



St. John UMC
 Leadership Board Meeting
 March 2026

Date & Time:	28 March 2026 4:00 PM
Location:	Classroom
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), Alison Wright (at large), Dan Griggs (Finance), Mark Barron (Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leader), Karen Phelps (Secretary), Sawyer Branham (Mission and Ministries Liaison) Absent - Greg Capers (Trustee), David Johnston (Staff Parish Relation)
Church members/staff:	Beth Dixon, Director of Operations

Opening Prayer – Reverend Anderson opened the meeting with prayer at 4:05pm
Spiritual Formation – Alison Wright led our spiritual formation using our book Weak Enough to Lead with small groups reflecting on and then discussing 2 scriptures passages Luke 2:v4-6; Philippians 2: v5-8

- **Review of New People** – Cheyenne Young was baptized and joined the church this Sunday. Ryan and Savannah and their daughter Opal are attending more regularly. India and Tom are attending regularly with plans to have coffee with the pastor. Recent people have come from a variety of prior backgrounds, including Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, the Global Methodist Church and Pentecostal backgrounds. Rev. Anderson shared with the group how recent visitors have found St. John.

Review of Minutes. Board approved Feb 2026 Minutes.

Goals Review and Accountability

Guiding principles - individuals and teams should bring to the April meeting proposed changes, updates or edits to our current Guiding Principles. We will vote in May meeting on these updated principles. The Guiding Principles will be reviewed annually, updated and then approved each May.

Stewardship Team– Rev. Anderson reported that a Stewardship campaign is planned for the fall running September to October. The team has selected a theme. There will be a full report next month. The team understands that we have budgeted more money than we currently have pledged.

Generative and Strategic Work

Trustees - Trustees report was disseminated for review by the board.

- Trustee team met with Rich Bias, Chair on Finance team . In regard to the Insurance coverage, Trustees agreed with Finance team recommendation of a deductible of \$12,500 and broaden coverage to be 125% of replacement value. St. John will stay with Brotherhood as the broker for 2026 and the cost will be \$64,000.
- The March 21 workday was successful but there is still a need for a workday in April. Ultimately it was decided to have the next workday on April 25, working on projects at the Lake property and the downtown property. There will be a sign-up for each location with specific tasks annotated.
- Handrails for choir stairway arrived and installation had begun, but problems occurred with the installation that will require investigation and resolution before that project can be completed. There was a specific question about whether handrails would be installed on both sides of the choir loft stairway. It was explained that there can be, but there is no current plan for that. It can be added to the list of projects for the Trustees. To be in compliance only one side had to have handrails.
- It was also announced that the walkway repair is planned and should be completed before the next meeting.
- Discussion about doorway transitions within the building have begun.

Staff Parish Relations – The SPR report in the consent package was reviewed. SPR Chair, Paula Matson gave the report.

Reverend Anderson will return as our pastor. The Board was reminded about the rescheduling of the REALM demo. Paula shared a list of questions she had developed for the vendor and solicited questions from the group; the list of questions was distributed at the meeting.

Finance Report: The Finance Team report was reviewed by Finance Chair, Rich Bias.

- As of Feb 28, 2026, church is at a deficit of approximately \$40,000.
- The Finance Team recommended no changes to Wednesday night suppers before Fall 2026. It will bring recommendations for any revisions to the Board at or before the June meeting.
- Finance Team is recommending signage for our parking lot that clearly post that St. John assumes no liability for stolen items or car damage while parked in our lot.

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

New Business - Sawyer Branham, Mission and Ministries liaison, informed the board that she has devised a Google forms questionnaire for each of the missions and ministries. She will use this questionnaire to gather reports from those activities and submit a report to the Leadership Board.

Communications

1. Individuals and teams should review Guiding principles and bring proposed changes, updates or edits to the April meeting
2. Workday on April 25 at the Lake property and the downtown property. There will be a sign-up for each location with specific tasks annotated.

Mark Barron closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting– Next meeting April 26 Sunday at 4 pm