

CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HAMILTON

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 7:30 PM, at St. John the Evangelist, Crypt Café

Invitees: Sarah-Jane Adams, Deborah Bowen, Aaron Jones, Sarah Jones, Wendy Leigh Bell, Susan Little, Leslie Muirhead, Norm Newbery, Sue Newbery, Judith Purdell-Lewis, Andrew Rampton, Erin Steckley, James Steeves, Dena Thomas, Sarah Wayland, Tom Weaver

Regrets:

Chair: TBD

Acting Secretary:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Welcome
2. Opening Prayer – Andrew Rampton
3. Approval of January Minutes
4. Reports/Discussion
 - a. Corporation Report
 - b. Financial Report –
 - c. Rector's Report – Andrew Rampton
 - d. Stewardship Report – Sarah Wayland
 - e. Property Report – Tom Weaver
5. Business Arising
 - a. Vestry debriefing/next steps - if any
 - b. Parish Catalogue – working group update, Deborah Bowen et al
6. New Business
 - a. Parish Council overview – Andrew Rampton
7. Next meeting – **March 24, 2026**
8. Adjournment
9. Closing Prayer

CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HAMILTON

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 7:30 PM, at St. John the Evangelist, Crypt Café

Invitees: Deborah Bowen, Aaron Jones, Sarah Jones, Wendy Leigh Bell, Susan Little, Norm Newbery, Sue Newbery, Andrew Rampton, Erin Steckley, Dena Thomas, Sarah Wayland, Tom Weaver

Regrets: Sarah-Jane Adams, Judith Purdell-Lewis, Leslie Muirhead, James Steeves,

Chair: Sue Newbery

Acting Secretary: Dena Thomas

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Welcome
2. Opening Prayer – Andrew Rampton
3. Approval of January Minutes
 - i. Minutes to be approved alongside February minutes by Friday 27th.
4. Reports/Discussion
 - a. Corporation Report
 - i. The search for a Discovery Band leader continues; requirements are being refined. Sarah Wayland will confirm delivery of the Kirkendall Recreation sponsorship cheque with Amylynn.
 - b. Financial Report
 - i. Reviewed
 - c. Rector's Report – Andrew Rampton
 - i. Adam McNeil, a Trinity MDiv student and ordination candidate for the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, joins the parish on March 8, 2026.
 - d. Stewardship Report – Sarah Wayland
 - i. Norm Newbery was thanked for his recent *gratitude moment*. Emma Cubit and Paul Grimwood are scheduled to share in March and April, respectively. Sarah Wayland is stepping down as Chair; she will provide a job description and requests prayers for a successor.
 - e. Property Report – Tom Weaver
 - i. Tom shared a package at Vestry, and will convene a meeting after Easter to prioritize the capital campaign plan. Recent leaks in a rental room and ongoing flat roof issues are being addressed.

5. Business Arising

a. Vestry debriefing/next steps

- i. Vestry Debrief: The meeting was noted as well-run and amicable.
- ii. **Action:** A notice regarding Shalem Mental Health Network coverage for members will be circulated once the program begins..

b. Parish Catalogue – working group update, Deborah Bowen et al

- i. Andrew, Judith, Sarah Jones, John and Deborah Bowen will be meeting again in two weeks to discuss the content of the brochure. The hope is that there will be final draft by May, 2026.

6. MAP 2.0 – Sarah Wayland

- i. The Council reviewed Emily Hill's February report. Discussion focused on transitioning from attractional to missional church models.
- ii. Deborah suggested that John Bowen lead a post-Easter workshop on helping people to articulate their faith.
- iii. The Council discussed the importance of small groups and neighbourhood listening, while noting the risk of scope creep. **Action:** Dena Thomas to share her previous neighbourhood listening report. It was suggested that future discussions ought to include commissioned lay missionaries, Felicia and Margaret.
- iv. Eight volunteers have joined the library committee!
- v. Hearts and Minds will be moved to March 20th with Charles Meeks as the guest speaker.
- vi. The Visio Divina session with the St. John's bible will be scheduled for April 25th.

