

**Newington Baptist Church Quarterly Business Meeting  
Sunday October 19, 2025**

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**Call to Order:** James King, Moderator, called the meeting to order.

**Prayer:** Pastor Chris Grella led us in prayer.

**Reading of the Minutes of April 27, 2025, Business Meeting:**

James told us that we did not have copies of these minutes available at our July business meeting so we could not vote on them but copies of the April 27, 2025, minutes were available at this meeting. Corky Hogge made the motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and Charles Crone seconded the motion. When James asked for questions and discussion, there was none. Frank Wingfield made the motion to accept the minutes without correction, and Ron Michaud seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes without correction passed without opposition.

**Reading of the Minutes of July 27, 2025, Business Meeting:**

Geraldine Young made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and Terri Townsend seconded the motion. There was no discussion or questions. Frank Wingfield made a motion to accept the minutes without correction, and Jeff Moore seconded the motion. This motion was passed without opposition.

**Nominating Committee Presentation:** Heather King, Nominating Committee Team Leader

Heather explained that the Deacons and the Board of Directors (BOD) nominations are separate from the Nominating Committees nominations. The BOD members are voted on separately and updated on the chart after those votes are held, including changes in board oversight for the ministry teams. The Deacon nominations will also be voted on later in the meeting during the new business portion of the meeting. The Nominating Committee presents the updated organization chart for 2025-2026 to the congregation for voting. Changes to the chart are marked in red. We will vote on the updates and changes to the organizational chart in the new business section of the meeting. Heather pointed out that several positions are marked with yellow highlighters to show where Doug Hull will be stepping down when he finishes his term on the board of directors in 2025 and that we are in a transition period to bring on replacements until then. Ron Michaud has offered to take over Building Use. We have let the Safety and Security teams (with Ron Michaud, Joe Semanski, and Kyle Pankowski) know that Doug is rotating off so they will work together to make sure those areas are covered. That leaves Emergency Preparedness and Transportation as open positions after Doug steps down, which we will need to fill by the new year. Heather explained that the Transportation Committee is administrative, handling the paperwork of renting vans, such as those needed for Youth Camp. She also said that the Nominating Committee is discussing who would be best for the Emergency Preparedness position.

**Reports:**

**Financial:** Wanda German, Church Treasurer.

Wanda gave an overview to the attached reports:

- **Congregational Report Jan -March 2025.**
  - **Operating Balance:** Wanda reported that they had an opening balance of \$114,732.72 and a closing balance of \$112,825.90.
  - **Designated Donations:** Wanda informed us that the Missions Team added funds to the donations for Theresa Huddler for her church build, bringing the amount to \$4000. The Missions Team's funds originally came from the Ellis Hall endowment. Our church sent \$835 to Alma Hunt.
  - **Designated Funds:** Wanda told us that we regularly give funds to Jubilee from our Benevolence Funds.
  - **Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through September 2025**

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Our total expenses were \$264,889.51. Our giving income was \$249,501.23. She said \$12,000.00 from last year's budget excess was moved to our deferred maintenance account in January. Our financial health is sound. She said that we are a blessed church and that we are doing God's work.

- **Designated Funds as of September 30, 2025.** We have a balance of \$117,496.57.

Wanda called for questions and discussions from the congregation. There was none.

**Newington Preschool:** Stephanie Smith, Director

- The preschool has added the kindergarten class this year, with Kelly McMurtrie teaching. The kindergarten has 9 students enrolled.
- With Kelly moving from the four-year-old class to teach kindergarten, we hired Delaney Turner as the four-year-old class teacher. Delaney has several years' experience teaching kindergarten in the public school system.
- Upcoming events include the Candy Caravan, pumpkin patch field trip, fire truck visit and Christmas program (Dec. 18 at 6 pm)
- The preschool committee is currently looking at options to either replenish the pea gravel on the playground or replace it with a different material. The depth of pea gravel no longer meets the safety requirements for fall zones under the swings and slide. We will be comparing cost options for this project.

**Children's Ministries:** Heather King, Children's Ministries Director

Heather opened by thanking the many volunteers who helped with the children's events and their ministry. She reported that they have had an exciting year of children's ministry with the success of the Egg Hunt, VBS, family night, and other activities, and preparations underway for Candy Caravan. The kids have also begun learning Christmas music to sing in December. In Deeper Kids this year, we are studying the promises of God in the Old Testament, learning Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 23, and the Books of the Old Testament, as well as reviewing the New Testament books, John 3:16, The Apostle's Creed, and The Lord's Prayer. Heather said that we continue to grow our nursery teams under Sebrina Williams leadership. We plan to have 3 members on each team instead of just two and to provide nursery during Sunday School. We currently have our KidzWorship teams staffed to 3 members per week except for on the fifth Sunday.

