

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 7/1/25

The June Congregation Council Meeting was held on 6/18/25

Council Members Present: Pastor Bannister, Ashdon Bobbie, Kiran Bodamer, Carolyn Cutilli, Alan Divver, Shannon O'Neill, Barbara Quinn, Bruce Roper, Carol Schlegel, Jenn Shaw, Anna Sweeney, Janice Vallone, Mark Vallone, Ken Woods, and Louise Woods.

Absent: Tom Smith

The meeting was called to order by President Shannon O'Neill at 6:00 p.m. The scripture was read by Pastor Bo and the prayer was offered by Alan Divver.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from May 2025 as presented without changes. The motion was made and seconded by Carolyn Cutilli / Alan Divver.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

President, Shannon O'Neill –Attached - Shannon said that she would like a focus meeting for goals this month. Will be focusing on unexpected costs and fundraising, staff reviews this and next month.

Pastor Bannister – Attached/Distributed.

Attendance – Attached

Finance Committee – Attached – Carol explained we are doing well managing expenses but May's deficit increased due to several older invoices coming in. A new lap top was purchased adding to our deficit increase. Easter had reduced donations which did not help. She is also hoping more HVAC donations will come in via Alan Eickhoff memorial.

*It was moved and seconded to accept the Finance Committee's report as presented. The motion was made and seconded by Jenn Shaw / Barbara Quinn. **MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Altar Flowers/Dedication Flowers –Shannon asked if there is an issue with Christmas donations. Ashdon said that we will increase the price this year and make it more clear on the donations forms. They have to be ordered around Sept/Oct for Christmas.

- Directory Update – Ashdon has received a handful of replies, and will send out another reminder blast that people have only next week to get back to her. If no reply, we will

publish information, including a request for a picture. It was suggested that we include those pictures we do have as a separate section with just the name, but have another section with all the information. We will publish this directory on line and only print as requested.

Due to privacy concerns, we will make a pdf on a separate page in our web site that can only be accessed through a link that the office will provide in an email.

Next steps will be directory vs members list. Bo has his members list and still needs help going through it to verify. Carol believes this responsibility belongs to the Office. Bo believes that it's a big job initially and could use help. Bo would like to find out who is still living, and of those, what is their status with St John's. If they are deceased, they will be deleted from the member list. Nobody really knows when the list was last updated. Narrowing down the list will be next, possibly by reaching out to other members for help. Or take current list from Aplos and send it out to those people and tell them they are on the list and ask if they would like to be taken off the list.

- Staff Job Descriptions/Reviews/Compensation Packets and Policy – Shannon said she has contacted Mutual Ministry for availability and the job descriptions/reviews will be scheduled based on that availability. Compensation packages are to be reviewed by Exec in July.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ice cream social – no new update
- Property Committee List – The Property Committee has made a list of tasks which need attention and will be following up on them.
- Goals for 2025-2026 – align and focus – sub-council group to collaborate/communicate – Shannon feels like goals are not focused. She would like feedback from Council.
- Sign out front – It was asked if a new sign is to be an electronic sign. Yes. Property expects it to be less than \$5,000. The majority of Council voted that Property should pursue this and the Property Committee is already looking further into it.
- AC fundraising – Louise said she was asked by someone where to put donation money if people want to donate when they come to service. There is a big red box on the table in the Narthex.
- Live Stream – creating a live stream and how to roll it out – Bo explained that a take-away from staff meeting today was that we need to have a microphone for the piano. Also, we have been stopping the program at communion but there will be certain parts where we have prerecorded messages that we put in there and then come back to the live production. Carolyn likes whole service better than chopping it up and said that other churches do broadcast the whole thing. There is a difference of opinion as to what the live stream should look like or what our goal should be with it. Janice thought that

we are really trying to reach others in the community more than the existing church going public. Another concern was how much money do we want to put into it. It was suggested that it should be up to Council to decide what the goal is. Shannon suggested it fall under the Outreach committee. Alan cautioned that what we *can* do might matter more than what we *want* to do. And we have to be mindful of copyright. Carolyn pointed out that we need to consider that how we get people to it is the first step and that that needs to be a goal. Bo would like to be involved in it. Kiran said that she will be involved w/Live Steam

- Media role – How we would like to see the Media job fulfilled, what the role would be. Maybe we should concentrate on the screens in the sanctuary as the first step and then build live streaming onto that once that is established. Carol asked if there would be a position responsible for it – a technical director's person's role to manage software and hardware. This will most likely need to be a paid position at some point so we should define the role now. Same with a Finance Director, although technically a paid position, we are not paying now but in the future, we may need to. Kiran asked if we are able to advertise live streaming on the sign? Yes, once we get the kinks of live streaming worked out and have a quality program that we want to advertise.

