



# CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2025



*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Clerk of Session*

*Sunday, March 29, 2026*

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# MEETING AGENDA

- Open with prayer
- Recognize Moderator pro tem (Aaron Tindall-Schlicht)
- Establish Quorum
- Approve minutes from previous Congregational Meeting
- Election of Ruling Elders, officers (Corporate Officers, Clerk, Treasurer), and Nominating Committee members
- Committee Reports:
  - Statistics
  - Clerk's Report
  - Building and Finance Committee Report
  - Presentation of 2025 Budget
  - Worship, Education, and Community Life Committee Report
  - Mission and Congregational Care Committee Report
  - Nominating Committee Report
- Q & A
- Close with prayer

# 2024 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

## 2024 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

March 16, 2025

The meeting was held in-person in the sanctuary as well as on Zoom for remote members.

**\*M/S/P = motion made, seconded, approved.**

The meeting was opened with prayer by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Clerk of Session at 1153. Aaron Tindall-Schlicht was recognized as the sitting Moderator, as appointed by Moderator Rev. Nikki Blanks. A quorum was established as present.

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting on 3/10/24. **M/S/P**

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2024 Special Congregational Meeting on 8/25/24. **M/S/P**

Debby Peters and Margaret Keehn were recognized for their dedication to the church on the completion of their terms on the Session.

John-Paul "JP" Kastner was nominated to the Session, and was presented by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht on behalf of the Nominating Committee. JP was elected to a three-year term on Calvary's Session. **M/S/P**

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht was re-elected to his second three-year term on Calvary's Session. **M/S/P**

Nick Heger was elected Treasurer and Aaron Tindall-Schlicht was elected Clerk of Session. **M/S/P**

The Corporate Board was re-elected to one-year terms, consisting of Margaret Keehn (President), Nick Heger (Treasurer), Aaron Tindall-Schlicht (Secretary). **M/S/P**

Nan Kim, Carolyn McCarthy, Jonnie Guernsey, and Aaron Tindall-Schlicht were re-elected to one-year terms on Calvary's Nominating Committee. **M/S/P**

Reports were given by the following:

- Statistics: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
- Building: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
- Finance: Nick Heger
- Worship, Education, and Fellowship: Carolyn McCarthy
- Mission: Margaret Keehn
- Congregational Care: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
- Nominating: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht

There was a brief Q&A after the reports. The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht at 1241.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Clerk of Session

# 2025 STATISTICAL REPORT

## 2025 Church Statistical Report

**Church** Calvary  
**Presbytery** Milwaukee  
**Address** 628 N 10th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233  
**Phone** 414-271-8782 **Fax**  
**Email** [calvarychurchMKE@gmail.com](mailto:calvarychurchMKE@gmail.com)  
**Web Site** <https://bigred.church/>



<b>Membership</b>			
Prior Active Members	37	Adjusted membership	39
<b>Gains</b>		<b>Losses</b>	
Certificate		Certificate	
Youth Professions		Deaths	
Professions & Reaffirmations	1	Deleted for any Other Reason	
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Ending Active Members</b>	<b>40</b>		
<b>Baptisms</b>			
Presented by Others		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	18
At Confirmation		Friends of the Congregation	4
All Other		Ruling Elders on Session	3
		Do you have Deacons?	No
<b>Age Distribution of Active Members</b>		<b>People with Disabilities</b>	
17 & Under		Hearing impairment	1
18 - 25	3	Sight impairment	
26 - 40	6	Mobility impairment	
41 - 55	10	Other impairment	
56 - 70	15		
Over 70	6	<b>Gender Distribution</b>	
<b>Total Age Distribution</b>	<b>40</b>	Women	19
		Men	21
		Non-Binary	
<b>Youth in Congregation</b>			
Age 4 and under	1	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	
Elementary School (K-5th grade)		High School (9th – 12th grade)	
		<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Racial Ethnic</b>			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	3	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	
Black/African American/African	8	White	29
Middle Eastern/North African		Multiracial	
Hispanic/Latino-a			
		<b>Total Racial Ethnic</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Budgeted Income</b>			
<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>122,000</b>		
<b>Budgeted Expense</b>			
<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>126,000</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>			
Regular Contributions	52,000	Bequests	6,000
Capital Building Fund	0	Other Income	64,000
Investment Income	0	Subsidy or Aid	0
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Local Program	28,000	Investment Expenditures	0
Local Mission	2,000	Per Capita Apprt	2,000
Capital Expenditures	0	Other Mission	0

