

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH



St. John's
BAPTIST
A SERVANT CHURCH



COMMUNITY, FREEDOM, SERVICE, WORSHIP

St. John's Baptist Church offers a unique faith community...

... rooted in tradition, yet open to change and new visions as followers of Jesus. Since 1922, our historic church has grown alongside the city of Charlotte, continually evolving to meet the moment.

Today, as thousands move to Charlotte each month, we continue to respond with love and purpose. We're here:

- If you're navigating change and need the stability of an established church,
- If you've been hurt by a church and need a safe, healing space,
- If you're seeking a community to walk with you through life's joys,
- Even if you never step inside our building.

Why?

Because we believe every person is loved, valued, and worthy of celebration. We work to meet the spiritual and social needs of those within our congregation, our neighborhood, and our city.

At St. John's, our mission is to embody and extend God's inclusive compassion through the ongoing ministry of Jesus. We are committed to God, to each other—and to you.



St. John's Baptist
A SERVANT CHURCH

Vision Statement

St. John's Baptist Church is a fellowship of faith bound by a covenant with God and each other and committed to the ideals of community, freedom, service and worship. Together we seek...



Faith revealed through community with each other and the world around us.

Faith expressed as freedom through association, individual interpretation and personal relationship with God.



Faith demonstrated in service to our local and global community, inspired by the message and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Faith celebrated through public worship and joyful praise for the glory of God.



[Click here to visit our website.](#)



COMMUNITY

We are dedicated to one another as members of the St. John's family, sharing our financial resources, time, and talents to support its mission. We serve local, regional, and global communities and actively engage with other faith communities.





FREEDOM

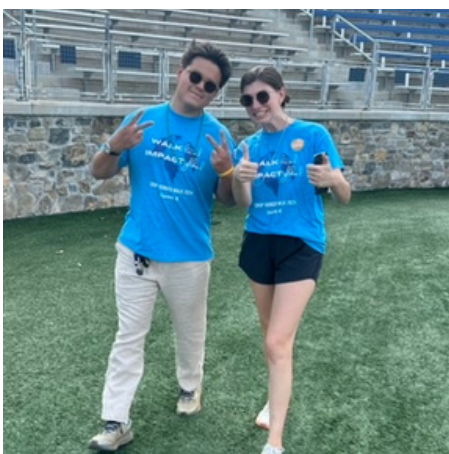
We are committed to a free pulpit and a free pew, embracing the principles of inclusion and openness to all. We value ongoing study and exploration as part of our theological journey, and we uphold a shared leadership model.



St. John's Baptist Church Mission Statement
A Servant Community:
Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active

SERVICE

We are dedicated to meeting the social and spiritual needs of central Charlotte and beyond, through the service and mission work of our members locally and globally.





Click here to be
linked to our
YouTube Channel
@sjbccharlotte for
the livestream of
our worship
services.



WORSHIP

We are committed to public worship, prayer, and celebration for the glory of God. We focus on spiritual growth, honor our tradition of praise through music and the arts, and embrace any form of worship that is thoughtful, relevant, and meaningful.



WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Click a yellow circle to view a worship bulletin from each season of the church year.

