

## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES**

Date: 2/27/26

The February Congregation Council Meeting was held on 2/25/26

**Council Members Present:** Pastor Bannister, Ashdon Bobbie, Carolyn Cutilli, Alan Divver, Olivia McCammon, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Carol Schlegel, Jenn Shaw, Janice Vallone, Mark Vallone, Cathy Wesemann, Ken Woods, and Louise Woods.

**Absent:** Kiran Bodamer, Anna Sweeney,

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Divver at 6:08 p.m. The scripture was read by Louise Woods and the prayer was offered by Pastor Bo.

### **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:**

None

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from the January 2026 Council meeting as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Ken Woods / Barbara Quinn. **MOTION CARRIED**

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from the Council meeting to elect officers which followed the Annual meeting on February 1, 2026 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Jenn Shaw / Ashdon Bobbie.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **REPORTS:**

Pastor Bannister – Attached – Alan mentioned that the zoom meeting that was held due to weather was good to see. And the communication worked well also.

President, Alan Divver – Attached

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached. Carol explained January finances were disappointing due to the snow plowing being over budget and she is expecting a high bill. For February, she said that we should be in a better place, budget wise. Additionally, February donations were up significantly, which is helping reduce the deficit from January. Carol believes that the congregation is reacting to our call for financial help at the Annual Meeting. Alan suggested it may also be people making up for missed donations in January.

\*It was moved and seconded to accept the Finance Committee's report as presented. The motion was made and seconded by Ken Woods / Barbarba Quin. **MOTION CARRIED**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship Connections – No report
- Gardening Committee – See report
- Generosity Committee – No report
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report – Giant in Willow Grove is shutting down and they have been a large, generous donor to the cupboard. Donations overall have been down significantly in January and February. Stock is okay currently; Montgomery County will continue to support us but Bucks County will not. Clients have dropped; it is suspected because ICE has been talked about coming into Montgomery County. Registration books are kept locked up as a precaution.
- Kids & Family Ministry – No report, meeting postponed due to scheduling conflicts. Ashdon said that having a meal before Ash Wednesday service was good, but having a kid's craft did not work out very well.
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report – Ken pointed out the painting in Fellowship Hall went well. The gas smell was also finally fixed. PECO came out and found the leak and Peters came out and fixed the problem. Alan asked about the noise of the boiler and Ken said that it doesn't seem to be any worse than it's always been.
- Social Media – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- Women's Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – No report

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Vitality Survey – Alan said that the survey was wrapped up the week of the Annual meeting. He has reached out to Reverend Manson for the number of responses but has not heard back yet. Alan will follow up again this week and let Council know any results he finds out and what the next steps are. Carol asked about them visiting anonymously but Alan has not heard anything about that. Janice asked about the line of questioning and how it transfers to useful information for us but Alan and Council do not know.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

- Insurance Liability for Outside Groups – We have it for everyone now.
- Ken asked about the status of the directory. Alan said he would like to do something more simplistic but had it on the back burner while we were pushing for the vitality survey. Carol said it would not be published but on line to save printing costs. Alan said the issue last time was that the format didn't work, very few pictures were received. Phone numbers in the directory and permission to publish information was also an issue. Pastor said he would like to check some other churches as to how they handle their directories. Alan will start with the membership list now that we finally have that mostly together and go from there as to what information to include and the formatting. Carol asked why we need a directory. Alan said that the old one was very helpful to people knowing who people are or to look up addresses for Christmas cards, to send flowers, etc.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Audrey Gobetz, the head of the Generosity committee has left St John's for personal reasons so a new committee chair will be needed for that committee.

Janice asked if we could do exit interviews with people that leave. It was agreed that whenever possible we would like to do that. She did share that Carol did have future plans for events so we will have to get with the Outreach Committee to follow up on those ideas.

