

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
615 PARK AVENUE
NEWPORT, KY 41071
MAY 9, 2026

PRESENT: Kyle Taylor-President, Dave Stamm-Vice President, Pat Goins-Secretary, Vickie Kennedy-Treasurer, Laura Haas-Past President, Pastor Marty Westermeyer-Interim Minister

PRAYER: Pastor Marty started the meeting off with a prayer.

MINUTES: The minutes were sent to members before today's meeting. Laura made a motion to accept the minutes and Vickie seconded it. There was no discussion, the vote was unanimously in favor and the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Vickie had nothing to report. Kyle said he talked with Dave Coppage and our investments are doing well. Our income and expenses have remained the same, except for the recent maintenance problems that needed to be fixed. Kyle said we may need to pull from investments to cover these costs. Dave made a motion to accept this report and Pat seconded it. No discussion. The vote passed unanimously in favor, the motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Marty agreed to the host the Dart Ball Tournament for the local churches at St John's on 8/30/26. Laura agreed to be present at the church to oversee the opening and closing of the facility and help with any issues. Kyle made a motion to accept this offer, Dave seconded it, the vote was unanimous in favor and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS-

INTERN SEACH: Laura found the process for finding an intern is to send seminaries a job description, including hours needed and rate of pay, then they will post it so the students can read these and decide if they are interested. We would need to write a job description and decide on hours and rate of pay. Discussion occurred. It was suggested we table this until later in the meeting.

EVALUATIONS: Kyle reminded Dave that Tony Burdett's evaluation is due soon. Dave said he will do it in August since that will be Tony's one year with us.

WORSHIP: Vickie purchased small flags and dropped them off in the office to be handed out to the congregation at the 4th of July service.

ENRICHMENT: Flowers will be given out to all women in the service tomorrow for Mother's Day and Kyle will order pens to be given to the men on Father's Day.

EDUCATION: Nothing to report today.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Kyle said the sinkholes in the back parking lot have come back. Matt Shepherd has given us a quote to fix the potholes, as well as repave the lot, paint new parking lines, and generally clean it up. Discussion ensued about the cause of the recurring potholes and if Matt would be able to determine the cause when he removes the current filler in them. The team wants to determine the cause first, so we don't continue to repair them if there is a water leak or something else that can be fixed. Kyle will call Matt and get more details about whether or not he will be able to determine the cause before we vote on Matt's quote to repair the lot and holes.

SIGNAGE: Laura mentioned we should think about including exit signs on the sanctuary doors for visitors, along with the other signage around the church we are working on. Kyle will investigate it.

NEW FLAG FOR OUTSIDE: John Robson has donated money to purchase a new flag for outside. Kyle will handle the purchase.

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE: The team agreed we should do another back-to-school drive this year. We will ask the congregation for donations beginning in early July. Laura will check with Washington UCC to see what their needs are and Kyle will check with the Newport schools.

MISCELLANEOUS-

Next year is the 180th anniversary of our church. We will think about what , if anything, we would like to do to celebrate.

Robert found some old roles of film of past church members and events, including the fire. He would like to digitize them at the cost of \$60.00 per role. Discussion included agreement in not wanting to spend the money for this and not wanting to continue to glorify the past but to look toward the future. It was agreed to not pursue this.

Ralph Scholutes is retiring as head usher and last Sunday was his last Sunday. He gave Marty a list of his duties. Pat Paden has volunteered to set up for communion each month. Vickie will handle the before church preparations of water bottles, mints, candles, etc. Dave will talk to Carol about who brings doughnuts for Fellowship Hour before church and who makes coffee. Laura and Dave will continue to lock the side door at the start of the church service. We will give Ralph a gift certificate and small gift when he is honored in church.

MUSIC FUND: The Music Fund is in negative figures at this time. Much discussion re: increasing the budget for the Music Fund and not having Michael be responsible for securing donations to supplement the fund-it should be budgeted adequately like all the other programs. Dave will talk to Michael and ask him to keep the cost of the summer musicians the same as it was last year-\$2000.00.

We were approached by another community group who would like to use our sanctuary for their church services on Sundays and Wednesday from 5-9 PM. They are looking for space and their mission is ministering to people. They will bring their own instruments. Dave Bearhs is the contact person. The

Leadership Team would like to meet with Mr. Bearhs and find out more about this request. Marty will contact him and set up a meeting time.

FUTURE OF ST JOHNS-

There was much discussion re: the future of St Johns. Laura offered a three-part plan for consideration:

1. Hire 1-2 paid staff positions to take over some jobs currently being done by Leadership and Kelli Taylor.

- Facilities Manager

- Communications Director

These positions would handle the day-to-day issues that arise and bring them to the Leadership Team who would still be the decision makers.

2. Hire an Outreach or Education Coordinator or intern. We need someone to do outreach and run Sunday School. (After discussing an intern further, it was decided to put the search on hold for now).

3. The current Leadership Team should become the next Search Team, and ask 2-3 people in the church to join the team. They may be more willing if they know those of us who were on the previous team will still be involved. Otherwise, there doesn't seem to be anyone who is willing to volunteer for this committee. When we find someone to call, give them a one-year contract, keep Pastor Marty as Interim till he wants to retire, and let them work together to see how the new person will do before he/she is hired long term.

It was also suggested we visit some other churches during the summer to get an idea of their situation.

Kyle said Kelli is already doing part of the job of a Facilities Manager along with her other duties, and maybe would be interested in taking on this role with more involvement, increasing her duties, hours and pay. Her overall title would be Facilities Manager and include her current office duties along with the new duties. Kyle will talk to her about this opportunity and we will work on a job description.

There will be more discussion next meeting and proposals finalized after giving these suggestions more thought.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Goins
Secretary