# BUILDING & FINANCE

## Building Administrator's Report

The year 2025 at Calvary Presbyterian Church has been one of careful stewardship, operational resilience, and renewed opportunity. Our historic building continues to serve not only as a place of worship but also as a gathering place where faith, music, art, and community life intersect.

Throughout the year the building hosted **weddings, concerts, theatrical productions, educational gatherings, and public tours**. These events brought many visitors into the church and contributed to Calvary's growing reputation as one of Milwaukee's most distinctive sacred and cultural venues.

Maintaining a historic building of this scale inevitably brings challenges, and the past year required consistent attention to **infrastructure, safety, and daily operations**. Through coordinated efforts and the continued support of Session, we were able to stabilize critical systems and ensure the building remained functional and welcoming.

After two full years serving in this role, I now approach the work with a clearer understanding of the building's rhythms, needs, and possibilities. What once required experimentation has become a more deliberate strategy for managing both the building and its public use.

### *Key Highlights of 2025:*

- Resolution of major issues within the building's steam heating system
- Continued success of Candlelight Concert performances at Calvary
- Growth in weddings and private event rentals
- The inaugural fundraiser for Wisconsin Classic Stage hosted at the church
- Expanded public visibility through social media and event promotion
- Strengthened partnerships with arts and cultural organizations in Milwaukee
- Continued development of Calvary as a venue for music, theater, and community events
- Vanguard Production's fourth return to Calvary Presbyterian Church

### **Building Operations and Infrastructure**

The care and preservation of Calvary's historic structure remain a central responsibility of the Building Administrator's office.

The most significant operational challenge of 2025 involved the building's steam heating system. Mechanical failures required targeted repairs and coordination with contractors to restore reliable

function. These efforts were essential to maintaining both the safety of the building and the comfort of those using the space during winter months.

Although these repairs required considerable attention, they improved system stability and underscored the importance of long-term planning for aging infrastructure.

Routine maintenance continued throughout the year, including general facility oversight, event preparation, and coordination with vendors and contractors when needed.

### **Events, Rentals, and Cultural Partnerships**

One of the most encouraging developments of the year has been the continued growth of Calvary's role as a cultural venue within the community. The sanctuary and chapel hosted weddings, concerts, theatrical performances, and special gatherings. These events not only generated rental income but also introduced many new visitors to the church who were experiencing the building for the first time.

Candlelight Concert performances returned multiple times throughout the year and continue to draw strong attendance. These events have become an important part of Calvary's public presence.

Another notable milestone was the inaugural fundraiser for Wisconsin Classic Stage. The event demonstrated strong community interest in classical theater and literary programming and highlighted the unique role Calvary can play as a home for the performing arts.

Together these partnerships strengthen Calvary's identity as a space where sacred tradition and artistic expression can coexist.

### **Marketing and Public Engagement**

Expanding Calvary's visibility within the broader community remained an important focus in 2025. Through social media outreach, event promotion, and documentation of activities within the building, Calvary's public presence continues to grow. These efforts have helped introduce the church to new audiences and increased inquiries for weddings, concerts, and special events.

As awareness expands, the building is increasingly recognized not only as a historic landmark but as an active venue for music, theater, and community gatherings.

### **Looking Forward**

Looking ahead, the priorities remain clear: continued stewardship of the building, responsible management of its historic infrastructure, and the thoughtful expansion of partnerships that bring new life into the space.

Historic buildings require patience, planning, and care, but they also hold remarkable potential. With continued collaboration and strategic planning, Calvary is well positioned to build on the

momentum of the past year.

The work of preserving this building while opening its doors to the wider community remains both a responsibility and a privilege.