**BOD:** Gerald German, Chairperson

- Doug Hull rotating off at the end of his 3-year term Dec. 30, 2025.
- **New Board Member:** Of the 18 nominations, 6 agreed to serve and 4 said that they would pray about it. The BOD elected Emily Mathews to serve a 3-year term beginning Jan. 2026 and ending Dec. 30, 2028.
- Gerald said that the Board receives a monthly report from Heather King, listing the work she performs as the Tithe.ly administrator. He said that Heather King could best explain anything about the report.
- When Gerald asked for questions, there were none.

**Properties:** Joe Semanski, Chair

Joe opened by thanking the members of his team, Doug Hull, Buddy King, and Ron Michaud. He spoke about their projects:

- Installed canopy over church main entrance door (the white door.)
- Repaired leaking roof over the Trinity Classroom and the Clothes Closet Hall
- Roof over the Worship Team office is leaking. Repairs are in process. Applied sealant, but it still leaks. Next steps?
- Installed new Clothes Closet ramp.

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- Replaced damaged ceiling tiles in the gym.
- Replacing lights throughout the church with new led lights. On-going project.
- Damaged portico will be repaired. The insurance company has written and mailed the check to cover the damage. We have a bid from a licensed contractor.
- Painted the bottom part of the posts of the white wooden sign yesterday.
- Replaced the two threshold strips in the foyer Fellowship Hall.
- The big tree between the new and old sanctuary had a branch break off, missing the church roof by a few inches. A tree company cut the tree down to a stump and hauled off the wood.

When Joe called for questions, there were none.

**Deacons:** Joe Semanski, Chair

Joe Semanski thanked the current deacons for their service, many of whom have agreed to extend their terms. He thanked Stan Ward for his three years of service. Stan is rotating off at the end of this October. Joe said that of the 15 nominations, two men accepted the position, David Beckley and Jeff Moore. When Joe called for questions, there were none.

**Youth:** Brenda Armistead, Youth Ministry Director

Brenda opened by thanking the church for their support of the Youth Ministry. Brenda mentioned that she had sent out an email to members earlier, explaining that she would collect cards and deliver them to Eddie Heath at the MTBA meeting. The cards are in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Brenda then shared the following:

- Youth will either help or bring their own car for the Candy Caravan.
- You may sign up on the FYI Board or digitally through Breeze emails for the Chilli/Soup Cook Off on Nov. 8.
- The Youth are helping with the OCC Packing Party. Brenda will be heading back from the BGAV meeting in Abingdon, VA. The youth are donating money for the shipping of OCC boxes for their mission project.
- The Youth Lock In is on Friday, Nov. 14 from 7:30 pm to 6:30 am. Chaperones include Brenda, Pastor Chris, Sharon Shelton, and Aly Keple. Brenda invited others to chaperone to include Jeff and Rhonda Moore.
- The Youth are holding Friendsgiving on Nov. 19.
- The Youth will not meet on Nov. 26.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3, the Youth will decorate their room.
- No Youth Meetings on Wed. Dec. 24 or Dec. 31.
- For a December Youth Mission Project, they are collecting hair ties for the Hope for Appalachia Project. This is a joint effort with the children's ministry (Heather King) and the youth (Brenda Armistead.)
- For the past 6 weeks, we have been doing the Mission Trip videos. It has gone well.
- They are averaging 8 to 10 for Sunday School. Lately, we have had about the same for Wed. because of students' conflict with sports and their homework load. This past Wednesday, they had 14.

When Brenda called for questions, there were none.

**Pastor's Report:** Chris Grella, Senior Pastor

Chris opened by thanking the congregation for "doing and being." He stated that the church has faced a struggle since the events in May, and we have had to not only continue to do God's work, but we have also had to "be" in the body of Christ.

- Chris pointed out that Jeff Moore had served as a deacon at Lighthouse. There was an error in his statement which had been included as an insert in last week's church bulletin.
- New Members class had four in attendance. There are four more interested in attending later this year.
- Three were Baptized Sunday, Oct. 12. One more is interested in early next year.

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- Chris started Deacons in Training with Kyle Pankowski and Matt Morgan. It will last 6 months, running through until April.
- He has met with Jubilee churches about GUEST, the winter shelter program. We will host the last week in Dec.
- Chris invited people to attend his Wed. Deeper Bible study in Isaiah, which continues until mid-June 2026.
- He is still meeting twice a month for prayer and sharing with three local pastors.
- Jeff and Rhonda Moore are going to Kentucky on a mission trip. They will be taking coats. He asked if we consider donating coats.
- The Mission Team has been approved to go back to Kentucky in the first week of April 2026. They have come up with 2026 budget.

