

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

September 15, 2025 Room 103/104

Members present: Aaron Clark, David Clark, Cindy Gonsowski, Abby Johnston, Rachel Katterhenrich, Doug Knisely, Kathy Myers, Bonnie Swanson, Amy Wanner, Paul Wittenberg, Pastor Patti Morlock, Intern Billie Fisch

Members Absent: none

Opening prayer: President Aaron Clark started our time together with prayer.

Call meeting to order: President Aaron Clark called the Council Meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Devotion: Pastor Patti shared a word from Philippians 1:8. Then the council discussed a devotion prepared by David Clark on Isaiah 40:1-8 about how to stay grounded in God's Word through changes happening around us.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti reported on the following:

- October 12 will be a baptism Sunday, with 5 baptisms being celebrated in a combined service at 11am that day.
- Nominating committee will begin to meet and follow a prayerful process to nominate members to several positions within the church.
- Pastor Patti motioned to accept the membership report, acknowledging 4 outgoing members: Rhonda Maynard, Lori Wobig, and Thomas and Sally Weisenberger. Rachel Katterhenrich seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Pastor Patti continues to meet with not only the intern but also the committee working with her as well.
- Women's Bible study plans are underway, the next study will focus on the parables of Jesus.

Intern Report: Pastoral Intern Billie Fisch reported on the following: It has been a busy couple of weeks, including an Internship Retreat, followed by speaking at the Women's Tea. Billie started teaching the confirmation Sunday school class and the next day also started leading the Life-to-Life Discipleship group.

Financial report: Treasurer Kathy Myers reports that the finance report has been sent to council members and filed. Kathy also reported on the following:

- Money has been distributed as grants from the accessibility project, as previously discussed. Both congregations sent Thank You notes and Amy Wanner will write a message for the Eagle.
- The call team (who have selected their chair, Steve Johnston, and a secretary, Kate Shrum) has had a meeting with the NALC call process coordinator, Pastor Shelly Schultz and are planning a workshop with the congregation on October 4th from 9:30-3:30, including a lunch. They are requesting up to \$2,000 for travel for the NALC representatives, childcare for participants, lunch supplies, and workshop supplies. Aaron Clark motioned to approve spending up to \$2,000 from the endowment general available income for the senior pastor call team workshop. Bonnie Swanson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Executive Team Report: Aaron Clark reported that the executive team met recently and discussed several items, including some considerations for the 2026 budget and the upcoming work of the nominating committee.

Aaron made a motion to ask the congregation (at the October quarterly meeting) to create a permanent line item in the budget for an intern fund. Abby Johnston seconded the motion. Discussion followed, including clarifying that if approved, this would allow for the line item to then be included in the 2026 budget that the congregation will consider for approval in January. The motion passed.

Unfinished business: none

Congregational concerns:

- Bonnie Swanson brought up the card ministry that has been done previously by several members, but currently is mostly all done by Elaine Rupp from her home. Bonnie wondered if there might be funds available to help her with postage. Council members brainstormed some possible ways to help, such as putting out a donation box for stamps, doing a drive as part of a service project from another group, or doing a fundraiser event to help.
- Bonnie Swanson also gave an update on the OWLs ministry. They've had a lot of activity and growth, including over 40 people going to Der Dutchman recently. They've also had good speakers come to visit and good fellowship. One concern is that they've had some trouble with microphones and being able to hear the speakers. A couple council members offered to help find a solution.
- Aaron Clark gave an update from the property team, with dates for various stages of the renovation, including the parking lot being resurfaced in late September and scaffolding for the bell tower which will also begin in late September.

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)

Amy Wanner will write an update for the Eagle about the grants.

All members are encouraged to plan to attend the October 4 workshop.

Next meeting: Monday, October 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm in room 103/104