7. New Business

a. Parish Council overview – Andrew Rampton

- i. Andrew requested agenda items be sent to Amylynn asap. Parish Council meetings may be cancelled if there is insufficient business to warrant a full meeting.
- ii. Meeting Minute protocol: Drafts will be circulated by secretary within 48 hours of Tuesday's meeting. Members have 24 hours to provide edits before a final version is posted the Tuesday following. (One week after the Parish Council meeting date.)

8. Next meeting – **March 24, 2026 at 7:30pm**

9. Adjournment

10. Closing Prayer

SJE MAP 2.0 Report

February 2026

Introduction

In a season rich with ideas and possibility at St. John's, 35 people from St. John's gathered on Feb 7 to prayerfully discern our shared priorities in three key areas: Faith Formation, Life in the Neighbourhood, and Parish Culture / Missional Church.

Our task was not to generate more ideas, but to listen for where the Holy Spirit is inviting us to focus our energy over the next one to two years — clarifying what we will say yes to, and just as importantly, what we will say no to for this season.

The full notes for what we discussed are included below. For this report, only the final discerned priorities have been included.

Discerned Priorities

1. Missional Church

Clear Priority:

Meeting the Needs of Our Neighbours / St. John's as a "Good Neighbour"

This emerged as the strongest missional emphasis. There is a shared sense that our outward witness must begin with attentive presence:

- Listening before acting
- Understanding actual needs
- Responding relationally rather than programmatically

This priority calls us to deepen our identity not simply as a community of people *in* the neighbourhood, but as a community of people who exist *with* and *for* the neighbourhood.

Supporting Emphasis:

Being Able to Confidently Express Faith

Participants also recognized that missional engagement requires confidence and clarity in articulating our faith. As we build relationships and serve our neighbours, we want to be able to speak naturally and authentically about why we do what we do.

Emerging Direction:

Our missional focus should integrate both action and articulation — loving our neighbours well and being ready to speak about Christ in the context of the relationships we build.

2. Life in the Neighbourhood

Clear Priority:

Hosting Neighbourhood Events that Neighbours Want to Attend (18 stars)

This received the highest number of stars across all categories.

There is strong energy around:

- Listening to neighbours about what they want
- Creating welcoming, accessible spaces
- Hosting gatherings that build genuine relationships
- Engaging the neighbourhood on its terms

This priority aligns directly with the Missional Church emphasis on being a “Good Neighbour.”

Additional Discernment:

- Safe spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ people (6 stars) reflects a meaningful desire to ensure that our hospitality is tangible and visible to those who may not have experienced safety in church contexts.
- Other ideas (supporting Locke St. businesses, streamlining missions) received little resonance, suggesting these are not focal priorities for this season.

Emerging Direction:

Additional Emphasis: Beyond the Walls

While this did not explicitly surface during the MAP day with the whole parish, it emerged strongly in the pre-MAP leaders’ meeting and remains an important priority. There is a shared desire to continue moving beyond an attractional “come to us” model toward a visible, relational presence in the neighbourhood. Initiatives such as Sundays Unlocked events, outdoor Blessing of the Animals, Death Café gatherings in local establishments, Jesus Deck participation in Art Crawl, the church picnic at Dundurn Castle, and the Rain Garden reflect this shift. We will continue prioritizing being present where our neighbours already gather and inviting authentic participation beyond our walls.

Our neighbourhood engagement should focus on *relational presence and hospitable gathering* — creating spaces where trust can grow.

3. Faith Formation

No single idea overwhelmingly dominated, but several clustered closely together, revealing a coherent direction.

Emerging Priorities:

1. Articulating Our Faith (8 stars)
2. Children are Valued & Growing in Relationship with Jesus (8 stars)
3. Belonging to Small Groups (7 stars)
4. Daily Prayer Outside Shared Worship (6 stars)

Taken together, these point toward a clear theme:

We desire a parish culture where people of all ages are growing in confident, lived faith — rooted in prayer, belonging, and the ability to speak about Jesus.