Holy Humor
Sunday
Worship
Bulletin

Christmas
Eve
Worship
Bulletin

Easter
Worship
Bulletin

Heritage
Sunday
Worship
Bulletin

Children's
Sabbath
Worship
Bulletin

Youth
Sunday
Worship
Bulletin

Family
Dedication
Worship
Bulletin

Check out our
YouTube Channel
@sjbccharlotte

Visit the
Ministries
page on
our website

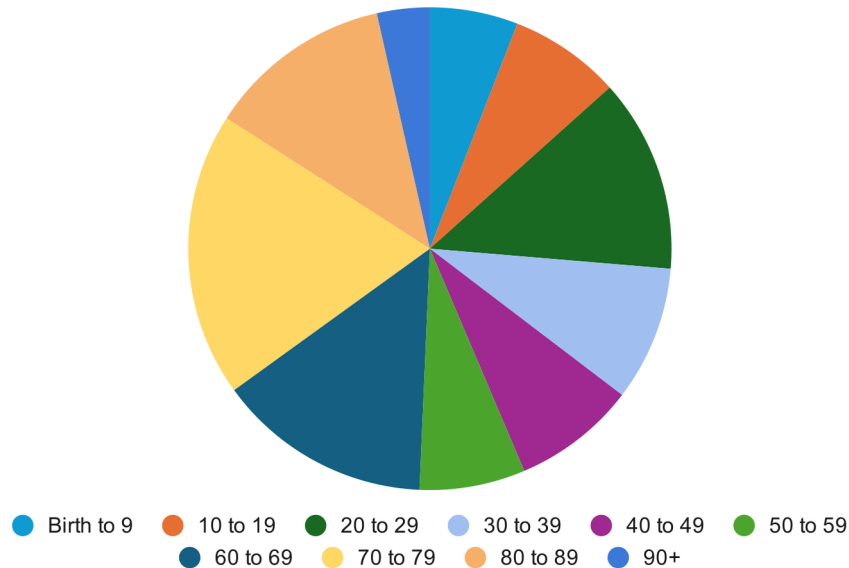
WHO WE ARE



- St. John's Baptist Church is comprised of approximately 485 members who are active in worship and other activities. Members and guests are drawn to our faith community in the Elizabeth neighborhood as well as neighborhoods throughout Charlotte and the surrounding towns. We worship together in a traditional service at 10:30 each Sunday with an average attendance of 200.
- Music at St. John's includes all ages. Our **Chancel Choir** leads worship each Sunday and welcomes all adult members of the congregation; the **Handbell Choir** provides music for worship 3–4 times per year and participates in special musical occasions; and our **Children's Choir** meets during the academic year as part of the Sunday morning Sunday school hour. Directed by Chloe Salmeron, this choir is for preschool and elementary students.
- Youth and young families find St. John's an appealing faith community.
 - The youth department involves approximately 15 teens in activities including Sunday School, mission projects, and Sunday Night Live.
 - Basketball season attracts children and teens to St. John's each year: more than 100 play on teams for age groups ranging from 5-18 years.
 - St. John's Weekday School enrolls over 40 children from the surrounding neighborhoods.

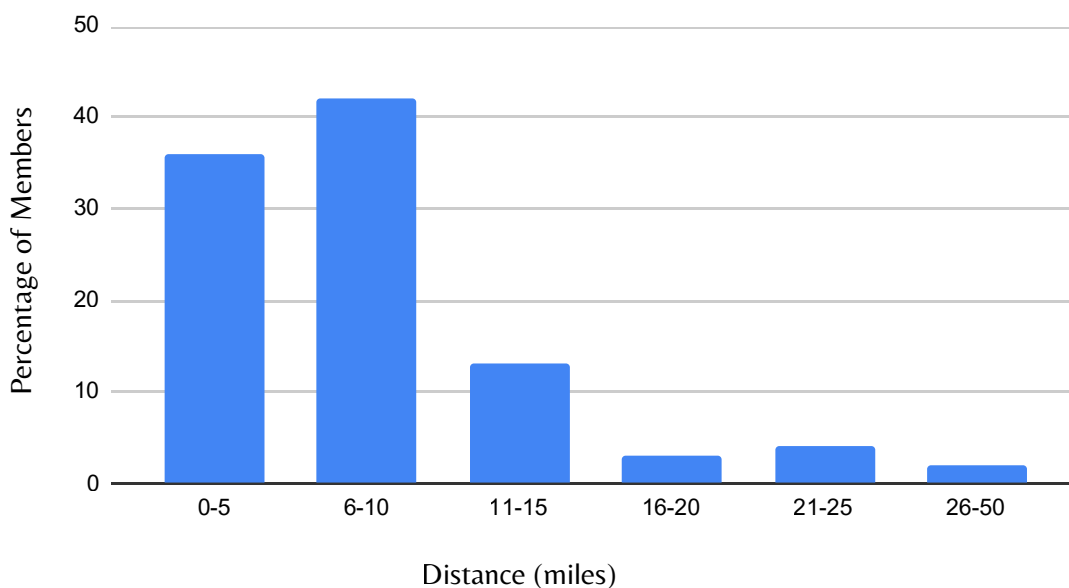
Membership at St. John's reflects both stability and growth. A majority of our members (50.6%) have been active for 25 years or more, underscoring a deep tradition of long-term commitment. At the same time, nearly half of our members (49.4%) have joined since 2000, bringing fresh energy and new stories into our life together.

