



St. John UMC
Leadership Board Meeting

Date & Time:	Tuesday, Oct 21, 2025, 6:30 pm
Location:	St. John United Methodist Church Room 108
Pastors in attendance:	Rev. Jenny Anderson
Leadership Board in attendance:	Charles Dixon (Leadership Board Chair & Trustees), Mark Barron (Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leader), Rich Bias (Finance—Chair), Sawyer Branham (Young Adult), Greg Capers (Trustees—Chair), Tonya Currier (Staff Parish Relations—Chair & Annual Conference Representative), Dan Griggs (Finance), Paula Matson (Staff Parish Relations), Mary Ottinger (Finance), Karen Phelps (Secretary), Warren Spooner (Trustees), Beth Dixon, Operations Coordinator
Church members/staff:	Absent: Stephanie Quattlebaum (Mission and Ministries Representative),

Opening— The meeting was opened with prayer by Greg Capers

Spiritual Formation – Each Board member shared in response to the question “How is it with your soul?”

Leadership Equipping for Guiding Principles— No updates.

Review of New People – None this month. However, Rev Anderson shared with the group that we currently have a very good working relationship St. John Towers.

Goal Review and Accountability

Improved Accessibility of the Building

- Still working on sidewalk that goes around the church to make that safer. The tree by the shed has been removed. It was causing uneven sidewalk thus trip hazard.

- Handrails to choir loft are still pending.
- Reverend Anderson will work with facilities manager, Tim, looking at the transitions at door frames to make those safer and more accessible. No update on this project.

Stewardship –

- 47 pledges received; 32 households have increased their pledge; 5 first time pledges; 12 households that normally pledge are still missing.
- The plan is to send a follow up reminder email on October 21 and complete that work November 1. During the discussion, a concern was raised that people who pledged online through Google Docs were not sent a receipt. This concern will be explored and addressed with Christina to ensure a receipt is sent.
- Committee will meet in late November/early December to decide on ways for monthly updates to keep Stewardship ongoing throughout the year.

Review of Minutes.

- Board approved September 2025 Minutes.

Generative and Strategic Work

Trustees - Greg Capers reviewed the report submitted by the Trustees Team.

Jack Milton (former Fire Chief), Dennis Sodomka (representing DCCM) , and Greg Capers (trustee Chair) performed a safety walk-through of the 8th Street building used by DCCM for food storage. We are waiting for the full report. Greg shared items that he was certain would be in the report.

- Investing in smoke detectors that goes straight to the fire department.
- Exit lights should always be lit.
- Push bar for doors that exit to eighth Street. This is already being addressed, and the crash bars have been purchased. Tim will be installing them.
- Faceplates for all electrical outlets and mounting of one outlet
- It was recommended that there be a sheriff when distributing food. Two concerns were raised about having law enforcement present at distribution. The cost of paying the officers which is \$40 an hour and there was concern that the presence of law-enforcement might deter some people from coming to the food distribution. An idea from the group was reaching out to the sheriff's homeless task force to see if there might be the ability to partner with them. No particular decision or recommendation was made. This is a program that is supported by St. John, but executed by DCCM.

Greg shared these updates for repairs and improvements:

- Slate roof is complete and gutter work started Oct 21.
- Repairs on the sanctuary fire detectors are completed.
- The next Garden and Grounds workday is November 22.
- Youth room renovations have started. Volunteers to help Tim paint are welcomed.
- The tree by the shed has been removed.
- The handrails into the altar area are installed; handrails to the choir loft are pending
- Sound system is fixed. Part of our sound system and streaming issues were due to our Wi-Fi which Wow has fixed. Wires had been cut with the digging for the street repairs.
- There is a group that is working to modify/revamp our current choir loft platforms used for the Christmas Eve program. Modifications to the existing platforms are to avoid scratching the floor or newly painted areas in the sanctuary.
- There was a discussion about blinds for the 8th Street building. DCCM is waiting to hear about a grant to support this kind of work. It was acknowledged that we do need to update our blinds for the clothes closet section of that building.

Staff Parish Relations – Report in consent package and reviewed by Tonya Currier.

- Tonya handed out St. John United Methodist teams for review by the group. Enclosed in the minutes.
- The search for a Director of Programs and Discipleship has been put on hold. We were not getting qualified applicants. We are waiting for some internal leads. If those do not come through, we will reopen the search November 1.

Finance Committee Report: The report was in the consent package. Finance Chair, Rich Bias, focused the team on the following:

- Approximately \$40,000 deficit.
- Rich further clarified that of the 47 pledges one was to the endowment only. Thus, not the operating budget. 46 pledges total approximately \$373,000. Last year there were 50 pledges totaling \$388,000. There are 13 households that normally pledge; we are still awaiting their pledge for this year.
- Rich also clarified that apportionments are calculated as a percentage of the operating budget. Examples were given of what is included in an operating budget versus what is part of capital/facility projects. It will be important that we account for items that are capital/facility projects versus normal operating expenses as we move forward.

The **Generative and Strategic Work Reports** from Trustees, SPR and Finance were approved.

Communications

- Trustees will ensure that DCCM is reminded of their past commitment of increasing their monthly support this year to \$650 a month in 2026.

- Christine and Beth will look at the Google Docs settings to ensure people get receipts if they use Google Docs to make their pledges.
- Rev Anderson will share with Kathy Deloach the idea about the sheriff's homeless task for partnering with DCCM on distribution days.

Next Meeting– Next meeting Sunday, November 30, 12:15 pm, 2025.

Closing– Prayer by Reverend Anderson