**Old Business:**

**Vote to adopt changes in the by-laws in Article 8 and Article 13 in the Church Constitution and By Laws.**

- James asked for questions and/or discussion about the changes in the by-laws in Article 8 and Article 13 as discussed at the meeting on Oct. 5. When there was none, he called for a vote that we adopt the changes. There was no opposition, so these changes are to be adopted.

**New Business:**

- **Vote on Organizational chart updates and changes.**  
Heather called for questions. Vickie Pruden asked who determines the board members' areas of oversight. Heather explained that the Board of Directors does this. Angie Grella pointed out that the Tithe.ly Administrator position was not listed in the Staff on page 9. It will be added along with Heather King in the position. James King called for a vote to accept the organizational chart with the addition of the Tithe.ly position. The vote passed without opposition.
- **Vote on new deacons, David Beckley and Jeff Moore who would start their term on Nov. 1, 2025.**  
Chris told us that David will be ordained during the service next Sunday. James presented the names of the two new deacons. When he called for vote, it passed without opposition.
- **Vote on new Board member, Emily Mathews, as nominated by the church BOD.**  
James called for a vote, and it passed without opposition. James congratulated her.

**Presentation and vote to approve the 2026 Proposed Budget:** Corky Hogge, Stewardship Committee

Corky opened by thanking the church members for their faithful giving which supports the work of the church and its mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. He told us that our church is in good shape financially. He said he would cover the items that are highlighted in green on the proposed budget. If the items are highlighted, they are the same as last year. I have listed the items below:

- **Missions (11100, 11120, 11130):** These funds are a percentage of our total budget and increase as our budget does. The Missions Committee needs more funds because they have increased the number of missionaries they support. They also need funds for missionary travel expenses.
- **Ministry:**
  - 12010: Background Checks/Child Protection:** Requested an increase because of the rising cost of the service and the increase in the number of volunteers.
  - 12030: Children:** Requested increase because of the increase in the cost of supplies and additional activities.
  - 12050: Youth:** Requested an increase because of the increase in their expenses. Also, the Stewardship Committee asked Brenda not to rely on designated funds for her expenses. They asked her to include her

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camp expenses in her budget request. He told us that designated funds create work for the counters. He asked us to trust the Stewardship Committee ability to manage the money. He told us that you need to add the designated funds back to the balance when you figure the total income for the church.

**12060: Seeds of Faith Nursery:** This account had no funds before. With the new babies in our church, funds are needed.

**Discipleship:**

**13020: Library and Media Center:** They requested more funds so they could purchase new books.

**Worship:**

**14020: Children's Choir Budget:** This is to cover music for a children's program.

**14060: Lord's Supper Supplies:** This increase is due to the rising price of the supplies and holding it more often.

**14070: Stewardship Supplies:** The cost of QuickBooks has risen.

**Fellowship:**

**15001: Church Picnics:** This is increased because of the rising costs of food and the cost of Port-a-Potties when holding a baptism at a member's home.

**15030: Hostess Committee:** They need to replenish pantry supplies. Also, the committee provides the meat at church events.

**Administrative:**

**16020: Computer Software and Support:** This is to cover the renewal of our website host, GoDaddy. Good news is the renewal is for 3 years.

**16087: Pastor's Discretionary Fund:** Pastor Chris needs more funds to pay for lunches with church members.

**Properties:**

**17060: Utilities:** This is because of the rising cost of fees. Increased baptisms means more water, which has also risen in cost. Power has increased as well. The Properties Team is taking measures to reduce usage, such as replacing the lights with LEDs.

**Personnel:**

**Salaries for Staff (18010, 18020, 18030, 18035, 18040, 18050, and Tithe.ly Administrator):** Personnel Committee requested a maximum of a 2% increase in salary for all staff to be awarded on the anniversary of their hire dates.

**18060 Secretary Substitute:** This was requested by the Personnel after 2 years of not requesting funds.

**Total Budget:** \$368,350.77, an increase of only 3.68% or around \$7000.00.

**Questions and discussion:**

When Corky asked for questions, Vickie Pruden asked for clarification on the Secretary's Substitute Funds. She wanted to know who it would be and what they would be expected to do. Buddy King, Personnel Committee Leader, expressed gratitude for the volunteers who have been covering the desk. He explained that we would like to have a substitute that is fully trained in all aspects of the job. Buddy added that we are beginning the search for the right individual, preferably a member of the church. Angie asked about if the hours for Tithe.ly position were the same. Gerald German, BOD Chair, told her that it was still 5 hours a week.

**Vote to Approve the Proposed 2026 Budget:**

James called for a vote to approve the proposed 2026 Budget. It passed without opposition.

**Close of Meeting:**

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James asked for any other new business. When there was none, he called for a motion to close the business meeting. Corky Hogge made the motion, and Ron Michaud seconded the motion. Pastor Chris closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Juli Semanski, Church Clerk  
Oct. 20, 2025