Lower-priority ideas (retreats and short-term studies) may support this vision, but do not appear to be central drivers for this season.

Emerging Direction:

Faith formation should focus on:

- Deepening everyday discipleship (prayer, small groups)
- Equipping people to articulate faith naturally
- Ensuring children are not peripheral but central to life in our parish.

Additional Emphasis: Anglican Identity

In the pre-MAP leaders' meeting, the importance of Anglican identity in this season was strongly affirmed. While this was not explicitly named during the MAP day, it is an important dimension of faith formation. In a time when Christians hold widely differing theological perspectives, we recognize the need to understand what we believe and why. As we deepen discipleship, we will intentionally consider how being shaped as Anglicans — in theology, worship, and practice — forms and grounds our common life.

Next Steps

The priorities named in this time of prayer and discernment will now be gathered and shared with Parish Council.

In the coming months, parish leadership will prayerfully reflect on these areas of shared energy, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they shape clear goals and concrete next steps for the season ahead.

SJE MAP 2.0 Day Notes

1) Post-It Gratitude (Gathering Activity)

Prompt:

“What feels life-giving and/or makes you feel grateful in parish life right now?”

Responses:

- Fellowship
- Friends
- Church family
- “People who love me”
- Andrew & Deana
- Openness to change
- Care
- Energy
- Life in Christ
- Grateful for my St. John’s family
- Being made to feel welcome and knowing I am prayed for – and that I can pray for others
- The people & their care
- Community of people of different backgrounds & ages
- Young families
- The number of young families who’ve joined since Covid
- The number of people here today
- People who have taught me to know Jesus
- Music at services
- Being able to be in a worship band
- Concert ministry
- Children’s choir
- Senior choir
- Singing in the choir
- Bible study
- Bibles & Bagels
- Saturday stuff for guys
- Crafters
- Middle Ground
- Fourth Sunday services & teaching
- Prayer ministry

- Coffee-makers
- Andrew's sermons
- Wonderful choir
- Thought-provoking preacher
- Outward-thinking missions
- Fabulous junior choir
- Openness to change
- Knowing the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst
- The care and love shown both inside and outside these walls
- My church
- My Bible study
- My son
- Laughter
- A successful hernia surgery + our healthcare system

2) Grounding in Scripture – Character & Work of the Holy Spirit

Prompt Questions:

- What do these passages reveal about the character and work of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Spirit act in, through, and around us?

Words & Phrases Captured:

- Spirit of Truth
- Unifier
- Advocate
- Sent from Jesus
- She is with us
- With us forever
- Dwelling
- Living state
- Powerful
- Power
- Giving power
- Enable communication
- Like a fire
- Physical signs
- Resting on each person
- Universality
- At work in others
- Aware of what is good & bad
- Vision
- Putting us on the “right path”

- Love & obey
- Sticking
- Patience
- Demanding
- Pushy
- Noisy
- Unpredictable
- Surprising
- Unpredictable energy
- Stopping
-

3) Silent For Us to Carry Forward Throughout the Day (after 3 mins of silence)

Participants named:

- Open heart
- Open to unexpected things
- Non-judgemental
- Awareness of community
- Comfort (verb)
- Hope
- Awareness of new people
- Courage
- Power
- Joy in sharing
- Neighbourhood
- Open doors

Encouragement phrases noted:

- Trust me
- I am with you
- Do not be afraid
- I will lead you on your way
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4) Celebrating MAP 1.0 – What God Has Accomplished

“We did awesome with MAP 1.0!!!”

