

Church Council Minutes

Belin Memorial UMC Sanctuary

Monday, December 1, 2025

I. The Gathering of the Church Council

a. Welcome/Call to Order

Jessica called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

b. Devotion and Prayer

Jessica opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

II. Celebrating and Anticipating

a. Approval of the 10/6/2025 minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob McCurry, seconded by Jane Eason.

The minutes were approved.

b. Committee/Team Reports

Bob McCurry, Chairman of Membership and Evangelism Committee

In the past three years 200+ new members have joined our church. This is through the ministers, staff, choir and members of this church. It is through these avenues, particularly the congregation, that people have felt so welcoming that they want to be a member. This is his last meeting as he and Barbara are rotating off the committee. He feels honored to being a member of this church and to serve on this committee.

c. Staff reports None

d. Pastors' Reports

Sandra Stevens Poirer – She thanked everyone who had any part in getting the church ready for Advent. Thanks to the council for identifying people who need help during challenging times. She also thanked everyone for letting her to continue to serve as a pastor.

Will Malambri – Thank you to all who helped with getting ready for Advent. A reminder that Bill Judd's funeral will be this Saturday at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary. Sunday afternoon there is the Murrells Inlet parade. In the morning the choir will be presenting their Cantata and leading worship in the Sanctuary. In addition, next week on December 15, the Celebration of Light and Hope will be held.

The Trustees are working diligently on Olivers Lodge property. Doing research and inspection to determine if it is a viable option to go further with the purchase of the property.

An update on the lawsuit that was filed in November against the South Annual Conference, Bishops, District Supervisor and our pastors. The Haynesworth, Sinkler, Boyd is representing Belin who also works with our annual conference Chancellor. The Annual Conference is picking up any costs that go beyond our insurance. Neither individuals nor this church will need to cover any costs incurred beyond our insurance. Our attorneys may want to meet with the Church Council after the initial response has been submitted. The attorneys have stated that “we have a strong strong defense to their complaints, and we anticipate that we will prevail.” “The attorneys expressed that the likelihood of the plaintiffs’ victory is low.” It may take a while before we reach a final resolution, and we should focus on being a church. Bishop Fairley said, “we have attorneys that are paid to handle the legal aspects and that you Belin are charged to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Will is pleased that we are doing so much and keeping the positivity in our work. He talked about the other activities happening around the church for everyone and activities trying to reach young adults. He is pleased that the Council has helped with the change and in the New Year there will be a smaller council to hopefully have more discussion and not just hearing reports. He thanked those who will be leaving the council but will continue in their leadership position. Everyone is still welcome to attend but will not have a vote. He thanked all who were leaving because their term was ending.

Will and Valerie thanked Jessica for her leadership through everything in the past year. Jessica received several gifts and expressed her gratitude to everyone who had supported her during her time in office.

- e. Old Business None
- f. New Business None

III Prayer Requests and Praise Report - none

IV Closing

The next Council Meeting January 5, 2026 at 6pm in the Family Life Center

Closing prayer – Will closed us in prayer.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Fox