The People of St. John's by Age Group

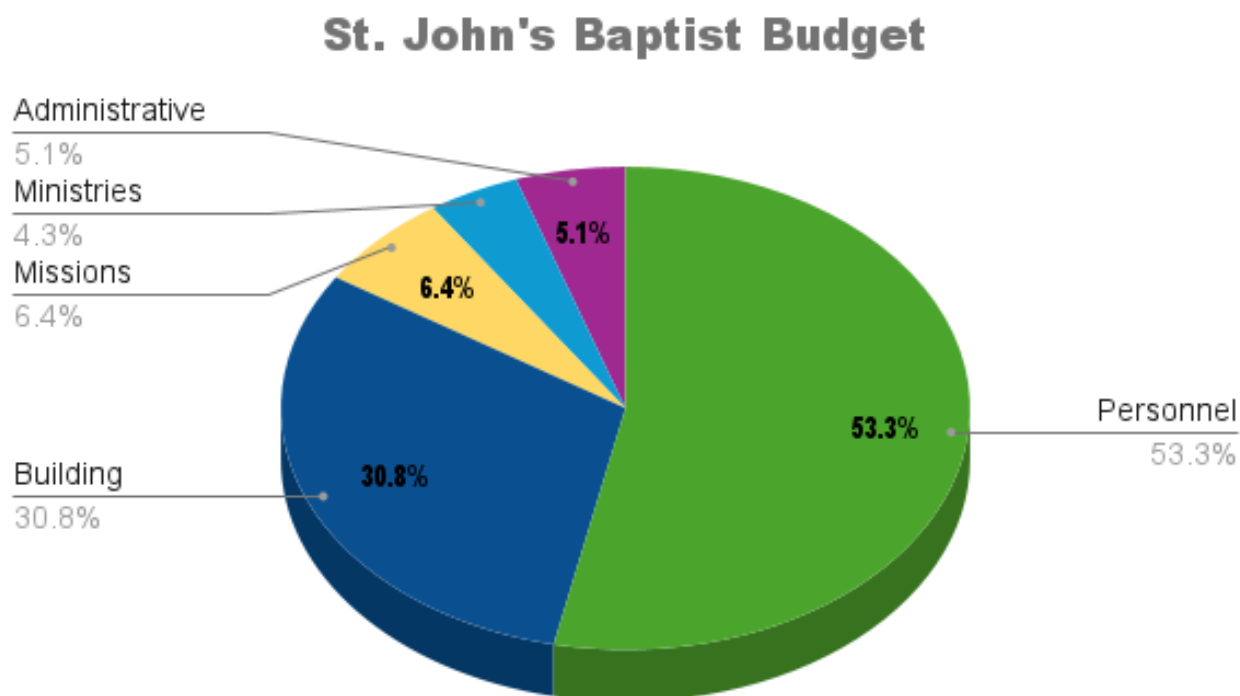


Dedication to St. John's is demonstrated by the distance that many drive each week with over 70% driving up to 10 miles each way to reach our sanctuary.

Percentage of Members vs. Miles Driven

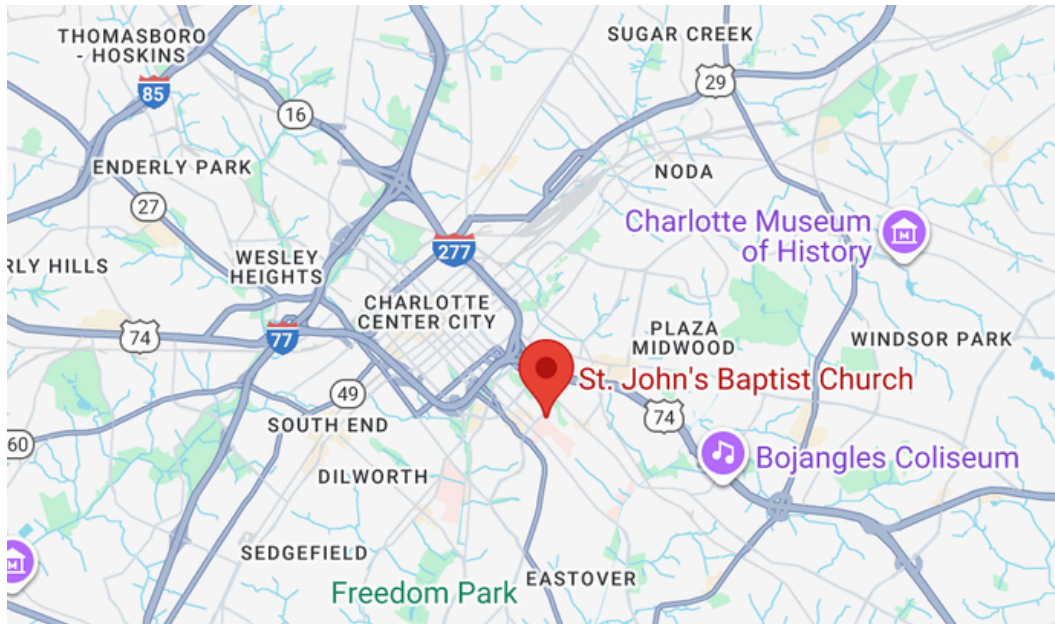


The 2025 operating budget is \$1.2 million. There is a stewardship emphasis program in the fall each year relative to financial gifts as well as membership talents and interests through which we budget our financial and member resources. With considerable financial resources dedicated to building and staff, aligning these resources with church goals is a primary goal of our congregants.



Our ministry includes the ways we share our space. Organizations have offices and regular meetings in our facilities, including Eastway Alcoholics Anonymous, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Church World Service CROP Walk, Charlotte Family Housing, the Hawthorne Art Studio, Together We Rise, Narcotics Anonymous, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Shepherd's Center of Charlotte, St. John's Weekday School, and Together in Christ International Ministries. We also regularly welcome various community groups including Right Moves for Youth, Communities in Schools, the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections, and others.

WHERE WE ARE

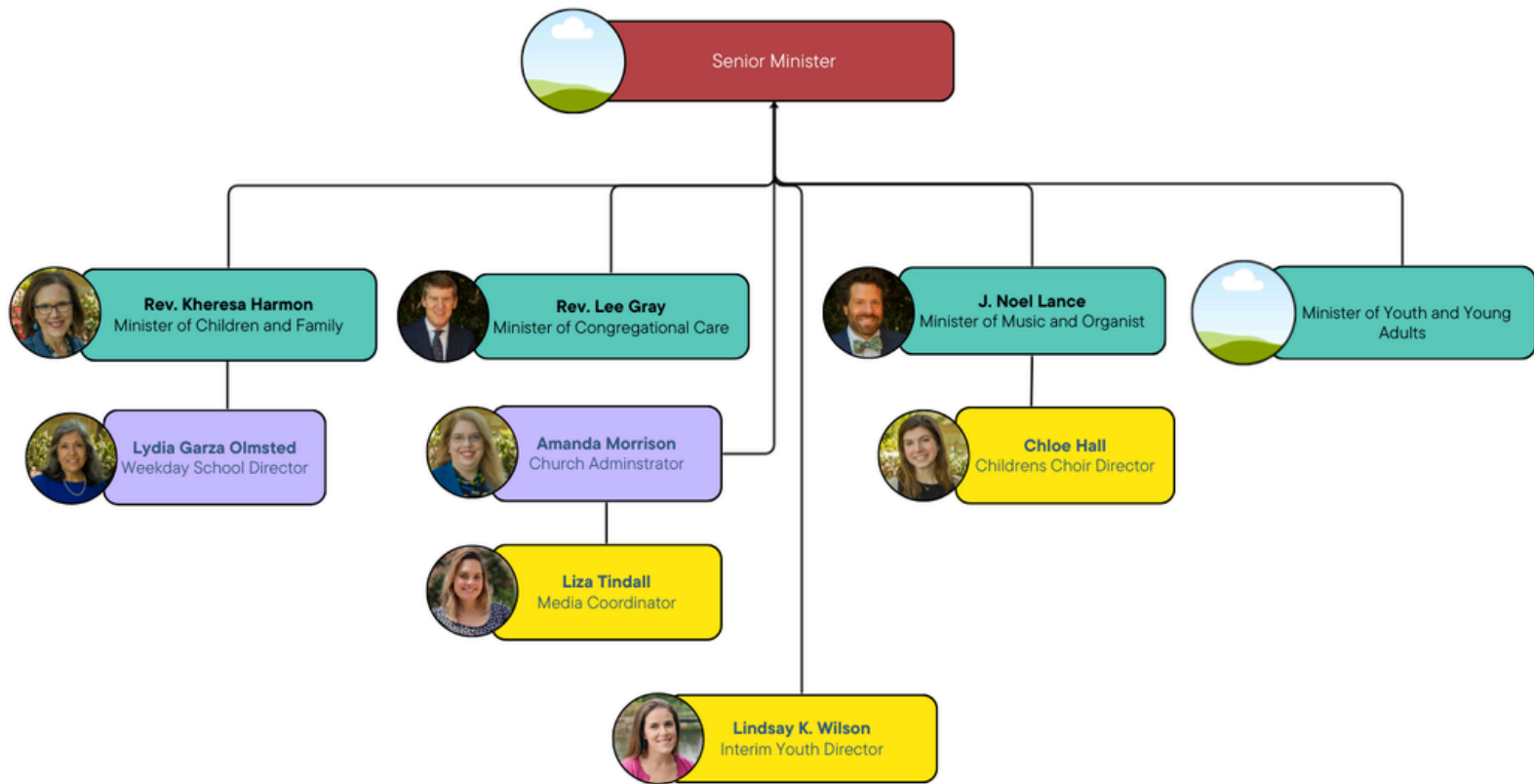


St. John's Baptist Church is located in the Elizabeth Community at the corner of Hawthorne Lane and Fifth Street, just 1.9 miles from Charlotte's historic Trade and Tryon intersection — the heart of our city. Charlotte is a vibrant, fast-growing metropolitan area of 2.8 million people, recently recognized as one of the nation's and world's most livable cities.

With its balance of affordability and opportunity, Charlotte offers an exceptional quality of life: an accessible commute, strong connections to the wider world, a flourishing arts and cultural scene, professional sports, and a talented, diverse workforce.

It's a city that welcomes new ideas, fosters growth, and creates rich opportunities for community and connection—an ideal setting for ministry and leadership.

CLERGY & STAFF STRUCTURE



SENIOR PASTORS OF SJBC

Dr. Joseph A. Gaines
Dr. C. W. Durden
Dr. Claude U. Broach
Dr. Julian Cave

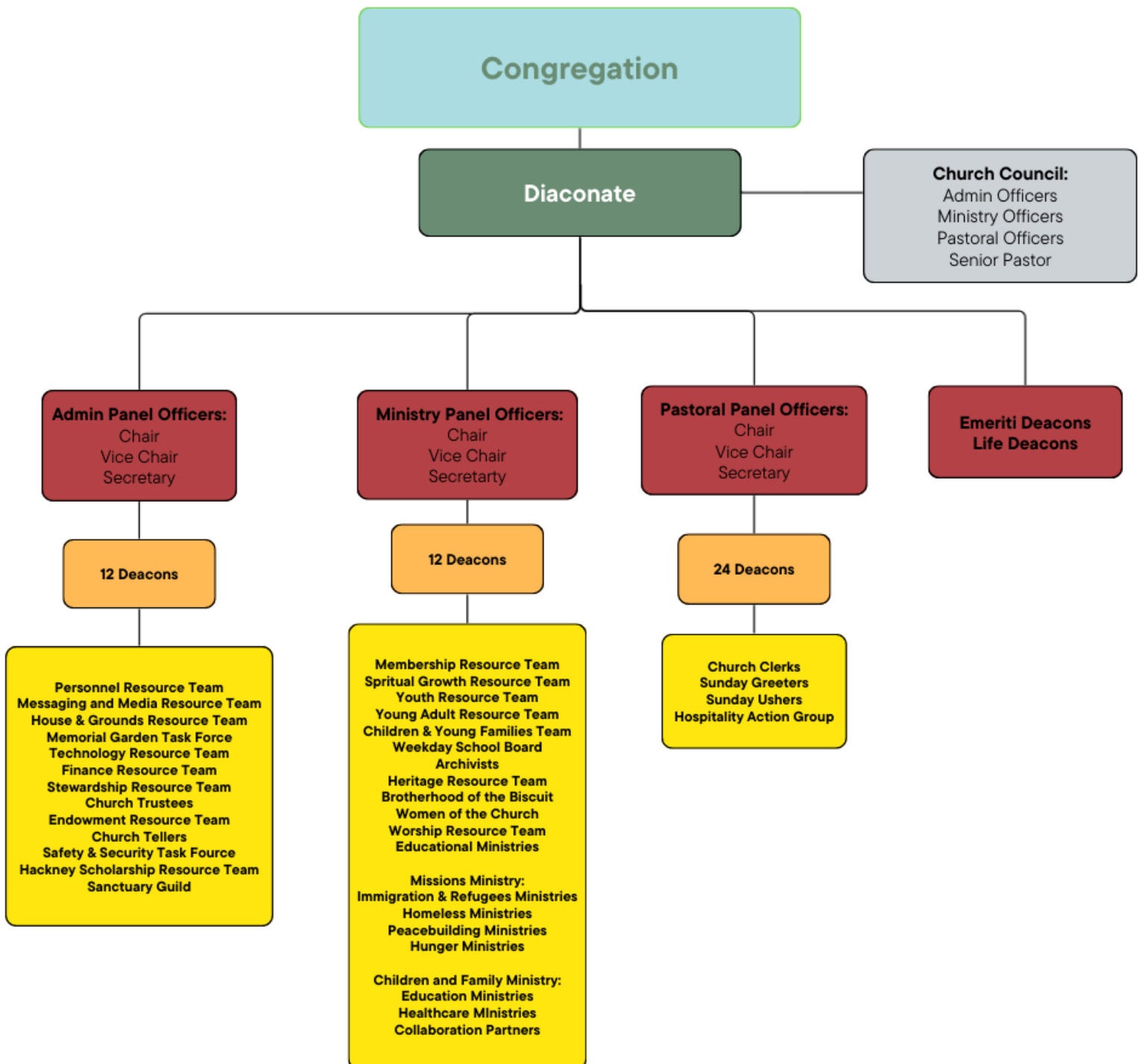
Dr. Thomas Graves
Dr. Richard Kremer
Dr. Layne Smith (Interim)
Dr. Dennis W. Foust

