

Minutes of Jan 18, 2026, Newington Baptist Church Business Meeting

Call to order: James King, Moderator

Opening Prayer: Pastor Chris

Reading of Minutes of Oct. 19, 2025, NBC Business Meeting:

After the congregation silently read the minutes, James called for a motion to accept the minutes as they stand. Corky Hogge made the motion. Jerry Young seconded the motion. When James called for a vote, there was opposition by Vickie Pruden opposed. She said that she needed more time to read them. She asked how corrections were made. James told her to get with me, the Church Clerk. We would vote on the amended minutes at the next business meeting.

Reports:

Financial: Wanda German, Treasurer

Wanda's reports are as follows:

Newington Baptist Church Congregational Report Oct-Dec 2025

Money Market CD #290005745

Opening Balance \$106,171.96

Matured on December 27, 2025

\$54,015.65 was reinvested for a 7-month period with a maturity date of 07/27/26.

\$53,200.00 was withdrawn and deposited into the Church's Operating Checking Account to help cover the cost of proposed property improvements. The Stewardship Committee will evaluate the cost of the improvements and reinvest a portion of the funds that were deposited into the Church's Operating Checking account in January 2026.

**January 9, 2026: \$25,000.00 was withdrawn from the Operating Checking Account and invested in a 7-month Certificate of Deposit with a maturity date of August 9, 2026.

Ellis Hall CD #290005749

Opening Balance \$28,469.96

Matured on December 27, 2025

\$23,749.82 was reinvested for a 7-month period with a maturity date of 07/27/2026.

\$5,000.00 was withdrawn and put in the designated account #251141 Missions/Local Outreach as directed by the Board of Directors.

Endowment Funds

Education

5 students were awarded scholarships from the Education Endowment in 2025.

Designated Donations

Lottie Moon \$1,829.48=year

Annie Armstrong \$1,625.00=year

Alma Hunt \$860.00=year

Associational Missions	\$290.00=Year
CareNet Crisis Center	\$2,307.25=year
Teresa Hudler Missionary	\$1,316.00=year
BGAV Texas Disaster Relief	\$2,806.00=year
Operation Christmas Child	\$5,385.00=year
Youth **Approx. Misc.	\$2,340.00
Fundraisers	\$2,560.33
Meals	\$1,044.34
VBS	\$285.04=year
Bethel Bear Pack	\$1,527.00=year

Newington Baptist Church Profit & Loss vs Actual January-December 2025

The difference between the income received through undesignated tithes and offerings in 2025 and actual expenses for the year was \$6,214.73. This amount was transferred in January to the designated account #258300- Deferred Maintenance Future and will be reflected in next quarter’s Designated Funds Report.

Board of Directors: Gerald German, Chair of the BOD

Gerald German’s report follows:

As we begin 2026, the Board of Directors will be focusing on several key areas over the next four months:

- **Board Membership**

We welcome **Emily Mathews** to the Board as she steps into the position previously held by Doug Hull. With this transition, several committee oversight assignments have been adjusted. Committee chairs and team leaders may have a new Board oversight representative. To see the updated assignments, please visit the church website for the current organizational chart prepared by the Nominating Committee.

- **Policies & Procedures Review**

The Board will be working with each committee chair and team leader to review and update all Policies & Procedures. Our goal is to complete this process by **April 01, 2026**. Special attention will be given to a full rewrite of the **Security, Emergency, and Safety Program** P&P this year. Please remember that all P&P documents, except Security/Emergency/Safety and Personnel, are available on the church website for review.

- **Insurance Review**

We will begin our scheduled review of the church’s insurance coverage with Brotherhood Mutual.

- **Virginia State Incorporation Update**

Our annual update with the Commonwealth of Virginia will begin shortly in coordination with our legal advisors.

- **Building Maintenance & Projects.**

The Board will continue working with the Properties Committee on the 2026 major projects, including:

- Roof replacement where and when needed.
- Nursery conversion to the former Trinity classroom & renovation of the old USDA room into a SS classroom
- Still working on a new NBC front sign
- New carpet in areas of the church

Joe will provide additional details during the Properties Committee report.

- **Tithe.ly Administration**

As Board Chair, I will continue working with Heather on the Tithe.ly contract as needed in managing the system.

- **CPR/AED Training**

The BOD has coordinated CPR/AED training for church staff, preschool staff, and interested church members on February 7, 2026. The Pastor will share more information on this in his report.

