

NELC Church Council Regularly Scheduled Meeting | Minutes

January 14th, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. - 9:31 p.m. | Room 301, Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church

Meeting called by: President Wayne Jacobson

Secretary: Julie Creeden

Attendees: Kristina McBurney, Ron Martin, Nate Greiner, Kristie Lehman, Cindy Wilson, Julie Creeden, Wayne Jacobson, Mike Brost, Kristin Swenson

Via conference call: Beth Harris, Tim Boettger

AGENDA TOPICS:

Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. | *Wayne Jacobson*

Prayer & Devotion

Wayne welcomed everyone and thanked us for attending. Pastor Brost shared Psalm 119:43 and the Council reflected on our great hope for the future and goals for 2025. Kristina opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report | *Julie Creeden*

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve Council minutes as amended from 12/17/24.	Kristina	Nate	Pass

President's Report | *Wayne Jacobson*

Wayne began his report by asking the treasurer, Cindy Wilson, to please begin with her December finance report and then lead into the 2025 budget report; both for Council approval.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy reported that the offering during the month of December was very generous, with members giving \$255,571, which ended our fiscal year \$88,486 ahead of our actual 2024 budget. The Council is very grateful to God for his generosity and faithfulness, and also to the congregation for their faithful practice of Biblical stewardship. We ended with a YTD Net Operating Surplus of \$278,143.

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve December Financials.	Cindy	Ron	Pass

Cindy and Kristen continued by going over the proposed budget for 2025 after having received pledges from the congregation and expenditure requests from the various departments and committees at Nazareth. This draft includes two gifts to the NALC Churchwide Ministries: Disaster Response Fund and Great Commission

Fund. This final draft of the 2025 budget will be presented to the congregation in the Annual Report for their approval during the Annual Meeting on January 26th, 2025 at 12:30 in the Worship Center. The Council will recommend passage of the budget as proposed.

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve 2025 Budget Final Draft and recommend passing by the congregation during the Annual Meeting.	Nate	Julie	Pass

Wayne then asked Kristina and Nate for their report from the 2025 Nominating Committee. This committee consisted of Kristina and Nate as the two Council representatives, as well as congregation members Jan Reisetter, Jon Peterson, and Laurie Larsen. The Council thanks the Nominating Committee for their faithful and diligent work. Both of the Council reps were so impressed with the gifts, discernment, and work ethic of these members, they will be recommending to the congregation that these same three serve on next year's nominating committee as well.

Nominating Committee Report: The Nominating Committee unanimously brings forth three highly qualified candidates for congregational approval for the three open Church Council seats: Erik Blanchard, Russ Curtis, and Doug Witham. After meeting with all three candidates, the committee is confident that Erik, Russ, and Doug are theologically aligned with the beliefs of Nazareth, spiritually mature, and committed followers of Christ. They all feel called to serve and have the gifts of leadership, wisdom, and humility. Some of the things that were mentioned when talking about their hopes and dreams for Nazareth were:

- continuing to build a foundation of powerful, Bible-centered preaching;
- promoting dynamic Christian education and discipleship;
- facilitating vibrant and growing worship services;
- praying and working for Nazareth to be a beacon of truth and light in the community;
- striving to build up our college and student programs;
- providing spiritual leadership to a pastoral call process and strategic planning; and
- resting on the foundation of who Nazareth is and how we do ministry.

Bylaws Report: Wayne reported that the Bylaws Committee has made it completely through the Bylaws with a first draft, and they are now going through it again with eyes for small details to ensure clarity and completeness. They are confident that by the end of this month or early February, they will be done with a final draft. Once this final draft is complete, the bylaws committee will report to the council at the Council retreat. Once the final draft is approved by the Council, it will be presented to the congregation for their ultimate approval at a specially called meeting during the month of April, 2025.

Christian Crusaders Request: Wayne asked Julie to explain the two-fold request from Christian Crusaders (CC). 1) She reminded everyone that since the Council had requested that CC move their office from their first floor location to a second floor location which is much less visible, the Church Council had intended to help them with some first-floor signage indicating their continued presence and support here at Nazareth. CC presented a proposal for sign size and location preferences. 2) CC is requesting the use of the audio recording of Tim Boettger's sermons to be edited for use on the CC radio program with the understanding that CC will give credit to Nazareth Lutheran Church during this live broadcast. By using the live recording rather than a pre-recorded one in Pastor Boettger's office, the dynamics are more authentic and the sermon flows with more ease, making the radio program as good as it can possibly be for CC listeners. The Council saw this as a win/win for both CC and Nazareth. Julie abstained from both votes because she also sits on the CC Board of Directors.

Action items	Moved	Seconded	Vote	Abstain
Approve CC request to place 2 display signs on the first floor at Nazareth: the North-end signage will be located somewhere near the wall to the right of the stairwell going up to the 2nd floor, and the South-end signage will be located somewhere near the brick wall just past the Family Life Center. CC will work with the Nazareth Facilities Director for the final placement of both signs, and Nazareth will contribute up to \$1,000 toward the total cost of both signs.	Nate	Ron	Pass	Julie
Approve CC request for them to utilize the audio file of Nazareth's sermon for their radio broadcast when Pastor Boettger is preaching. Nazareth will be given credit for the recording during the CC program.	Julie	Kristina	Pass	Julie

Interim Pastors' Reports | *Mike Brost & Tim Boettger*

Mike: Staff will soon be setting goals for 2025 – Staffing goals are filling open positions for a youth director, permanent administrator, and food outreach ministry coordinator. Attendance goals will also be included and strived for. Mike continues to greet new people who are attending Nazareth every Sunday. Our Bible overview study will continue through Easter, and then we will be moving into either a study on discipleship or the book of Acts.

Tim: He is looking forward to going to the pastors' conference with Mike in a few weeks. He feels greatly encouraged by the number of visitors attending on Sunday mornings and is also encouraged by the general feel around Nazareth.

Interim Administrator's Report | *Kristin Swenson*

Kristin updated the Council that she is filing Nazareth's Biennial Business Report for the state of Iowa. She reported that Jordan is working with Facilities to prepare for the Annual Meeting. This includes table set-up as well as prepping the ballots and sign-in sheets ahead of time. Tellers will be needed to count the votes – Kristie will organize this group and reserve a room for them to work. She encouraged the Council officers and Nominating Committee Reps to look over the script and update as needed. All Council members have access to this script digitally.

Other Business

Council thought it best to give the new blended service concept a bit more time prior to review and evaluation as items in the service continue to be tweaked and improved. Because of this decision, the review and evaluation of the service has been tabled at this time.

The choosing of the date and time of the Council retreat will also be tabled for now to be determined in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m. | Next meeting: Tuesday, February 18th at 6:30 p.m. in Room 301. This will be the last Council meeting for Julie and Ron, and the three new Council members will also attend this meeting.