

NELC Church Council Regularly Scheduled Meeting | Minutes

August 14th, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. - 10:45 p.m. | Room 301, Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church

Meeting called by: President Wayne Jacobson

Secretary: Julie Creeden

Attendees: Cindy Wilson, Beth Harris, Kristie Lehman, Kristina McBurney, Ron Martin, Nate Greiner, Julie Creeden, Wayne Jacobson, Tim Boettger, Mike Brost, Kaylene Hoskins

Absent: Chris Hansen

AGENDA TOPICS:

Call to Order at 6:40 p.m. | Wayne Jacobson

Wayne welcomed everyone and thanked us for attending. He read Psalm 12:6 and Psalm 18:30, and the Council reflected on the “flawless” word of God. Thank God that we can trust him for his inerrant word! Wayne also shared a letter of encouragement to the Council and pastoral staff from a former Nazareth member who now lives in Ames. Her encouragement focused on the direction that Nazareth continues to take in order to remain faithful to the authority of scripture. Mike opened the meeting in prayer.

Secretary’s Report | Julie Creeden

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve Council minutes from 7/16/24	Nate	Ron	Pass

Old Business |

- Update from Marc via Nate:
 - Several groups consistently use our gym. Julie will share the action item with Marc taken by the Council last month so he knows to always give FCA groups priority when scheduling outside events/groups in the gym. The Council will be considering additional policy creation in the near future to ensure that our gym is used for the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and ultimately give God glory rather than as a public rec center.
 - Kaylene will follow-up with Susan to inquire about gym usage fees – what they are and where those funds are placed.
- Randy Kies from FCA – Nate will reach out to Randy and see if he is willing to share FCA’s mission and vision with our congregation and how they are utilizing our gym to share the gospel with coaches and athletes through sport.
- No update on Building & Grounds – parking lot has not yet been done, but work should be starting soon according to Kaylene.

- Electronic signage – The Council reviewed the final proposal for an updated digital sign on University Avenue and accepted this proposal from Signs and Designs. The entire project will be funded by a very generous donation from a Nazareth member in memory of his wife. Wayne will contact the donor and let him know that the sign work will now move forward.

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Accept proposal from Signs and Designs for removal of old sign and installation of new digital sign on University Avenue.	Beth	Nate	Pass

- Update from Kaylene on Blessed Beginnings Daycare equipment: This equipment will be donated to the daycare at Trinity Lutheran Church in Spencer, Iowa who lost everything in the most recent flood. Kaylene has been in contact with their disaster team, and they are very interested in taking our equipment but are not quite ready. We will keep it stored here at Nazareth until they are able and ready to take it – Kaylene will keep us updated. Other area daycares in Spencer may also take some of the surplus equipment.

Treasurer’s Report | Cindy Wilson

Cindy shared that the Finance Committee hasn’t met yet this month and will share the July financial statements with the Council via email once they have met.

**Action Item via email 8/26/24	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve July Financials.	Cindy	Julie	Pass

Committee Reports | Council Reps

Education: Beth

- Beth shared that a task force requested by the Council has been formed. Meg, Kim and Beth will meet Monday to begin brainstorming for the reinstatement of the Education Committee. Four other congregation members have also agreed to serve on this task force.

Local Missions: Ron

- Ron shared an informative Powerpoint from Danny Schaefer. He noted that there is a possibility that Danny will hold another evangelism training session at Nazareth again this fall.

Stewardship: Julie

- Julie shared that the committee is currently finalizing content for the fall stewardship mailing. Sam Madsen and Susan Dean are helping with this work.

US & World Missions: Kristie

- Kristie shared that Andy and Amy Schmidt visited Nazareth recently and were able to speak with members of the congregation. They are currently serving as missionaries in Costa Rica and are supported by Nazareth. Kristie mentioned how powerful their work has been in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in addition to helping the local people create a better life for their families.

There were no updates from the other committees at this time. See update and recommendation from the Worship & Music Committee in the President’s Report below.

President's Report | Wayne Jacobson

Worship & Music

- Recommendation: Beginning in September 2024, the Worship & Music Committee recommends that Nazareth offer two identical blended services. This will provide a singular unified focus centered around the best elements of worship in order to ensure God is at the center of our worship. The Committee would like to see the following items take place within the congregation:
 - Be positive about a new direction as we strive to place God at the center of our worship experience
 - Commit to a new format for a period of time – at least 15 Sundays prior to evaluation, extending grace and patience to the Worship Team as they get settled in the basics before adding additional elements
 - Concerns with staffing – we will need to make sure staff is in place to prepare Nazareth for growth

Action Item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Accept the recommendation of the Worship & Music Committee to offer two identical blended services as a trial period starting on September 15th and running through January 15th, at which time further assessment and evaluation will take place. The Core Team will communicate this change to the congregation.	Kristie	Ron	Pass

ELCA vote update:

- The communications team will run a newly created informative video this Sunday encouraging the congregation to attend the second vote on August 28th. The video will also remind the congregation of the recommendation to vote yes for both resolutions from both the Council and pastoral staff.
- Weekly reminder emails are being sent.
- A reminder postcard will be mailed soon.
- Beth reported that Jill Hanus will oversee and give direction to the vote counters again this time. Beth will send the names of the counters to Julie when known.
- Kaylene will not be able to attend the special meeting – Jordan will cover her duties.

New Business | Kaylene Hoskins

Kaylene has posted the part-time position for a new sound/tech person. Keith Reynolds who is currently in that position will be moving to Florida on September 3rd.

Kaylene shared that Charity Lovan has been hired part-time to fill our Director of Outreach Ministry position. This position oversees the food pantry and works closely with Love, INC. Charity started this past Monday. The Council welcomes Charity to the Nazareth staff!

Executive session began at 9:20 p.m. to discuss additional staffing items. Executive session ended at 10:00 p.m.

Pastors' Report | *Mike Brost and Tim Boettger*

Mike encouraged the Council and congregation for standing firm on the authority of scripture. If the second vote to disaffiliate with the ELCA and affiliate with the NALC passes, Nazareth will also be able to fully align with the NALC's four core values: Christ centered, Mission driven, Traditionally grounded, and Congregationally focused. The future for Nazareth is exciting – God is working! Mike and Tim both suggest one or two fall leadership meetings/retreats with the Council, staff, and committee leaders to begin this process. Tim also shared his enthusiasm and encouragement for what is happening at Nazareth.

Mike and Tim also shared Staffing updates:

Recently they had two interviews for our open junior high position, but no hires have been made as of yet. We will continue to search for one staff person for youth ministry – still operating within a partnership with Orchard Hill Church. Meg and Mike are engaging with this partnership. They are also both involved with CHAOS and confirmation. Mike reminded us that Nazareth also employs two interns at the CHAOS and college age levels.

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Adjourn	Kristie	Beth	Pass

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. | Next meeting: Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. in Room 301