

Peace Lutheran Church Congregational Minutes

June 22, 2026

Meeting started at 11:07am

Opening Prayer provided by Pastor Shaw.

In Attendance:

Voting Members: Michael Barbour, Daniell Barbour, Austin Becker, Terri Becker, Janet Elton, Ken Ritt, Penny Ritt, Bill Simons, Joan Simons, Richard Wilkens, Brenda Wilkins

Others in attendance: Pastor Shaw, Faith Shaw, Moya Shaw (and boyfriend), Paul Shaw, Kris Slovensky, Isaac Barbour, Caleb Barbour, Ezra Barbour, William Bass.

Reading of the Minutes:

- Minutes from December 2025 Congregational Meeting reviewed. Motion to approve initiated by Joan and seconded by Richard.

Reports:

- Ken Ritt, Financial Treasurer, discussed update on the current budget, Approved budget of 84,000. Ken feels we are on track and there is a \$4000 insurance payment coming up.
- 213,000 is currently in the bank, to include checking, savings and CDs.
- Bill Simons, Trustee/Financial Secretary, shared that there has been a lot of work completed within the last six months to include a new roof on the shed and the shed has been cleaned out.
- Bill took over for Monica as the Financial Secretary. Budget is on track as far as quarterly statements.
- If anyone is interested in taking over the position of financial treasurer, please let Austin know.
- Joan, from VP standpoint, there have been no changes.
- Joan is still working on outreach projects and partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, the LIFT committee and the soup kitchen.
- Call committee: Brenda has agreed to take part. Need one more volunteer from the congregation.

- Austin shared the Elder's report. Attendance is up trending. There should be two Baptisms this year. One will take place in a few weeks, and we are hoping Miranda's baby Sullivan will also be Baptized soon.
- We are also anticipating welcoming a new church member soon.
- Motion for approving reports initiated by Bill Simons. Seconded by Richard

Old Business:

- We are still looking one other person on the Call Committee.
- Austin asked if anyone had any Old Business questions to discuss.
- It was asked as to why no one asks the congregation about voting for the President of the Synod.
- Pastor Shaw provided an explanation of the voting the process to the congregation.
- Motion to approve Old Business initiated by Bill, Seconded by Richard

New Business:

- Pastor Shaw presentation "A Way Forward"
 - Pastor Shaw reviewed the church history up to the present day.
 - Goals: to Provide stability and consistency, Encourage connections with the community (Chamber of Commerce, LIFT team)
 - Limitations: Transitional Interim Ministers cannot be called to the church
 - Pastor Shaw has been trying to present options for moving forward.
 - Pastor Shaw discussed preferred options.
 - The model with the Transitional Pastors will not work in the future due to Pastor Seamon and wife dealing with health concerns and Pastor Williamson is working toward full retirement.
 - The Dual Parrish idea was voted no by Kinston congregation, even though the Pastor in Kinston was excited by the idea.
 - This may be an idea for the future with another church.
 - Pastor Shaw discussed strengths and limitations of our church.
 - Our church is completely paid for and has significant amount in savings.
 - Our biggest challenge is growth.

- Our church is blocked by neighboring buildings and difficult to see from road.
- The Council has been working to assist with church visibility.
- Partnering with the Chamber of Commerce is a strength: community organizations are asking churches to partner with them.
- The Buzz Newspaper has an ad for our church running in its issue. Pastor Shaw writes an article for the paper.
- Our Budget is a strength at this time.
- The Call List availability will be a challenge.
 - The Southeast is a difficult area to place as most Pastors go to the Midwest to the bigger churches.
- Pastor Shaw's recommendations for our church
 - Endorsed as a steppingstone.
 - Continue to work on the call process in the background; no reason to stop the process.
 - Continue to search for stability.
 - Training 2-3 "Ministry team"
 - Change in the worship rhythm.
 - Switch Sunday Morning worship to an evening worship.
 - Sunday morning will not end but will look different.
 - Pastor Shaw recommended a Monday evening, but any evening will be ok.
 - Evening service will be open the doors for additional Pastor support for communion.
 - Pastor Frank has volunteered to assist with two evenings.
 - Pastor Myers has committed to one evening a month.
 - Pastor Daub has also volunteered to assist when there is a fifth Monday in the month (at least quarterly)
 - Start program for every other week.
 - Opens opportunity for community invitations.

- Creates opportunities for internal ministry care like assisting with transportation.
- Sunday morning Ministry
 - Can increase outreach ministries opportunities.
 - Can be used for internal studies (Bible study)
 - Opportunities are only limited by your imagination.
- Ministry Teams
 - Provide a shared responsibility for congregational care and worship.
 - Joan has done a phenomenal job with outreach, but this task can be spread among others in the congregation.
 - Can have a team to assist with hospital and home visits.
 - Visit nursing homes.
 - Planning and leading non-communion worship services (possible two a month)
 - Planning Sunday morning ministries: Bible study, Divorce care, video series, etc.
 - Divorce care is a way to open up the church to the community.
 - Community outreach and invitations
 - Fellowship
- Multiple outreach opportunities
- Proposed Timeline
 - Start in August; move to two communion services a month.
 - In September, change to a worship schedule, forming the ministry teams and starting the transition
 - In October the rhythm of service continues; Ministry teams start meeting and brainstorming ideas.

- November, Pastor Shaw leads communion services and Ministry teams lead non-communion services. Pastor Shaw will still be here.
- December continues the rhythm; start planning Advent services.
- January Pastor Shaw departs and new Pastor takes over the communion services.
 - Questions presented by the congregation
 - Pastor Shaw discussed news William going to Seminary,
 - Pastor Shaw encouraged congregation to discuss options further with the Council.
 - Pastor Shaw will implement whatever the congregation decides.
- No other New Business presented.

Adjournment

Joan initiated motion to adjourn meeting.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Shaw

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 am