Submitted by Joshua “JP” Pohja,  
Building Administrator

## Finance Report and 2026 Budget

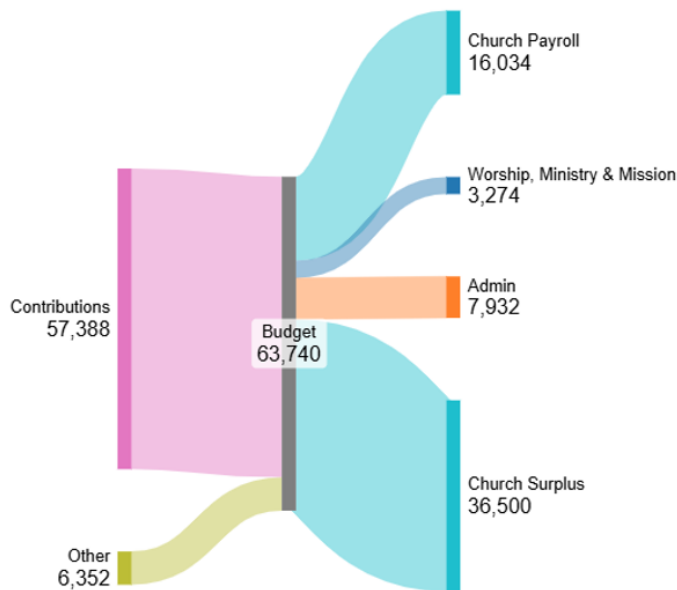
### Recognitions:

- **Joshua Pohja (JP 2.0)** – has continued as Church office manager and is a true asset to the church! A huge thank-you to him for often going above and beyond, especially with pursuing additional renters to choose Calvary as a venue for their performances, weddings, and events. Utilizing this beautiful space for the community is truly important and he has managed all sorts of administration tasks like successfully making bank deposits and cutting checks for payment to our vendors. And sending quarterly donor statements to our members.
- **Michael Napier** – our bookkeeper stayed on duty through the close of 2025 and is now leaving us after nearly 2 years of service to this congregation. For 2025, he continued doing a great job in his closing the books monthly and providing reports to the treasurer and our session. In 2026 this work is being shifted to Nick Heger (With JP Kastner to fill in as needed) for the interim until a new bookkeeper is found for the position.
- Also thank you to our **Budget team** of Margaret, JP, and I.

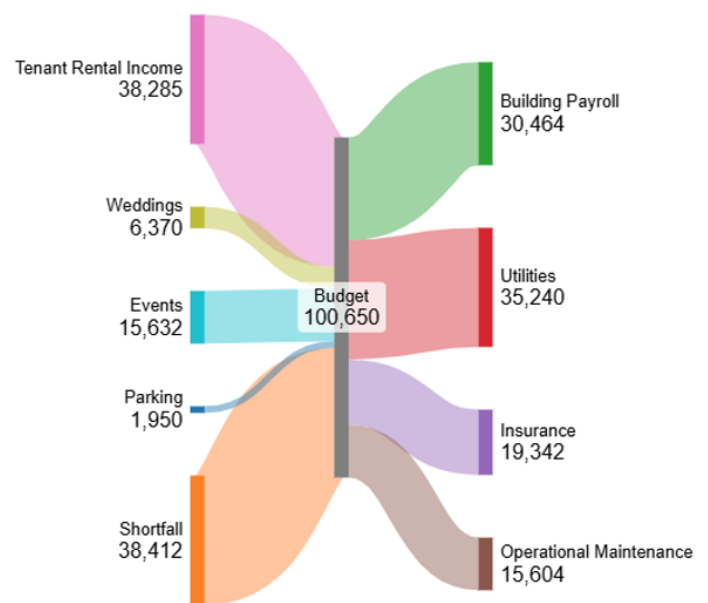
### 2025 Financial Recap:

- A very solid year, financially, we outperformed our 2025 budget expectations and nearly operated at a balanced budget
- In 2025 Calvary brought in Church revenues of \$63,740 and Building revenues of \$62,237 for total revenues of \$125,978
- In 2025 Calvary spent Church expenses of \$27,240 and Building expenses of \$100,650 for total expenses of \$127,890
- This resulted in an overall deficit of \$1,912

