth, Barbara Simonson – President, Hailey Bianco – EYT via zoom, Jim Bittman -- Treasurer, Laura Bittman, D.G., Kerry Hamill – Secretary, Jeanann Power, Judy Sachs, Ranjan Singh, Nicole Toft.

Others present: Richard Neuhaus

Quorum established, meeting called to order at 7:34 p.m.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Scott.

Approval of Agenda with Barb's addition under New Business of Congregational Meeting  
Judy moved to approve, Laura seconded, agenda approved as amended.

Draft Minutes

Judy moved, D.G. seconded, February 25, 2025 Draft Minutes approved as corrected.

EYT Report presented by Hailey as she needed to leave early: The spaghetti dinner fundraiser brought in over \$7,500 which along with \$600 collected at Youth Sunday met their fundraising goals. It is currently spring break, but Youth Group will start back next month. Upcoming events include volunteering at Feed My Starving Children and lock-in at Enchanted Castle. Invoicing for ECC's contribution to EYT is in process.

Old Business

Centennial Update – Jeanann provided information on a proposal for a new sound system for the sanctuary. Brenda had new banners made for the front sign. Facebook posts resumed and 100 clicks through to our website were achieved after Brenda bumped the posts. We are pausing and will restart two weeks before Easter.

By-Laws Updates – The By-Laws Committee is meeting Friday afternoon to structure their recommendations for meeting.

The Tomato Guy – The Tomato Guy doesn't have enough staff to set up in our parking lot this year, but is still giving plants to the church. He may be able to do it next year.

Calendar Conflicts – No Updates on a new calendar system. We will add to the Church Bulletin that a request can be made to Cindy in the Church Office to view the calendar.

Music Director – Alan's retirement/search in progress: There has been no progress in locating a new Music Director, and we have reached out to additional entities to expand the search. We

need to consider a back-up plan of asking Kerstin to act as Choir Director and use the piano until we can hire an organist.

### Committee Reports

Building and Grounds (report attached): D.G. highlighted portions of his report including 1) roof repair; 2) main entrance security concerns/updates; 3) sanctuary ceiling updates/LED bulbs; 4) carpet cleaning bids; 5) parking lot long-term goal of resurfacing; 6) garden shed; 7) Theatre designated space for storage/wardrobe; 8) Mens Room updates; 9) better lighting for Pastor and Liturgist in sanctuary; 10) updated sound system; 11) presentation screens – D.G. will send around a video.

Congregational Life (report attached): Laura reported that the committee is looking at dates for concerts – possibly June 20 and August 10. Laura will approach the Music Academy.

Education and Mission (report attached): Nicole presented and discussion was had as to resuming payment of our mission budgeted amount of \$3600 to UCC – agreed to resume. Ideas to spread the word for the playlot include advertising in the Reporter next year. New mission service opportunities to be explored, including at Onward House.

Finance (Current financials attached): Judy reported that Christmas/Easter funds can remain in the “plate” category rather than having separate accounts. We are receiving more pledges up front and gifts have been good. Expenditures include an increase in gas costs; workers’ compensation one-time payment; accountant fees; mission checks.

Nominating Committee: No Report

Theatre: No Report/No update. The Theatre received a Jeff Award nomination but did not win.

Pastor’s Updates: Mid-week Lenten Services will be held at Edgebrook Covenant Church. Pastor Scott attended bi-annual meeting. There is one couple expressing interest in joining the church.

### New Business

Easter schedule of services was discussed. We will have services at ECC for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. Good Friday services will be held at Edgebrook Covenant Church.

A Congregational Meeting needs to be scheduled to address the sound system proposal and changes to the By-Laws. The meeting will be scheduled for April 13, 2025.

Next Council Meeting – April 22, 2025.

Nicole moved to adjourn, Judy seconded. Unanimous vote, meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Hamill, Recording Secretary