Noted Achievements / Themes (not already named on the MAP 1.0 Achievements Handout):

- Fellowship
- Friends
- Church family
- People who love me
- Andrew & Deana
- Openness to change
- Thinking beyond ourselves
- Caring by praying
- Diversity – backgrounds & ages
- Young families

5) Priority Areas – Emerging from Small Group Thought Bubble Discussions

Missional Church

-Meeting Needs of Neighbours (St. John's as a "Good Neighbour") (16 stars)

-Being Able to Confidently Express Faith (10 stars)

Life in the Neighbourhood

-Support Locke St. events & businesses (0 stars)

-Hosting neighbourhood events that neighbours want to attend and engage with.
(Understanding needs) (18 stars)

-Streamlining missions – focus over breadth (0 stars)

-Safe spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ people (6 stars)

Faith Formation

-Everyone knows of a small group they would like to belong to. (7 stars)

-Everyone is equipped and inspired to engage in daily prayer outside of shared worship. (6 stars)

-As the people of SJE we are constantly learning how to articulate our faith to the world. (8 stars)

-Go on regular retreats together for fellowship and faith formation (5 stars)

- SJE is a place where children are essential and valued, growing in relationship + faith w/ JC. (8 stars)

- We have short studies for faith formation (not long-term commitments). (3 stars)

Rector's Report to Parish Council

The Revd Andrew Rampton

24 February 2026

Last month I reported on the end of “long Christmas” on the eve of 2 February. Almost immediately following, our eyes were fixed on Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Even if the start of the year feels somewhat rushed, the good news is that there is lots of room for community life between Easter and the beginning of summer

Ministry Student

If all goes as planned, Adam McNeil will join us as a ministry student beginning 8 March 2026 for approximately 12 weeks. A more thorough introduction will follow, but for now: Adam grew up at Church of the Resurrection in Hamilton and is a gifted church musician. He has participated as a youth delegate to various synods on more than one occasion. Adam is studying to complete his Master of Divinity degree through Trinity College, Toronto. I am looking forward to having him with us for a time.

Administrative

Preparation for Vestry always takes up much of the space in the first two months of the year. The slate of nominees for offices, in particular, this year seemed to come together at the very last minute. Hopefully we can organize those efforts with earlier outcomes next year. This would allow us to share all of the information in the circular and minimise last-minute preparations. Amylynn, the Parish Administrator, and I have begun conversations and planning for next year to try and make for a more balanced, efficient preparation process.

Sundries

Other activities and events of note through the period include:

- Participated in diocesan Candidates Committee meetings and interviews (candidates for ordained ministry, both deacons and priests)
- Participated in planning conversations with Act Five around increasing Anglican engagement with the program
- Presented with Jennifer Bowen at *Hearts & Minds* on Christian Sexual Ethics in the Twenty-first Century
- Co-facilitated the MAP 2.0 parish session
- Attended Shrove Tuesday luncheon

Corporation Report – February 2026

The corporation met on February 10, 2026. In attendance were Mary Donkin, Aaron Jones, Leslie Muirhead, Sue Newbery and Andrew Rampton

Children, Youth, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator Hiring Process:

A total of forty-one resumes were received. Andrew will go through the applications and choose the ones he feels have the most potential.

Discovery Band Leader Search: An updated description of this ministry position will be created. Once it is complete, the position will be posted, and an interview process will follow.

Easter Vigil Planning: We were invited to attend the Easter Vigil Service at the Cathedral again this year. It was decided St. John's will hold their own Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 4. A Resurrection Party will follow the service.

Theology Student: Adam McNeil will be joining us at St. John's in March.

Tithely Tap Discs: Tap Discs when tapped by a phone redirect users to specific digital connect – like giving, event signups and connect cards. The Corporation felt the discs would be very useful at special services – Christmas or Easter and concerts.

Kirkendall Recreation Sponsorship: It was agreed St. John's would be a community sponsor and donate a sponsorship of \$200.00.

