

Peace Lutheran Church Congregational Minutes

August 2, 2026

Meeting started at 11:18am

Opening Prayer provided by Pastor Shaw.

In Attendance:

Voting Members: Austin Becker, Terri Becker, Janet Elton, Ken Ritt, Penny Ritt, Bill Simons, Joan Simons, Richard Wilkens, Brenda Wilkins, William Bass, Wanda, Kris Slovenski

Others in attendance: Pastor Shaw, Faith Shaw.

Reading of the Minutes:

- Congregation voted to dispense of the reading of the minutes.

Reports:

Old Business:

- Pastor Shaw re-presented his Presentation of “A Way Forward”
- Peace Lutheran Church has been in a seven year vacancy.
- June 2025, Pastor Shaw started his 18 month Transitional Interim Ministry
- Goals:
 - Bring stability and consistency;
 - Encourage connections with the community
- Limitation:
 - Transitional Interim Ministers cannot be called to the church
- Strengths:
 - Previous vacancy Pastor availability has diminished
 - Dual Parrish concept has been voted no by Kinston but Clayton is open to the idea in the future
 - Joan has established a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce
 - Called Pastor availability could take 3-4 years due to shortage
 - Peace has significant savings
- Pastor Shaw recapped the previous recommendations of a New Worship Rhythm.
- This is the “Largest opportunity for growth, largest potential for missed opportunity

New Business:

- Since the last meeting, a new option has presented itself
- Pastor Bob McCanness is willing to serve as an Interim Pastor at Peace
 - He is looking for a settled position until he can retire
 - Pastor Shaw suggested that Peach use the next year as a “dress rehearsal” for his ministry
 - This could possibly lead to an expedited call if the Congregation feels he is a good fit
- The Dual Parrish plan is still on the table with Clayton in the future
- The Resume’ for Pastor Bob was shared and reviewed with the Congregation
 - The highlights of the Resume were discussed
 - Pastor Bob has a lot of community connection experience
- The floor was opened for questions and discussion among the congregation
 - Concerns expressed about Pastor Bob sharing his political views on social media and the possibility of those views being integrated into his sermons
 - Concerns expressed about his not appearing engaged with the congregation during his visit.
 - It is felt that perhaps Pastor Bob does not understand the rhythm of the church and that his engagement will improve with familiarity
- Joan suggested that Pastor Bob come back on August 23, 2026 for another meeting and delay voting until September
- Pastor Shaw recommended that the Council work on the contract while we wait for the vote
- Congregation decided to have Pastor Bob come back on August 16 and August 23 and the Congregation meet again on August 30, 2026 to vote.
- Motion initiated by Joan and seconded by Brenda

Adjournment

Janet initiated motion to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm

