

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

March 16, 2026 Room 103/104

Members present: President Dr. Scott Hirth, Vice President David Clark, Treasurer Teresa Orahod, Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich, Cindy Gonsowski, Dennis Imbrock, Abby Johnston, Doug Knisely, Susan Previts, Dave Stallard, Bonnie Swanson, Amy Wanner, Pastor Patti Morlock

Members Absent: none

Call meeting to order: Dr. Hirth called the Council Meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Opening prayer and devotions: David Clark led a devotion on James 3:17-18.

Approval of previous month minutes: Teresa Orahod motioned to approve the minutes from the February retreat/meeting. Doug Knisely seconded and the motion carried.

Donation: A basket was passed around to collect a donation for Lutheran Social Services.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti reported on several things she has been working on: two funerals, a worship training coming up in coordination with Megan Grossman, first communion class coming up in May, talking with a possible youth candidate, and working with the intern who will finish her time with us at the end of June.

Finance Report: Treasurer Teresa Orahod distributed the monthly report and invited questions. None were given and Teresa motioned for approval of the report. Dennis Imbrock seconded the motion and it passed. Teresa made a motion to amend last month's motion for the divider in the Sunday school room. On behalf of property team, she requests to spend up to \$5000 for the divider from the property endowment fund available income. Abby Johnston seconded and the motion was approved.

Membership report: Dr. Hirth acknowledged the membership report which was distributed to members. It is attached to the minutes at the end.

Prayer requests: Members shared personal prayer requests and follow-up from previous shared requests.

Property Team update: Dennis Imbrock shared the following updates:

- A job description has been created/updated for the facilities manager role. One person has already been interviewed but declined the job.
- There was some shingle damage to the roof – estimates are being received for repair
- Tom Lang has offered to take care of the church sign
- Brad Wahl has offered his time to help maintain the fire suppression system in the kitchen.

Tech update: David Clark reported on several technology and security updates:

- David outlined where they would like to put additional cameras and the infrastructure needed to maintain the security system. He made a motion to spend up to \$3000 from the accessibility fund to purchase the components and complete these security updates. Bonnie Swanson seconded the motion. Council had a brief discussion. Rachel asked if a policy will be written on access to the camera system and David said he would work on that. The motion carried.
- New door access system - David would like to add key card/ code access points to 3 exterior doors and 7 interior office doors. He has one quote for the materials and labor and is still pursuing others. He can hopefully bring this item to the April meeting of the congregation.
- Membership and communication system – David has talked with some of the staff about a cloud-based church management software. The best one they have tried so far is called ChMeetings. The financial side of things will stay on Shepherd's Staff, but ChMeetings has many functions that would be helpful to the staff and congregation including picture directory, attendance capabilities, and scheduling capabilities, among others. David made a motion to spend \$500 per year from the Technology Fund for the subscription to ChMeetings. Rachel seconded the motion and it passed.

Background checks: Council revisited the discussion of background checks, with more information on the levels of checks available to us through Shepherd's Watch. After discussion, the following motions were made:

- David Clark motioned to make a policy that officers of the church receive a background check at level D upon election of every non-consecutive term. Pastor Patti seconded and the motion passed.
- David Clark motioned that pastors of our congregation receive a background check at level H at employment and then after every 5 years. Doug Knisely seconded and the motion passed.
- David Clark motioned that all salaried and hourly staff of our congregation receive a background check at level J, while those on the security team receive one at level H, at employment and then after every 5 years. Dennis Imbrock seconded and the motion passed.
- Pastor Patti motioned that all youth volunteers receive a background check at level D when they begin and every 5 years. Dennis Imbrock seconded and the motion passed.
- To be discussed at the next meeting – where to budget for these background checks and who will be responsible for ordering and keeping a record of them.

Missions: A letter from the missions board was reviewed. There was continued discussion about the current mission fund line items. Dr. Hirth shared some insight from Warren Grody about how the funds may be used. David Clark made a motion to add a line item within the benevolence fund for the Mexico and Alaska missions. Pastor Patti seconded. Upon further discussion, Abby Johnston motioned to table the issue until a representative from the missions board can be present so all can discuss together and share information openly. Amy Wanner seconded and the motion passed. A representative will be invited to the next meeting.

Audit Team: Two people were contacted and agreed to be on the team, but one may not be eligible so the approval was tabled until next meeting.

Congregational concern: Pastor Patti and Bonnie both reported that a member of the bereavement team is willing to serve as a liaison to families during funerals, as a follow-up to last month's request.

Pastor Patti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abby seconded and the meeting was adjourned following saying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Action Items:

All members – send minutes corrections to Rachel

Teresa – prepare next month's devotion

Amy and Pastor Patti – prepare renewal contracts for interim youth staff

Teresa – report back to property team on approval for divider

David Clark – follow-up on bids for security updates

David Clark – prepare policy on camera usage and access

David Clark – begin subscription to ChMeetings and rollout to staff

Dr. Hirth – add background check budget and organization to April meeting agenda

Abby – invite Diana Imbrock and/or other missions board representatives to April meeting

Pastor Patti – contact audit team candidates

Next meeting: April 20, 2026 6:30 pm

St. John's March membership report

Members Incoming

- **Donna Conway:** Transfer from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, New York
- **Bill and Christine Snashall:** Affirmation of faith
- **Toni Goldhardt:** Transfer from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Pickerington, Ohio
- **Cheryl Normoyle:** Affirmation of faith
- **Debbie Ashley:** Affirmation of faith
- **Amanda and Jeremy Gonsowski:** Affirmation of faith
- **Nathan and Amanda Weber:** Transfer from First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan
- **Alec Thomas:** Affirmation of faith
- **Mark and Elizabeth Brandt:** Affirmation of faith
- **Mary Ann McCreary:** Reinstate
- **James and Suzanne Geddes:** Reinstate as Associate members

Baptisms

- **Greyson Musick:** Child baptism 1/3/26
- **Magnolia Wininger:** Child baptism 1/3/26
- **Ryleigh Wininger:** Child baptism 1/3/26
- **Wyatt Brandt:** Child baptism 1/11/26
- **Hannah Carroll:** Child baptism 1/11/26

Members Outgoing

- **David, Lisa, Lilli, Alli, and Ally Ferguson:** Transfer to Concordia Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH
- **Karl Eiginger:** Transfer to Cornerstone Global Methodist Church, Marysville, Ohio
- **Jane Stenerson:** Death 1/10/26
- **Herbert Weisenberger:** Death 1/23/26
- **Beverly Wilson:** Death 2/7/26
- **Mildred Quinn:** Death 2/16/26