



November 18, 2025

Council Members Present: Rita Blomster, Linda Eytcheson, Andrew Ford, Jo Hoffmeier, Jerry Kilbert, Bridget Malme, Dan Maloney, Karen Olson, Joan Slabaugh, Pastor Paul Baglyos

Directors Present: Pastor Jon Haug, Catherine Slabaugh (on Zoom), Kat Thorp

Guests Present: Lynne Gilbertson

1. Call to order: 6:33 p.m., Andrew Ford

2. Opening Devotion: Lynne Gilbertson

a. "Be Still; Slow Down; and Know That He Is"

3. Approval of Minutes from October Council Meeting

a. Moved by John Bailey, seconded by Bridget Malme. Absentions: Pastor Paul, Rita Blomster, Karen Olson. Ayes: Linda Etchison, Andrew Ford, Jo Hoffmeier, Dan Maloney, Joan Slabaugh. Noes: none. Approved.

4. Reports and Presentations (no action)

a. Staff Reports

i. Senior Bridge Pastor, Paul Baglyos

1. December 6 workshop 9:00-12:30 @ St.John's.

a. Attendees: Council members; Staff and Directors; Call Committee; Nominated 2026 council members; Jenny Mohler and Elyssa Lasich. Kat will send out confirmation emails

b. Potential Discussion Areas: 1) Call Committee update; 2) what other kinds of considerations have surfaced; 3) consideration of current ministries investment; 4) staff leveling; 5) how St. John's can be more flexible; 5) proposed staffing for 2026; 6) budget ideas and how we can move forward

c. This workshop hopefully conducted in the spirit of receiving and contributing offerings of wisdom and abundance. Pastor Paul reminded the council that we as disciples of Christ are always called to the work of "reforming" and change. All of us are the "bridge" with Christ who in turn is the beginning and the end.

(Alpha and Omega)

ii. Youth and Family Ministries, Pastor Jon Haug

1. As submitted.

iii. Director of Communications, Catherine Slabaugh

1. As submitted.

- iv. Administration, Kat Thorp
 - 1. As submitted.
- b. Executive Committee, Andrew Ford
 - i. Restaurant Property at 1727 L Street
 - 1. Property remains unrented. Final prospective tenant did not work out but it is unclear as to why, so a request has been made to the realtor for clarification.
 - 2. Currently vetting a prospective tenant, who is requesting the installation of a smaller hood, is considering using the Gathering Place kitchen till the restaurant kitchen is available, and would potentially rent the Gathering Place for hosted events. Proposed monthly rent is \$2800, but as this appears to be below market, clarification has been requested. Kat will meet with the realtor.
 - ii. Parking structure
 - 1. Issues have been raised by the current management company regarding St. John's usage during the week and their potential loss of revenue. Council agreed to open up conversations with the company, as previously Pr. Frank had managed most of these conversations.
 - 2. Council would also like to explore our own revenue generation. Kat will meet with the company and report back to Council on her findings.
 - iii. Stained glass window repair
 - 1. Motion to approve expenditure (see Action Items below)
 - 2. Further discussion to continue: \$11,000 donated through Pr. Frank's efforts to defray costs of window repairs. Council asked staff (Catherine and Pr. Paul) to initiate fund raising effort, perhaps matching funds with the \$100k bequest received this year. Discussion will continue, including a 2026 capital campaign.
 - 3. Council also would like the Property Committee to investigate other sources of repair for stained glass windows in other areas of the church, e.g. Oehler Hall.
- c. Finance Report, John Bailey
 - i. Budget highlights include that we continue to be ahead of budget even without bequests or IRS monies.
 - ii. 2026 Draft Budget Discussion
 - 1. Budget built on same revenue as in 2025, and included rental for 1727 L Street, and includes all the budget requests from staff at this point in order to have actuals as we wait for the stewardship numbers. These requests do not include donated monies or grants, and reflect what these programs cost if the church had to fund them entirely.
 - 2. Finance Committee, Kat, and John will continue to work on the draft budget and will bring a proposed draft budget to the Council at the December meeting.

- d. Stewardship, Linda Eytcheson
 - i. 162 pledges received for a total of \$958K. Concerned as this is \$120K behind pledging from last year.
 - ii. Encouragement was given from Pastor Paul and Pastor Jon based on their experiences from other congregations that we are still in very good shape despite that aspect. Pastor Jon also reminded the council that this congregation has a 95% fulfillment rate which is extraordinary for congregations!
 - iii. Pledges typically come in well into January of 2026. As a council we need to continue our efforts within the congregation to encourage pledging.
- e. Safety and Security Committee
 - i. The committee in charge of creating this plan is continuing their efforts as the newly revised "Good neighbor policy" will be implemented December 1, 2025.
 - ii. During the Greeter/Usher training, additional volunteers from that group have been added to the committee. Those names have been given to Gary Ely-Grisham who is the chair.

5. Action Items

- a. Motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$68,000 for the repair of the stained glass windows throughout the church property.
 - i. Moved by Andrew Ford, seconded by Dan Maloney; approved unanimously.

6. Adjournment, 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Jo Hoffmeier:

Chris Dawson, Secretary