

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: 3/23/26

The March Congregation Council Meeting was held on 3/18/26

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

**Absent:** Kiran Bodamer, Jenn Shaw, Anna Sweeney, Cathy Wesemann

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Divver at 7:05 p.m. The scripture was read by Pastor Bo and the prayer was offered by Mark Vallone.

### PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

### REPORTS:

Pastor Bannister – Attached

President, Alan Divver –Attached

Attendance – Attached. Attendance has been up Saturdays but down a little on Sundays.

Finance Committee – Attached – Carol said that budget is exceeding actual donations, A \$1,700 deficit increase was due to salting / snow plowing. Finance is hoping that by end of April things settle down. There will be some (budgeted) expenses coming up. Other than plowing, expenses have been mostly in line.

Carol explained that another expense (not budgeted) is a monthly expense to the Synod. It used to be paid at the end of the year so it is in overall budget, however, the Synod has explained that they would much prefer our donations more frequently.

A Motion was made that moving forward, to send St Johns' contribution to the Synod on a quarterly basis rather than annually. It was moved and seconded by Ashdon Bobbie / Carol Schlegel. **MOTION CARRIED**

Alan asked about the source of the recent increased income – Carol said that she believes it is simply that people have increased their giving. It could be Lent, but carol is hoping that everyone is simply giving a little more.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Community Outreach Ministry – No report
  - Constitution and Bylaws – No report
  - Fellowship Connections – See report - Bo said that the committee is talking about using the last Sunday in August to have a picnic in a park as well as maybe a service. Olivia asked if we could we get some kind of ice cream truck? Bo thought that was a good idea. Alan suggested we follow up with Jaimie. They are looking at locations now. Miller Meadow (the field across from Wawa) was suggested. Olivia asked if anything would hinder having church in a public space. Olivia suggested a community meal to bring people together. Carol explained that the pantry is four churches and some already do community dinners (and we help supply food). St John's does the pantry, two of the other churches do the community meals is the standing agreement. Olivia said her goal is to be more welcoming to the community. Carol said we have a volunteer doing community service and she said she didn't know we had a food pantry and we're not reaching out to the community. Carol explained we are known for our music but it seems to be self-contained here. It would be good to promote to join us for our music (maybe and less sermon). The talked about electronic sign would be a great help in self-promotion. Carol expects there are others that don't know about us and the programs we have. Carolyn suggested an "Open House Sunday". Encourage everyone to invite someone that Saturday/Sunday for a lighter, friendlier service. Carol said they had done something similar at Lehman one time and they had a tent and sign and refreshments. Once their music came out, more and more people came. Olivia thought that if we had music with our picnic, that would be a big draw. If we have a picnic service, Alan suggested an extended prelude before a service.
- Bo pointed out that the meals we have had have been a struggle. Olivia said she feels we have a divided church, those that attend Saturday services and those that attend Sunday services. She feels that when we do bring people in, we are not as welcoming as we think we are. We need to strengthen ourselves as well, reaching out to each other. She doesn't feel that an electronic sign will get people in, WE need to get people in and then be more welcoming to keep them here.
- Janice explained that when they first started coming, they didn't realize there were a lot of people because we are a back-door church. We cannot change this, however. Having Greeters was suggested again. Alan explained that we used to have one or two at both the back and at front doors. The back doors should be priority since they are most used.
- Carol said that on Saturday some people seem to be intentionally not engaging. Bo said he intentionally at least says Hi. Alan said that he will look into potentially starting a Greeting Committee.
- Louise said that after Saturday service, some type of socialization would be good.
- Olivia suggested a pot-luck after Sunday service rather than at night.
- Carol said Hatboro Baptist has a music fest that we could participate with. It's typically in September. Alan will check with Michael on that.
- Alan said that they will be having a board game night Saturday April 18, and July 18 there will be Ice Cream Social.

- Generosity Committee – No report – Janice said that they would like to do bingo in June and maybe asking congregation to commit to selling two tickets. They are discussing which room(s) to use. Olivia asked about a table at Horsham Day (June 6). Ashdon said we have had a table at Hawks Day and Pride Day and she will look into having a table at the car show.
- Hatboro Community Cupboard – See report – Carol said that normally January donations are down but a few other churches have stepped up for January and February. Over the past month or so, the number of visits have decreased too. They continue to sign up new families, however. The postal service will be having a Stamp Out Hunger drive in May which we will benefit from. It was pointed out that the Willow Grove Giant is not completely closing, only the supply chain distribution portion is closing. We will continue to receive their donations. Olivia asked how we advertise the food pantry and it was explained that we have own Facebook account and it is also on our website
- Kids & Family Ministry – No report
- Memorials – No report – The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Palm Sunday. There are no 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion kids this year.
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Property – See report – Ken highlighted that the gas leak was finally taken care of. They will be putting up a railing for the parsonage steps very soon.
- Social Media – No report – Olivia asked about this committee. She feels that this would be a strength. Our web site should be on sign out front.
- Stewardship – No report
- Women’s Ministry – No report
- Worship & Music – No report

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Vitality Survey – Concluded – Alan and Pastor have spoken with Reverand Manson. 71 surveys were received. She has been having a difficult time getting it into a readable format. Alan, Bo and Reverand Manson are to get together and then Reverand Manson will get with Council.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

All Committee Meeting – New date is set for Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Alan also wants to address where each committee’s responsibilities lie with them at this meeting.

Property Committee Priorities – Property will prioritize the list that Council gave them, most are manageable within the committee. Carol asked which are the top five, Mark explained we are addressing all on the list and either working on them or getting estimates for them. Carol mentioned the floors are being cleaned and waxed this coming Tuesday morning. Carol asked about the support beams’ woodwork in fellowship hall and it is on the list.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Property Decision Making Study – Alan, Pastor, and Darren Shaw spoke with David DeLuca on a study (along with two other churches) he is conducting of how churches make decisions about property usage, and the study is the decision-making process of how AI could be used. They will come up with a list of priorities for the project, such as pricing rental spaces of the church. He was looking for other suggestions too.

Summer Outreach – Some plans and ideas have been touched on above. Alan feels that the church is quieter during the summer months. Many programs are on pause during the summer. Ashdon suggested just one full church Sunday each month, including coffee hour and Sunday school. Carolyn mentioned the Lehigh Iron Pigs or Trenton Thunder game might be a good outing to have during the summer.

Directory – Alan would like to get the word out that we’re putting it together and get authorization for using people’s names and pictures, as well as phone numbers and addresses. Olivia said Steve Imre did the directory last time and that we should ask him what his process was last time. Alan would like to try one more time to get it together. It was agreed that we should start the directory with what we have and continue to add to it. Barbara suggested starting with Council and going out to other committees from there to add to it.

Approving New Members – see page 16. Pastor Bo gave Council a brief bio about each of the new members.

A motion was made to accept the six new members into St John’s as members.

It was moved and seconded by Ken Woods / Carolyn Cutilli. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

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

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

## **NEXT MEETING: Date: April 15, 2026**

Meeting Leader: Alan Divver

Scripture: Cathy Wesemann

Prayer: Ashdon Bobbie

Refreshments: Mark Vallone

It was moved and seconded by Olivia McCammon / Ken Woods to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Roper

Council Secretary