

# New Hope Lutheran Church – Congregational Meeting Part I

24 September 2017

DRAFT

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## Minutes

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Chris
2. Meeting Called to Order; Approval of Agenda - Paul Good
  - Meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. Motion was made to approve the meeting agenda. Agenda was seconded, there was no discussion, and all approved the agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes from 29 January Congregational Meeting – June Brown
  - Minutes were posted one month ahead of the meeting. June asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made & seconded. No discussion. Minutes were approved by acclamation.
4. Council Election – Kathy Goss
  - Kathy introduced the 6 council nominees: Nate Bachman, Terri Court, Stephen Gruschkus, Barbara Shook, Jim Uschkrat & Ken Wood. No nominations were made from the floor. Ballots were collected for the vote of 3 new council members.
5. Financial Report – Bryan Metting
  - Slight cash operating surplus this year (\$2,000 - 3,000). Good shape with Amegy. Drop in giving – off by approx. \$30,000. We have cut back on some of the property issues. (Old Sanctuary abatement, old A/C's)
  - Pastor Chris – Sitting on improvements of \$50,000 and we're ready to move forward as soon as possible.
6. Pastor's Report – Pastor Chris
  - 17 new members welcomed this year, 4 baptisms, 6 deaths and 4 confirmands on Reformation Sunday.
  - Conversations at the Well – We have had 2 conversations so far. Groups would like to see more focus on evangelism, outreach, hospitality & service. Dreams for NHLC – be known in our neighborhood & youth and family.
  - Mike Ditsky gave us an update on the LEAD program. It is not confined to ELCA churches. This year they have been tuned in to listening. Members are Mike Ditsky, Heather Kaiser-Hahn, Pastor Chris Michaelis, Tom Ohman, Kim Truitt, Diane White and Alan Wilken.
  - Pastor Chris mentioned a possible mission start of an African-American ELCA church in Missouri City. Missouri City consists of 43% African Americans. New Hope has been asked to provide some office space.
  - Pastor Chris thanked the youth for being at the meeting today.
7. Stewardship Program – Gary Smith
  - Where do we see ourselves going?
  - How do we live out the gospel?

- 25% of giving comes from 3% of our giving units/families.

8. Synod Benevolence Plan – Pastor Chris

- We aspire to give 10% of our annual budget each year to the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.
- We are an extremely generous congregation – i.e. EFBHNM, Family Promise, El Buen Pastor, Camp Hope, and insistence on Mission Support to the Synod.
- So far we have raised over \$11,000 for flood relief efforts in 3 weeks.

9. Lorfing Trust – Tom Ohman

- Tom went over the list of 6 organizations to choose 3 selections from.
- Hurricane Harvey Relief was added to the list from the floor.
- Final selection will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting in January, 2018.

10. Outgoing Council Members Recognition – Paul Good & Pastor Chris

- Pastor Chris thanked Mike, Paul & Gary for their service & leadership. Paul presented Pastor Chris with a 1 year anniversary gift.

11. Council Voting Results/ Welcome New Council Members – Kathy Goss

- New council members are Nate Bachman, Terri Court & Stephen Gruschkus.

12. Council President Election – Mike Ditsky

- All 6 current council members are eligible to be nominated. June, Kathy, Tom & Terri declined the nomination. Nate Bachman agreed to the nomination and was voted by acclamation as new council president.

13. Any other business – Paul Good

- Tom Jansen reiterated that we need to hire a secretary in order to protect burn out of the office volunteers.
- Susan Kronenberger asked if the dollar amount shown in the financial review included special giving. Bryan responded that it does not.
- Tom Ohman announced the 3 winners of the Lorfing Trust:
  - East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
  - Camp Hope
  - Fort Bend Family Promise

14. Motion was made by Paul Good to adjourn and it was seconded & approved.  
Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

June Brown  
Council Secretary