[Learn more about the history of St. John's here](#)

LAY LEADERSHIP



St. John's Baptist
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MISSION PARTNERS

Partnerships that shape the St. John's identity in the community have traditionally begun with the passions of a few inspired members and grown into church-wide priorities. See our complete list of mission partners [here](#).

Children & Family Ministries



Education Ministries



Healthcare Ministries



Hunger Ministries



Homeless Ministries



Peace Building Ministries



Immigrant & Refugee Ministries



AFFILIATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS



Alliance
of Baptists



Baptist World
Alliance



cbfnc



Cooperative
Baptist
Fellowship



Baptist Women In
Ministry



Association of Welcoming
& Affirming Baptists

St. John's is a Baptist community of faith. Our congregation treasures the distinctive qualities that have characterized Baptists throughout history, including the sanctity of each individual's personal relationship with God, the autonomy of the local church and the separation of church and state. St. John's takes pride in its affiliations. Nonetheless, loyalty to denomination is secondary to the higher authority of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

[Assess our complete list of Collaborative Partners here](#)



Family News

Every Thursday, we share the Family News, a newsletter that highlights the latest updates, events, and stories from the St. John's community. We encourage you to take a moment to read it and stay connected with all that's happening. You can subscribe to the newsletter [here](#).

Summer Beautification Day



Worship This Summer

The St. John's Pulpit

St. John's Youth

NEEDS YOU!

**ARTFUL
LENT**

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

luncheon



**On the
Way**



**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
BREAKFAST AND
PARENTS' MEETING**

**Men's Shelter
Service**

Friday, January 20

**FALL 2025 COOKOUT
FOR CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES**

Where We Are Going

In the Spring of 2024, St. John's held Converge, a breakfast and opportunity to gather perspectives from the congregation. The Converge task force (made up of incoming and outgoing Deacon and Panel chairs) received significant feedback and spent several weeks with staff and the Diaconate to summarize the dialogue, ideas, and recommendations.

Four key themes emerged: Fellowship and Congregational Care, Participation and Ministries, Outreach and Membership, and Financial Stewardship.

We then developed SMART (Specific - Measurable - Attainable - Relevant -Time-Bound) goals for each theme and presented these to the Congregation in the fall of 2024. These SMART goals outlined specific activities to take place through May of 2025 and have sharpened our vision for the years ahead. The work of Converge continues!

