

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

August 18, 2025 6:30pm Room 103/104

Members present: Aaron Clark, David Clark, Cindy Gonsowski, Abby Johnston, Rachel Katterhenrich, Kathy Myers, Amy Wanner, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Patti Morlock

Members Absent: Doug Knisely, Bonnie Swanson

Opening prayer: Pastor Patti Morlock started our time together with prayer.

Devotion: President Aaron Clark led council in a devotion from Mark 4:1-20, the Parable of the Sower.

Recognition of Approval of April minutes: Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich confirmed that the June and July minutes have been approved by a majority of council members.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti reported that since Billie's arrival as intern, they've had much to keep them busy, including funerals, wedding prep, a vow renewal, and more. The women's Bible study has been going well and will conclude this week. Pastor Patti attended the NALC convocation along with several other delegates; a summary of their experiences will be in the Eagle. The preparations for the Women's Tea Party on September 6 are continuing well and the organizers are thankful to have received a Thrivent grant to help with the costs.

A question was asked about whether council needs to take action based on any information received from the convocation. Pastor Patti explained that much of the vision casting that was done at the convocation doesn't fit with our congregation at this moment. However, there is a focus on discipleship, particularly through Billie's intern project with Life-to-Life Discipleship groups. The constitutional amendments that were scheduled to be made at convocation were put on hold.

Pastoral Intern Report: Billie reported that she has been preparing to teach the Catechism class and that is going well. She is compiling a list of all small groups that meet within and outside of the building. She will begin Life-to-Life Discipleship training on September 8 with a small group. She reports that she has also been doing a lot of in-home and hospital visitation.

Financial report: Treasurer Kathy Myers reports that the finance report has been sent to council members and filed. Our accounts are at healthy levels. A lot of the money has been moved into money market accounts to be able to gain interest for better stewardship of what we have. A couple clarifying questions were asked and answered.

Kathy has received a request and made a motion to spend \$500 from the youth-available account to purchase pop-up tents that can be used for Carnival, church picnic, Arts in the

Alley, and other events. Paul Wittenberg seconded the motion. There was a short discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Team Report: President Aaron Clark reported that the executive team met with (most of) the newly formed call team to launch them into the call process. They will meet soon to select the chairperson and contact the NALC call team liaison and continue the process.

Aaron reported that there was a request from the city for an easement in order to widen the sidewalks. Property team received the request and ensured it was in order and then the contract was signed by President Aaron Clark and Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich. He also noted that we received \$500 compensation from the city.

Membership Report: Pastor Patti reported that we have three incoming members by transfer, Linda Lewis, Steven Isaac, and Debra Issac, and motioned that we receive these members into our congregation. Aaron Clark seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Unfinished business:

- Church grant update: Amy Wanner reported that all of the applicants for the grant have now been contacted. Groveport Zion held a vote and approved unanimously to move forward with their project and they will receive \$5000 of the grant. Mount Zion Lucas will receive the other \$5000 of the grant.

New Business:

- **Congregational concerns:**
 - Rachel received a concern from a representative of the Sunday school teachers that they feel they are not able to participate in the life and business of the church because many of the meetings are being held during the Sunday school hour. Discussion followed about possible solutions. It was recognized that many different approaches have been attempted and no single solution will suit every situation. It was concluded to start quarterly meetings 15 minutes earlier, at 9:15, and not start Sunday school until the meeting concludes. The annual meeting in January, which is typically a little longer, will continue to be held at noon.
 - There was a question about some of the building updates- the lights in the sanctuary are still being fixed and waiting for a part. There was a faulty smoke detector in the FLC which brought the fire department on Friday, but thankfully no further issue

- There was a reminder that council members should be checking in with their network areas within the church that they are serving as liaisons to make sure they have that connection point to council

Prayer requests: Members shared life updates and personal prayer requests.

The meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer together.

ACTION ITEMS:

Review the minutes and respond to Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich within 48 hours with approval/additions/corrections (All council members)

Contact ministry leaders within assigned network (All council members)

Next meeting: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm in room 103/104