



St. John UMC  
 Leadership Board Meeting  
 April 2026

Date & Time:	26 April 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), Greg Capers (Trustee), David Johnston (Staff Parish Relation)
Church members/staff:	Absent - Sawyer Branham (Mission and Ministries Liaison)  Rebekah Bryant, Director of Programs and Discipleship

**Opening Prayer** – Mary Ottinger opened the meeting with prayer at 4:04pm

**Spiritual Formation** – Karen Phelps led our spiritual formation using our book Weak Enough to Lead Chapter 2 *Listening and Letting Go*. Suggesting each member use one of the following breathe prayers: “Speak Lord for your servant is listening.” and/or “We do not know what to do but our eyes are on you.”

- **Review of New People** – Sarah and Sam and their daughter.

**Goals Review and Accountability**

**Guiding Principles** – these can be found on the St John website where the board’s minutes are. The board was directed to review and send comments, suggestions, and edits to Christina by May 11, 2026. We will review and approve any updates in the May meeting. The Guiding Principles will be reviewed annually, updated and then approved each May.

Goals for 2026– Rev Anderson reminded the Board of the 2026 Goals set at Leadership Retreat

1. Continuing modifications of the facility to improve accessibility. With the focus for this year being installation of an automated door, handicap ramp, and doorway transitions into the sanctuary. These will be very expensive projects. Allison Wright will explore a possible grant for ADA improvements.
2. Collecting and compiling reports from church working groups so that we know their goals and activities and their needs.
3. Streamlining our online communication -There was discussion about ensuring that communications or announcements were not just posted on Facebook because some members do not use Facebook. The different online presences were reviewed, which include our website and Facebook (two different pages: a public and a private page). Additional communication tools are the weekly email and group text to push information and announcements. One function identified as not duplicated in emails or text is solicitation for people to work Parking Events. Reverend Anderson will take this concern to the staff for awareness and better resolution. It was explained that we do have limits on the number of texts we can send each month. Rebekah Bryant mentioned that a possible solution is to only send text reference soliciting parking event volunteers to a targeted group. It was identified that individual congregants may also post information and announcements on Facebook.

**Stewardship Team**– No update.

**Review of Minutes.** Board approved March 2026 Minutes.

### **Generative and Strategic Work**

**Trustees** - Trustees report was distributed to the board and reviewed by Warren Spooner.

- See that report for updates on projects.
- Nichole Kuehl reported on the lake property grounds day. Bathrooms were cleaned; tool shed was cleaned and organized; debris was gathered; and the area was raked.
- It was reported that we are waiting on a quote from Penn roofing for new roof on the lodge .
- The deadbolt for the door to the lodge was not functioning properly. Warren would like to look at that. There was uncertainty about the availability of a new key for him to be able to get access. He and Reverend Anderson will address this after the meeting.
- It was brought to the board attention that the plaque in the Narthex with the names of St John pastors is not updated to include Rev Anderson.
- It was noted that the sign in front still lists a 9 a.m. worship service.

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

REALM demo was accomplished and in the packet was a list of our questions with written answers. Rich Bias's concern was whether contribution information can be exported from REALM and imported into Power Church.

Paula will get clarification and more details on using REALM giving with VANCO. She will also clarify about individual transaction fees.

Rich and Dan will talk to church member in Valdosta Georgia who is using REALM and Power Church to see if that church is able to export financial information out of REALM into Power Church.

**Finance Report:** The Finance Team did not meet but an updated finance report was reviewed by Finance Chair, Rich Bias.

- The biggest concern is that contributions are running behind the budget. Contributions are at 83% of the budget year-to-date.
- It was pointed out that we requested and received Endowment Funds in April, reducing our current operating deficit. Rich noted, however, that this included funds for Pastor's Housing and Facility Manager salary through June.
- There were no questions about the financial control checklist which was provided in the report.
- There was a question about the access list for the endowment fund. It was reported that Mea Holmes is still on the list and needs to be removed. Nichole Kuehl will also confirm whether Chip Matson is still on the list ~~this is true~~ and communicate with Rich. Rich will follow-up with Nesbit Dasher, Endowment Committee Chair) to update the account paperwork.
- Upon reviewing the budget, Warren Spooner questioned why the water bill is so high at approximately \$500 a month. Warren agreed to get the breakdown from Krisi and call water utilities for a better understanding.

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

### **Communications**

- Members of the board are to provide comments on Guiding Principles and send those to Christina by May 11
- Pastor's plaque will be updated by Nichole Kuehl
- Trustees will work on quotes for an automated door and a wheelchair ramp
- Warren Spooner will follow up on the deadbolt issue for the door at the lodge on the lake property and the water bill
- Paula Matson will clarify questions about transaction fees with REALM

- Rich Bias and Dan Griggs will contact the Valdosta church using REALM with Power Church to determine how well both systems work for them and what the challenges may be.
- Alison will check on a possible matching grant opportunity to help us pay for handicap accessible projects

Karen Phelps closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Meeting**– Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM; the June meeting will be Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM