

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

November 17, 2025 Room 103/104

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

Members Absent: Doug Knisely

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

Call meeting to order: President Aaron Clark called the Council Meeting to order at 6:42.

Devotion: Kathy Myers led a devotion on worship and remembering that everyday tasks and serving (such as being on church council!) can be an act of worship.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti Morlock reported on several items:

- She has worked with the supply pastors on a preaching schedule for the next six months. Intern Billie Fisch will increase her preaching schedule so she will have a chance to practice preaching often while she has the support of this environment.
- Billie was also asked to prepare the themes for the Lenten services, the overall theme will be 'In the Wilderness'
- Pastoral care needs have been heavy recently and may continue to be for some time
- Pastor Patti has been working with the internship committee as Billie works through the 7-8 categories of required practices for a pastoral intern
- The NALC Ohio Region Convocation will be held at our church again in May 2026. Delegates should plan to attend and all are welcome. Hospitality volunteers will be arranged.
- Jason has been monitoring the cleaning crew to try to improve their services.

Pastoral Intern Report: Intern Billie Fisch reported that she has done her first funeral sermon and learned a lot. She has been doing a lot of pastoral visits. Life-to-Life Discipleship training is wrapping up soon and will have a large group meeting for the congregation in January (snow date in February). Dave Keil kindly helped with getting the books printed for that at a great rate. Billie is trying to make sure our church is providing small group opportunities at many different days and times of day. Billie also reported that catechism is going well, the students like the curriculum. She has been preparing questions for the week based on the coming lectionary readings and she plans to put these in the NewsNotes for all to use as well.

Financial report: Treasurer Kathy Myers reports that the finance report has been sent to council members and filed. Giving has been down recently although attendance has been steady, so the church is being cautious with spending. Money is being used from the bequest holding account for the renovation projects, so that will be reflected in future reports.

Kathy presented the 2026 budget to council and pointed out several changes and adjustments that have been made to have the best stewardship we can and reflect current spending. Rachel Katterhenrich motioned to approve the 2026 budget, to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January. Bonnie Swanson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Membership Report: Pastor Patti reported that two people have joined the congregation through adult baptism. Pastor Patti motioned to accept Jayce Walls and Amanda Gonsowski to our membership. Cindy Gonsowski seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Team Report: President Aaron Clark reported that Executive Council will meet soon with Pastor Patti for a year end discussion. Kathy also mentioned that she and Abby Johnston will meet soon with the missions team to discuss how to best use future fundraisers.

New Business:

- Call Team update and Congregational Profile: Aaron presented the congregational profile received from the call team for a senior pastor. The council reviewed the profile and commends the call team for their work in putting together a profile that reflects who we are as a congregation.

Congregational concerns:

- Kathy shared a note from AA thanking the congregation for allowing their group to meet at St. John's
- David Clark shared that he had recently attended a security program, along with some other staff members. He shared some highlighted items from the training, and some recommendations that they had for our church. One of these is to have anti-ram measures in place to prevent vehicles from being able to enter doorways or the playground (largely from medical incidents). Jason is applying for a grant to help offset the cost of installing these. Further trainings could be arranged from the same group. Aaron pointed out the need to always balance safety as a priority and also having a welcoming environment for our members and guests.
- Amy Wanner asked what the procedure is for maintenance concerns and Pastor Patti explained that there is a form in the office that will be passed on to Jason.
- Amy also shared a concern about how information is passed on after council meetings, particularly when a decision is made about a concern that has been brought to attention. In general, the person who brought the concern to council will then report back to the person involved. Rachel said she will make a note to be sure to include these as Action Items in our minutes as well, so it is clear who is responsible for that communication.
- Bonnie Swanson brought up the card ministry being done by Elaine Rapp and gave a more full explanation of it. She did have someone donate stamps recently which is helpful to her ministry.

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)

Kathy and Abby – meet with missions team

Executive team and Pastor Patti – meet for year end discussion

Next meeting: There will be no meeting in December. The annual meeting will be held January 18 at noon.