Statement of Activity
Church of Saint John the Evangelist
January 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
Non Profit Income	\$262.00
Offerings	
4001 Envelope, Online, and Other Identifiable Donors	\$2,763.11
4002 Preauthorized Giving (PAG)	\$11,970.00
Total for Offerings	\$14,733.11
Receipts from Parish Activities	
Other Income from Parish Activities	
4014 Rentals	\$100.00
4015 Concerts	\$375.00
Total for Other Income from Parish Activities	\$475.00
Outreach Income	
4018 Outreach Support (other)	\$2,425.00
Total for Outreach Income	\$2,425.00
Total for Receipts from Parish Activities	\$2,900.00
Total for Income	\$17,895.11
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Gross Profit	\$17,895.11
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Expenses	
Facilities	
Building Maintenance	
5043 Elevator Maintenance and Fees	\$118.39
5044 Regular Maintenance	\$1,232.75
Total for Building Maintenance	\$1,351.14
Utilities	
5040 Heating	\$578.21
5041 Water	\$182.62
5042 Hydro	\$468.73
Total for Utilities	\$1,229.56
Total for Facilities	\$2,580.70
Ministry and Worship	
5001 DM&M	\$4,011.58
5004 Children's Ministry	\$77.30
5006 Worship Supplies & Resources	\$500.58
5009 Hospitality and Christian Growth	\$295.16
Total for Ministry and Worship	\$4,884.62
Office and Administration	
5030 General Office Expenses	\$591.27
5031 Bank, Credit Card Fees and Interest	\$107.23
Total for Office and Administration	\$698.50
Outreach Disbursements	\$150.00
5014 Outreach Disbursements, Other	\$4,730.00
Total for Outreach Disbursements	\$4,880.00

Statement of Activity
Church of Saint John the Evangelist
January 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Salaries and Benefits	
5020 Rector's Salary	\$4,830.09
5021 Housing Allowance	\$2,033.00
5022 Administrator	\$1,170.00
5023 Organist and Choirmaster	\$1,550.50
5024 Discovery Service Music Director	\$0.00
5025 CPP/EI/WSIB	\$592.31
5026 Pension & Benefits	\$1,656.43
5035 CYFM Coordinator	\$0.00
Total for Salaries and Benefits	\$11,832.33
Total for Expenses	\$24,876.15
Profit	-\$6,981.04

Statement of Financial Position

Church of Saint John the Evangelist

As of January 31, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1022 Undeposited Funds	\$0.00
Capital Account	
1004 Capital Account - Chequing	\$0.00
Total for Capital Account	\$0.00
Credit card security account	
1007 Raffle Account - Chequing	\$5,007.67
Total for Credit card security account	\$5,007.67
Operating Account	
1001 Operating Acct - Chequing	\$72,838.37
Total for Operating Account	\$72,838.37
Total for Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$77,846.04
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	-\$321.00
Total for Accounts Receivable (A/R)	-\$321.00
1010 Endowment Fund	\$99,708.19
1014 Rectory Fund	\$253,459.39
1015 General investment fund	\$916.72
1011 Memorial Fund	\$1,869.51
1012 Parish Hall Capital Reserve Fund	\$13,069.96
1013 Organ Restoration Fund	\$3,208.53
Total for 1015 General investment fund	\$19,064.72
1017 Employee Cash Advances	\$0.00
1018 Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	-\$0.08
1019 GST Rebate Receivable	\$68.88
1020 PST Rebate Receivable	\$215.80
1021 Other Receivables	\$0.00
Uncategorized Asset	\$75.00
Total for Current Assets	\$450,116.94
Non-current Assets	
Property, plant and equipment	
1100 Fixed assets	\$36,693.80
1101 Fixed assets depreciation	-\$2,375.51
Total for 1100 Fixed assets	\$34,318.29
Total for Property, plant and equipment	\$34,318.29
Total for Non-current Assets	\$34,318.29
Total for Assets	\$484,435.23

Statement of Financial Position

Church of Saint John the Evangelist

As of January 31, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$529.05
Total for Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$529.05
Credit Cards	
2001 TD Visa credit card	\$1,211.89
Total for Credit Cards	\$1,211.89
2003 Other Payables	\$8,500.00
2007 Capital Fund	\$0.00
GST/HST Payable	\$0.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$10,240.94
Total for Liabilities	\$10,240.94
Equity	
3001 Opening Balance Equity	\$306,877.68
3002 Retained Earnings	\$174,297.65
Net Income	-\$6,981.04
Total for Equity	\$474,194.29
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$484,435.23