- **Questions About the Board**

If you have questions about the Board of Directors, why we exist, what we do, or how we serve, please speak with me or any Board member. We welcome your questions. Our role is to faithfully manage the business and administrative responsibilities of the church.

Action Team and Committees

Preschool: Stephanie Smith, Preschool Director

Stephanie's report is as follows:

- 1) We are interviewing teachers for the four-year-old teaching position, interviews scheduled for the week of January 26. We have some strong candidates and are hopeful we will be filling the position after these interviews.
- 2) We have completed our fire inspection and health department inspection and have submitted all required paperwork for our licensing exemption renewal. We will have our final inspection for the school year sometime in February.
- 3) At our last meeting I mentioned that we would be looking at options to replenish the ground cover on the playground. We have gotten quotes on different materials, and we are working with the board to figure out the best option. We will hopefully be removing the pea gravel sometime in the spring, to replace it with a ground cover that will both bring us up to code for our license requirements and be ADA compliant.
- 4) Lastly, we have opened enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. We are enrolling for all classes, including the kindergarten.

Children's Ministry: Heather King, Children's Ministry Director

Heather's report follows:

We have exciting things ahead in 2026 for the Newington Children's Ministry!

Tentative dates for upcoming event:

- Saturday, April 4 in the afternoon for the Egg Hunt
- June 22-26 from 9 a.m. to noon for VBS

Egg Hunt planning meeting will be in February, so we start the preparations.

New Children's Wing Renovation Project Underway!

In 2026, we are working on creating a Children's Wing so that all of our kids' classes for birth through grade 5 are in the same part of the building. This is something I began praying about and considering last August and it's now in process!

This will:

- Put Jerry Young's class and the nursery farther back in the building to help keep our kids safer.
- Make drop-off and pick-up easier for our families since all the kids will be in the same area.
- Make it easier for us to use digital check-in for our kids' classes.
- Increase the size of our nursery, which allows for us to care for more children and give them more room to play.
- Allow for greater children's ministry team interaction instead of us being separated throughout the building.
- Bless the preschool as they continue to have large class sizes by giving them a designated teacher work area for their desks, curriculum, books, and more.

We have been generously gifted just over \$6000 for this project.

We also have the most full nursery volunteer rotation that I have seen in many years, making this an exciting time to see what God is doing with kids and their families at Newington! The Properties Team and Corky from the BOD are overseeing the building work such as installing a double-bowl sink, hooking up hot water, installing a partition, replacing the baseboards, and more. Thanks to them for their hard work! Thanks to the Trinity Class for being willing to transition to the History and Prayer Room! Thanks to the nursery team and Jerry for being willing to move classrooms and to those who have been praying for this project. We hope to open our new area sometime in the spring.

Personnel Committee: Buddy King, Chair of the Personnel Committee

Buddy's report is as follows:

- **Motion 1: Tithely Administrator to be a permanent position.**

James called for the motion. Corky made the motion. It passed without opposition.

- **Motion 2: Heather King be approved to continue in the position as the Tithe.ly administrator at 5 hours a week.**
James called for the motion. Gerald made the motion. It passed without opposition.
- Personnel Committee voted to keep staff annual reviews on the same dates as they currently stand.
- The Personnel P and P has been updated to include comp. time and flex time procedures. Also, some typos were corrected.
- The Personnel Committee is looking to add a member to the committee and has submitted this request through the nominating committee.
- We have begun a review of church staff salaries with the help of Jeff Cranford of the BGAV.
- The Custodian submitted her resignation. Her last day is Jan. 30, 2026. We will put an ad in the church bulletin and the Gloucester Gazette. We will begin interviews. We are open to suggestions from the congregation. They don't have to be a church member, but they will undergo a background check.
- We have not had any interest for a substitute for the administrative assistant, so we are pulling the ad in the church bulletin. We will continue using volunteers in the office.

Properties: Joe Semanski, Chair

Joe's report is as follows:

- Installed ADA compliant handrails in the Ladies' and Men' bathrooms near the Trinity Room.
- Making good progress in the conversion of the Trinity room. They will be painting the room soon.
- Covered the janitorial duties for our custodian, Heather Honchak while she was on Christmas break. We also cleaned the kitchen, the downstairs restrooms, and gym during our Guest week vacation.
- Contracted and oversaw the repair of the hallway lights in the stairway to the third floor and the stairway to the balcony.
- Contracted and oversaw the replacement of the roof on the sanctuary and the portico.

