



St. John UMC

Leadership Board Meeting

June 2026

Date & Time:	16 June 2026 3:00 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), Sawyer Branham (Mission and Ministries Liaison), Nichole Kuehl (Trustees), Alison Wright (at large), Dan Griggs (Finance), Mark Barron (Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leader), David Johnston (Staff Parish Relation), Karen Phelps (Secretary)
Church members/staff:	Absent - Greg Capers (Trustee) Beth Dixon, Director of Operations

Called to Order -3:07 PM

Opening Prayer – Mary Ottinger opened the meeting with prayer.

Spiritual Formation – David Johnston led our spiritual formation using our book Weak Enough to Lead : Chapter - David.

Review of New People – Sarah joined today; her spouse is a member at the UU church. They have a daughter, Ellie. Five different family units were represented at a Thursday evening taco night with the pastor.

Goals Review and Accountability

Guiding Principles – Updated last meeting. Board will update each May.

Goals for 2026 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.
 - Moving forward with automatic door opener on the Telfair Street entrance and doorway transitions.
 - Rev Anderson reported conference currently does not have any funds for an accessibility grant. It is anticipated that a grant will reopen in the future but likely next year.
2. Collecting and compiling reports from church working groups so that we know their goals and activities and their needs. No follow action this meeting.
3. Streamlining our online communication - No follow action this meeting.

Stewardship Team– No update.

Review of Minutes. Board approved May 2026 Minutes.

Generative and Strategic Work

Trustees - Warren Spooner verbally reported to the board.

- Flooring projects have been completed.
- Work is planned for repairing the fellowship hall door.
- No interval update on the sign out front
- Waiting on final invoices from projects to reconcile the finances.
- Nichole Kuehl reported Blue Ribbon company has name plate, so that Rev. Anderson's name could be added to the plaque in the narthex. Nameplate has not been returned from Blue Ribbon. She will follow up with them.

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

REALM - the references provided were not useful/accurate. Paula is continuing to ask the company for references.

The board went into closed session to discuss upcoming vacancy for Director of Music and Organist/Choral Director.

- Board approved proceeding to recruit for the position of Director of Music and Organist/Choral Director.

- Board approved a position from July 2026 to July 2027 for Interim Assistant Music Director while we are searching for a new director.

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

- Rich highlighted the deficit of \$29,465. See report in consent packet
- Finance Team submitted a proposal for the Wednesday night suppers to make the activity self- sustaining.
- The board agreed with the terminology and definition for a ***family dinner reservation***. (1 or 2 parents and any number of dependent children residing in the same household)
- Board approved new pricing of \$7 for person 4-12 years, \$14 - Adult, \$36 – family
- Board approved that 4 parking events needed to be set aside to support the kitchen account each season (Spring and Fall)
- Board acknowledged that though we want the activity to be self-sustaining, with increasing food cost and inflation we anticipate increase cost thus narrow margin. We do not want cost to inhibit participation. This activity and fellowship is important to our congregation and our church, thus worthy of the financial support from our parking event funds.
- Rev Anderson shared that we are checking with another church who has an inhouse cook for a more affordable option for the meals.

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

Communications

- Paula will continue to ask REALM for references.
- Board approved proceeding to recruit for the position of Organist and Music Director.
- Board approved a position from July 2026 to July 2027 for Interim assistant music Director while we are searching for a new director.

Mary Ottinger closed with prayer.

Next Meeting– August 16th at 3:00 pm

Adjourned 5:05 PM