### Church 2025 Actual Results:



### Building 2025 Actual Results:



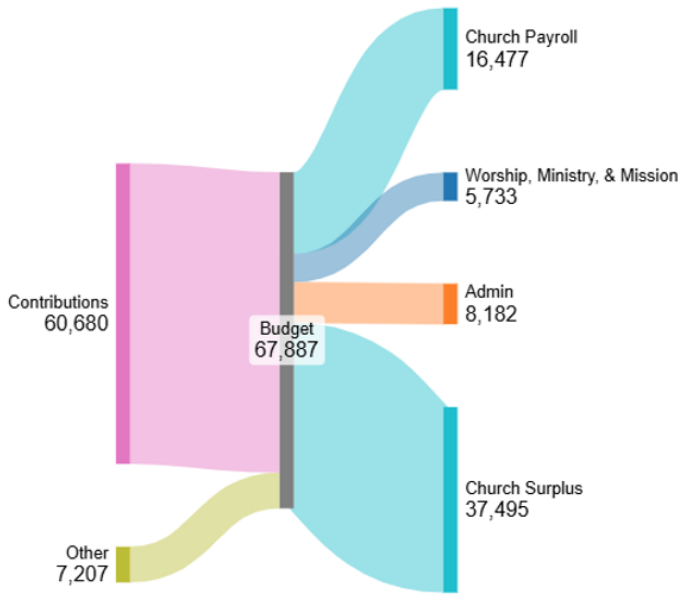
### **Planning for 2025:**

- Josh Pohja is working diligently to bring in additional rental partners; new tenants continue to be sought out. In addition to this revenue stream bringing in some much-needed funds; more shows and more wedding rentals in our beautiful building helps to bring our neighborhood community together at Calvary.
- The Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Vanguard Productions, and FeverUp Candlelight concerts are just some of our non-permanent renters
- Seeking to advertise our wedding space to book more weddings – find us on TikTok!
- Interchange Theater Co-Op continues renting the lower level of the building for improv live theater shows and classes
- Based on a forecast that hopes to better maximize our space, and does so in a realistic manner we have assembled a budget for 2026 which falls short of our currently expected expenses and obligations (by approximately \$5,200). Meaning we project our total expenses to exceed our total revenues for the year ahead.
- Furthermore, this one-year budget does allow very minimal cushion for unknown and unexpected repairs and capital improvements—something we know is inevitable with our beautiful, old, and expensive building. We have deferred maintenance on many of the beautiful windows, and other areas, due to financial constraints. Our 2026 budget does allocate a modest amount of \$5,000 to maintain windows to prevent further degradation. A common rule of thumb might suggest saving 1-2% of the value of the building... for a \$3M building this would be \$30,000-60,000 each year. This hypothetical shortfall is also not

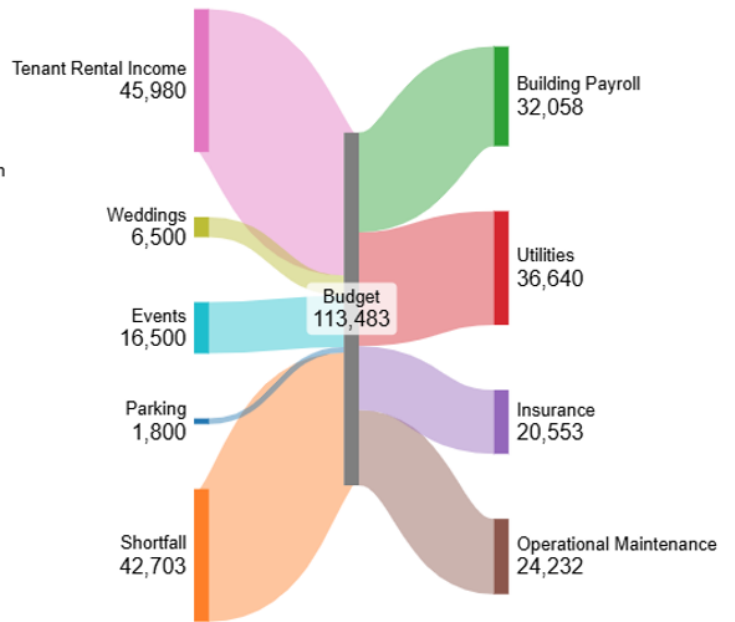
accounted for nor budgeted for in the year 2026, though we hope to be in a place where we can set aside some money in a capital fund for future repairs at some point in the future.