- Kids and Family – Goal is to improve and grow the program. Bo suggested we do a prerecorded message for the kids to watch at home. Both Janice and Ashdon will be on the subcommittee.

- Community Outreach – It was suggested that this be known as Presence. This would include going to community events and having booths. Bo feels it's important and needs to be more creative than simply setting up a table. We need to establish a message we want to present when we go to events. He suggested a theme of Loving Beyond Church Walls with Compassion and Grace. Alan will be part of it, as will Janice and Ashdon, and Bo would like to be involved as well.

- Other Goals

- One page bulletin – an easy goal to accomplish by trying things over the summer.
- New Members goal – It was asked if we should have a new members goal for the year. If so, it should be a specific number.
- Bibles in the church. Bo would like this as a goal.
- Shannon would like to have subcommittees with people interested in them who will come up with measurable criteria for them.

- Approve new members (~15-20) – This will be done for the next Council meeting

A motion was made to approve the following eight confirmands: Ethan Casey, Matthew Killenbeck, Keegan Mattis, sean McGowan, Sadie O'Neill, Christine Sweeney, Richard Webekind III, Ashley Yankowski.

It was moved and seconded by Shannon O'Neill / Bruce Roper. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Shannon would like to organize St John's core values and asked Council for suggestions, in addition to the values Bo had submitted. Other suggestions were Service and Nurturing, Supporting, Embrace and Respect and Inclusion, Transparency, and Accountability. It was suggested that we could add values beginning with an "S" and a "T" for "ST" to complete the values of "JOHNS" that Pastor Bo had submitted. It was agreed to continue this conversation at the next meeting.

- Pastor Bo will be on vacation July 4-10 and has a sub for Sunday (who does not want compensation) but not Saturday yet. He will continue to look for coverage for Saturday.
- July 2nd is the Lower Bucks Conference. Nathan Krouse is leaving as our conference dean of the Lower Bucks Conference. A new dean will be elected at this meeting. Pastor Bo has been nominated and is open to the position. Bruce and Alan will attend the conference as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report
- Fellowship/Hospitality/Community Outreach – No report
- Fellowship Connection – See report. This is a new committee. Jenn Shaw gave council an introduction to it, starting with the Ice Cream Social Fellowship event. Council members will be serving the ice cream. This group is intended to be fellowship and fund raising, not necessarily food. The Ice Cream Social for example is not a "food" event, it is intended as a fundraiser. Their intention is to offset the cost of the event through donations and all proceeds above expenses would then go to where it's needed. They also still need to figure out which events already established belong to which existing committees. They will not be leading St John's Day this year.
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report – Carol told Council that we did apply for a grant from Montgomery County. Carol explained that the Spanish clientele has dropped off, most likely due to the uncertainty of ICE. She is part of an emergency contact list for HatPacks if needed. Shannon said that the Scouts may have a food drive in August in memory of Alan.
- Kids & Family Ministry – No report
- Memorials – No report
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report – Also, the water heater was replaced by Rumpf Plumbing at a cost of \$1,600
- Social Media – No report

- Stewardship – No report
- Women's Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – No report

CORRESPONDENCE:

County Choraliers – They have requested the use of Fellowship Hall on Mon nights from 9/22-12/8 from 6:30-9:30 pm for their rehearsals. Council approved.

County Choraliers – They have requested the use of the sanctuary for their Winter Performance/Concert for December 7th from 4:00-5:30 pm. Council approved.

CARES, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS:

Pastor Bo and council members shared their cares, concerns, and notable causes for celebration.

NEXT MEETING: Date: August 20, 2025

Meeting Leader: Shannon O'Neill

Scripture: Pastor Bo

Prayer: Tom Smith

Refreshments: Alan Divver

*It was moved and seconded by Shannon O'Neill / Bruce Roper to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper

Council Secretary