- The All Committee Meeting scheduled for this month was postponed due to weather. A new date of Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 was agreed upon and will be put in upcoming announcements.
- Property Committee Priorities – Property would like to get five priority projects from Council to work on. Carol asked if these are projects for Property or things that require contractors. Mark explained that is for the Property Committee to handle.

- Security cameras for outside the building were suggested. We would need to be careful where they are located for privacy concerns. The purpose would be for church security.
  - Painting the Food Pantry was suggested, although the food pantry does try to be self-sufficient, it is part of St Johns' building.
  - A new, electronic sign was suggested, although that would require funding. Carol said that we need to decide what we want and then figure out the cost of what's wanted, and then fundraise or look for donors to cover it. Janice said that we need to look at what people see; maybe wait for the vitality survey before spending money or upgrading. Carolyn said that an electronic sign sends the message that the church is more modern, active and appealing.
  - The A/C was asked about. Alan and Carol said that that is a two-year plan. Olivia expressed concerned that the A/C may be a more pressing issue. Carol explained that we recognize the need and there is a back-up plan if the A/C fails. (Holding worship in Fellowship Hall) In the meantime we want to keep the church viable while we build the needed funds for HVAC. We have to do both.
  - Cleaning/dusting the woodwork in Fellowship Hall and elsewhere.
  - Updating the signage inside the church to help direct people.
  - Additional new tables in Fellowship Hall so that all of them are new, and then dispose of all the old tables.
  - Install a railing for the four stairs leading from the office to the driveway
  - Upgrade/replace the A/C in the classrooms for outside organizations and bible school
  - Clean and wax the floors in Fellowship Hall
  - Install diamond plates to the doors going into the food pantry with the ultimate goal of replacing those doors altogether and having the new doors with locks that are different from the other outside doors. This would require getting estimates from contractors.
  - Thorough cleaning of the library room.
- Future Council Meeting Time – Alan asked if the current 6:00 time is still working. 7:00 was preferred overall so moving forward the normal starting time will be 7:00.
  - Carol gave Council an update on overall church financials. She explained that when she took over as Finance Director many things were not up to standard accounting principles. Many adjustments have been made. The biggest issue currently is that the balance sheet is never correct. The Finance committee has determined that the

beginning balance of our assets are a negative \$245,000 because debits and credits were reversed. Carol was not comfortable making an adjustment for that much money. Finance has to make the correction and will hire Aplos as a consultant at the contracted rate of \$150/hour to accomplish the fix. It will start in March and the goal is to be fixed by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Also, Carol recently learned from the bishop that benevolence used to be monthly but that has not been happening so it was changed to quarterly invoices. We have been giving annually so we need to change to quarterly. We gave \$12,000 to the synod last year.

Memorial funds / Restricted funds – a lot is in restricted accounts and it shouldn't have been. If it was restricted with a purpose and that purpose no longer exists, the money becomes unrestricted. The plan is to release some of our restricted funds. It was suggested that we pick an account that already exists and suggest them to the families rather than going to Memorials. Online donations get processed but we don't often know who it is from so no thank you notes go out for them. Carol and Ashdon will work on how to better track that. Jenn said that you should be able to add a note when you donate by phone. Carol would like to get something out to the congregation on how Memorial donations work.

It was pointed out that some committees have been using Ashdon as their secretary, which is not part of her job responsibilities. This issue will be brought up at the next All Committee meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A request to use Fellowship Hall on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-6:00 for a birthday party for Judy Divver was submitted. It will be for 30-40 people.

A Motion was made to approve building use for the above birthday party event. It was moved and seconded by Ken Woods / Jenn Shaw. MOTION CARRIED

### **CARES, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS:**

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares, concerns and celebrations.

### **NEXT MEETING: Date: 3/18/26 at 7:00**

Meeting Leader: Alan Divver

Scripture: Pastor Bo

Prayer: Mark Valone

Refreshments: Janice Valone

\*It was moved and seconded by Ken Woods / Ashdon Bobbie to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper

Council Secretary