**2026 Budget snapshots:**

**Church 2026 Budget:**



**Building 2026 Budget:**



Respectfully submitted,  
 Nick Heger,  
 Treasurer

## **WORSHIP, EDUCATION, & COMMUNITY LIFE**

In 2025, Calvary Presbyterian Church continued its calling to worship God. We continued to learn and grow together as a welcoming, accepting Christian community.

In 2025, Calvary's Worship Committee consisted of Kingsley Ezeuwa, Beth Van Gorp, Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Jonnie Guernsey, JP Kastner, and Carolyn McCarthy, committee chair.

We met monthly to plan worship, social events and church development. We prayed for guidance as we created opportunities for spiritual formation at Calvary.

### Worship Services:

- Preaching was provided by members of the Worship Committee as well as Nan Kim and Rev. Fiona Nicolaisen. This is lower participation in preaching compared to 2024.
- We had the second Hygge Sunday.
- Lent: Our Lenten theme was Saints, and we learned about a different saint (loosely defined) each week. Aaron coordinated and hosted the Maundy Thursday service, including a light meal of soup and bread.
- Easter was celebrated with the sunrise gathering at Atwater beach and then service at Calvary, including a choir of Aaron, Jonnie and Nan.
- We worshiped once outside at South Shore Park followed by lunch at the beer garden.
- From October through Advent, we incorporated the theme of "Home," reflecting on concepts and meanings of home.
- Advent: we celebrated another Artful Advent.
- Christmas Eve service was "Lessons & Carols" led by Aaron.
- Communion responsibilities were shared between Beth, JP and Carolyn. Rev. Fiona Nicolaisen provided communion when she led worship.
- Music was led by Aaron, who also coordinated the staff accompanists Melissa Simes and Jane Han.
- Musicians were joined at various times by others, including: Cindy Thomas, Laura Wengler, Jonnie Guernsey, Sara Thomas, Don Linke, Michael Wininsky, and Michelle Smith.

### We discussed ideas for growing our community:

How do we tell others about Calvary? A business card to help invite people?

How do we describe Calvary? A non-hierarchical, accepting, authentic, homegrown Christian

community.

How do we differentiate Calvary from other congregations? We are agile, creative, hand-made, open, affirming, following the Spirit. We grow through preaching and serving; we minister to one another.

Education, and Congregational Life:

- Beth facilitated Theology on Tour, a monthly book discussion. We finished Braving the Thin Places by Julianne Stanz and started Soul Survivor by Philip Yancy.
- Aaron produced the weekly newsletter, distributed by email.
- We no longer use the Meet Up site.
- Carolyn began to collect information for an updated Calvary Community Directory and will submit the draft to the Session for review. Contact information includes: Name(s), address, phone number(s), and preferred email(s).
- 2025 social opportunities included:
  - Bowling at Bayview Bowl
  - Coffee hour with congregational members encouraged to host monthly
  - Second Table
  - Spring Cleaning Day
  - Food for the Journey fundraiser
  - *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* in sanctuary.
  - Selected summer concerts in the parks
  - Trivia Night at Hoyt Park.
  - Worship at South Shore Park followed by lunch at the beer garden.
  - Saturday Morning coffee/tea at the Pfister Hotel
  - Project Stay meal coordinated and facilitated by Margaret Keene
  - Doors Open with option to walk the Labyrinth

We continue to strive to create a welcoming and meaningful worship experience as well as a variety of fellowship opportunities for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn McCarthy,

Worship Committee Chair

# MISSION & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## Mission

Without a working elevator we had some limitations inviting people into Calvary for Labyrinth. However we did do great work externally, helping our neighbors.