Deacons: Joe Semanski, Chair

Joe reported that Pastor Chris is training Matt and Kyle to become deacons.

Youth Ministry: Brenda Armistead, Youth Ministry Leader

Brenda's report follows:

- Chili/Soup Cookoff raised \$555.91. Thank you, Newington, for your generosity. Congrats to Joe for the Best Chili and Beth Henderson for the Best Soup.
- Youth Sunday is scheduled for Feb. 22, 2026.
- Planning another fundraiser...more info to follow.

- No Youth on April 8, 2026, because of Spring Break in Gloucester Public Schools.
- Camp Piankitank: July 19 to July 24.
- Thank you to Catherine King and Andrew for painting the rest of the youth room ceiling on New Year's Eve.

Benevolence: Pastor Chris reported in Frank Wingfield's absence

The Benevolence account has a healthy balance, about \$5000. Members of our congregation in need may ask to receive assistance from this account. We also give \$300 to \$500 twice a year to Jubilee, an organization including our church and 15 others. It offers financial assistance to community members in need.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Chris Grella

Chris's report is as follows:

- Continuing Deacons in Training w/Kyle Pankowski, David Beckley & Matt Morgan – 7 months until May.
- Continue with twice/month prayer & share w/ three other local pastors.
- Led the Praises and Pie service on Sun. Nov. 23rd. About 50 people attended.
- Men' small group continues every other Thursday at 6 pm. 9 men are attending.
 - Began a new video series on Understanding and reaching our culture with the Gospel
- Gospel of John message staring back up this Sunday. Christmas series went well.
 - Youth Sunday now scheduled for Feb. 22nd in my absence.
- Wed. Deeper Bible study in Isaiah continues until mid-June 2026. (Christmas party on 12/17)
- Led and spoke at the Community Blue Christmas service on Sun. Dec. 14 @ 6 pm @ Grace on Main
- Did an overnight shift on Sun. Jan. 4th for GUEST at Newington
- Preparing for the Jubilee unity service next Thursday Jan.22nd at 12:15 pm and service at 7 pm.
- Working on a 5-week thematic message series...'40 days of listening, starting Feb. 24!
- Mission team has approved going back to Ky March 23-27. Packing boxes on Sat. Feb. 28 @ 10 am

New Business:

1. Business Meeting Voting Process:

James explained that our church's voting process is defined by our Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, which is to vote by voice unless we are voting on a new pastor. In that case, we vote by ballot. Our Constitution and Bylaws requires a quorum and does not allow voting by proxy. When Vickie Pruden questioned how the process of voting by voice could be changed, James explained that it would require a change to our Constitution and Bylaws. These changes would have to be presented to the Deacons and the Board of Directors who would have to first approve the change and then present the change for a vote by the congregation. The change would need to be presented to the congregation 30 days prior to voting on it.

James also explained that any member present at a church business meeting can move to amend a motion for a vote by ballot.

2. Reading Church Business Meeting Minutes Before the Meeting:

Jerry Young made the motion that we send the church business meeting minutes out to the congregation by NBC connect two weeks before the upcoming meeting. Dick Pruden seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

3. Nominations:

Heather King made a motion that Walter Johnson become a member of the Personnel Committee. When James King called for a vote, it passed with no opposition.

Heather King made a motion that Sharon Shelton become a member of the Sunday School Committee as a substitute teacher. When James called for a vote, it passed with no opposition.

4. Treasurer’s Annual Report to the Congregation:

Wanda was advised that she make this report yearly as per our audit. She told us that we have no debts, so she only needed to report on our assets. Her report is as follows:

Current Assets:

Operating Checking Account	\$ 143,498.53
Certificates of Deposit	
#290005749	\$ 23,749.82
#290005745	\$ 54,015.65
#290018893	\$ 42,928.66
#290031925	\$ 30,093.21
Wells Fargo Investment Accounts:	
Education	\$ 53,756.65
Children’s Camp	\$ 10,219.12
Cemetery	\$ 13,403.35
Non-Current Assets:	
Tangible Property & Equipment	\$ 307,286.49
Building	\$4,319,970.00
Land	\$ 963,600.00

Total Current and Non-Current Assets: \$5,962,521.48

James King called for a motion to dismiss. Corky Hogge made the motion and Jerry Young seconded the motion.

Pastor Chris led us in a closing prayer.

Minutes recorded by Juli Semanski, Church Clerk 1_19_2026

Minutes corrected by Juli Semanski, Church Clerk 4_19_2026