



St. John UMC  
Leadership Board Meeting

Date & Time:	Monday, January 26, 2026, 7:00 PM
Location:	St. John United Methodist Church Room 112
Pastors in attendance:	Rev. Jenny Anderson
Leadership Board in attendance:	Mary Ottinger (Leadership Board Chair & Finance), Rich Bias (Finance—Chair), Paula Matson (Staff Parish Relations -Chair), Warren Spooner (Trustees- Chair), Nichole Kuehl (Trustees), Greg Capers (Trustee), Alison Wright (at large), Dan Griggs (Finance), Mark Barron (Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leader), Karen Phelps (Secretary), David Johnston (Staff Parish Relation)
Church members/staff:	Absent : Sawyer Branham (Mission and Ministries Liaison) Rebekah Bryant, Director of Programs and Discipleship

**Opening**– The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev Anderson

**Spiritual Formation** – Alison Wright introduced the book weak enough to lead by James Howell. This is the book that we will use for spiritual formation.

**Review of New People** –Rev Anderson shared Jim and Sam Barrow plan to meet with Jenny David Baldrige joined within the past month Tom and India have been visiting.

**Review of Minutes.** Board approved November 2025 Minutes.

**Generative and Strategic Work**

**Trustees** - Trustees report was submitted.

- There were clarifications that Tim's hours were reduced from 18 to 15 and budgeted accordingly. The available funds were then used to support, in part, the new groundskeeper position.
- There was a suggestion that we have the roof inspected for hail damage and file a claim with insurance. Rich Bias reminded the board that our insurance policy has a deductible of

approximately \$121,000 for any damage resulting from wind, hail and/or freezing pipes. Any roof replacement/repair at the lake would need to come out of Trustee funds.

- The chandeliers (in sanctuary) and the LED bulbs are dimmable, but a different control panel would be needed to operate the dimming feature. The chandeliers themselves are not being replaced.
- Two pending items from our previous goal of improving accessibility of the building were identified. Both items are in the purview of the Trustees and will be followed by the Trustees' team.
  - The uneven area on the sidewalk around the building. Warren explained that concrete patch to decrease the risk of tripping would be needed.
  - Discussion about doorway transitions within the building have begun.

**Staff Parish Relations** – Report in consent package and reviewed.

Rebekah Bryant, Director of Programs and Discipleship was welcomed to the team. Help for the April 2nd Holy Thursday Wednesday Night supper was solicited. There were no items for approval.

**Finance Committee Report:**

Finance committee report was reviewed. Rich brought our attention to the first paragraph. Finance committee met briefly January 7 to discuss 2025 Year End figures. Original year end results showed a deficit of \$9423. The team moved 10,000 from miscellaneous income: ERC funds back into restricted ERC funds account resulting in a final ERC funds balance of 74,686 for use in future years. The final operating income/expense deficit for 2025 is \$19,423; year-end deficit for 2023 and 2024 were \$560 and \$23,201 respectively

Second paragraph of the report explained that the Wednesday night suppers had not been self-sustaining per the board's decision in 2024.

Finance committee submitted five items for board review (see finance report.) There was no further discussion. There was one small clarification that the only items outstanding from hurricane Helene damage are the brass candlesticks.

There were two items for action from the Finance Committee

1. Finance team requested approval to continue Chip Mason, Rich Bias, Georgia Vesley and Kathy DeLoach as signatories on the South State Bank savings, money market and checking account accounts. In addition, finance team request that Rich Bias and Mary Ottinger continue as signatories on the South State CD account. Those requests were voted on and approved.
2. Finance team recommends that the board approve a working group led by finance team member Mary Ottinger to develop a plan to address the long-term solvency of Wednesday night, suppers and kitchen account; such plan to be presented at the February 2026 board meeting. Mary will assemble the team and lead it. This request was approved.

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

**Communications**

- Approval of the Signatories.
- Approval of working group for long-term solvency for Wednesday Night Suppers.

**Next Meeting**– Next leadership meeting in association with the retreat February 27, 28

**Closing**– Prayer Rev Anderson