### Project Stay

Project Stay is a MPS school for a selective population, focused on students who *want* a high school degree and meet specific eligibility criteria to include students returning from expulsion or incarceration, as well as students who are experiencing challenges that include:

- Being behind on credits and off-track for graduation
- Missing school (poor attendance)
- Being pregnant or raising a child

Mr. Joe Viste MSSW is currently the Principal at Project Stay. He has expanded the student body from 140 to 235.

In 2025, Calvary joined their community liaison committee that includes parents, teachers, neighborhood. In these secessions key problems are identified:

- First attendance: 42%
- Graduation rate: 40%
- Violence: currently very low

We were asked to help with an incentive for attendance. In 2025 Calvary via an anonymous donation supplied 60 tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks game to be used as an attendance motivation tool.

Calvary also provided:

- “Mock” interview meetings, with very positive feedback
- Toiletries for students
- Christmas Joy with a meal and all the trimmings

### “Red Card”

The Calvary Community Resource Cards have been prepared, updated, and distributed to those in need in the community since 2021. In 2025 **over 750 cards were distributed**. The card provides access information for emergency shelters, meals, clothing and basic needs, mental health services,

employment, education, advocacy services, housing, healthcare, substance abuse, food pantries, elder care, and other community agencies. The cards have been used by churches and schools to provide community resource information to families. Saint Vincent de Paul includes the cards in their packet for every client. The Milwaukee City Health Department has the cards available at their intake desk. Several elementary schools in the central city has cards available at their office and have copied and sent them home with students. And Calvary Presbyterian Church has a box outside the front entrance that is kept filled with cards for passersby and students.

Since 2021, there have been over 2,500 cards distributed.

We plan to update the card with current data in 2026 via a \$1,000 grant from the Presbytery.

### ***Capuchin Walk***

In June 2025, nine Calvary members and friends participated in the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry. The online donations totaled \$140, and the team donation amount was \$715. Overall, Calvary church brought in **\$855** to help feed our neighbors struggling with hunger.

### ***Capuchin Food for the Journey***

This multi-church mission grows food and distributes it to local food banks.

Calvary continues to play a key role in Food for the Journey with JP Kastner serving on the board as Treasurer. Food for the Journey has expanded to ten churches and three gardens. Calvary, in partnership with the Interchange Theater, held a Fat Tuesday fundraising event which raised \$750 for the construction of the new garden. That new garden is finishing construction and will be ready for this summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Keehn,

Committee Member

## **Congregational Care**

I am pleased to announce that Calvary Presbyterian Church had no deaths this year.

The church has remained active in a number of ways. Coffee hours and second table dinners have continued. We held our annual picnic again at South Shore Park, followed by lunch at the South Shore Terrace Beer Garden. Members also participated in a Christmas luncheon for Project Stay, the Capuchin Walk, and Theology on tour (a book study group who meet in members homes).

We also continued the Little Lending Library at Calvary.

Starting 2026, in consultation with the Milwaukee Presbytery, our seminarian, JP Kastner, has devised a pastoral care system for the Calvary Community. He will be the point person and local Chaplin and Rev. Katie Ebel (of Faith Springs Presbyterian Church) will back him up and be a second pastoral care option. Many thanks to JP for making this possible

Many cards, letters and calls were made and sent to members and friends of Calvary Church throughout the year

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events happen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Peters,

Committee Member

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee was elected in 2024 to address the need for new members of Session, and consisted of Jonnie Guernsey, Nan Kim, Carolyn McCarthy, and Aaron Tindall-Schlicht (Session member).

Dorothea “Zuni” Macon has gladly accepted nomination to the Session, and will be nominated at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

## 2025 Session and Officers

### **RULING ELDERS** *(Classes graduate at the end of year indicated.)*

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, class of 2027, 2nd term

Kingsley Ezeuwa, class of 2026, 1st term

John-Paul Kastner, class of 2027, 1st term

### **MODERATOR**

Rev. Nikki Blanks, Moderator

### **CLERK**

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht

### **TREASURER**

Nick Heger

### **CORPORATE OFFICERS**

President: Margaret Keehn

Secretary: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht

Treasurer: Nick Heger

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht,

Clerk of Session