

## Church Council Minutes

Belin Memorial UMC

Monday, January 5, 2026

1. Opening Prayer – Valerie Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened with a prayer.
2. Devotion – Smith Knaffle provided us with a devotion.
3. Called Charge Conference – Steve Brown, District Superintendent, called the meeting for the purpose of the Church Council to decide on the purchase of Olivers Lodge.

Barry Taylor, Chairman of Trustees, presented the following timeline:

October 6, 2025: Church Council passed a motion that directed the Board of Trustees to enter into negotiations on the purchase of Olivers Lodge.

October 13, 2025: The Board of Trustees met during their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss and take action on the Church Council Motion. Following the discussion the Board of Trustees authorized and selected individuals to serve on a sub-committee to further review and act on all aspects of the potential purchase of the land.

December 8, 2025: Over approximately two months the subcommittee members and church staff lead by Paul Gardner investigated multiple issues related to the purchase. On December 8, 2025, the land purchase subcommittee met to share their findings with the Trustees. They recommended that the church purchase the property. After discussions the Board of Trustees motioned to request the Church Council approve the purchase of Oliver's Lodge Property.

As Charman of the Board of Trustees, he made the following motion:

“That the Church Council of Belin Memorial UMC authorize the Trustees to move forward with the purchase of the Oliver's Lodge property for \$2 million dollars, execute the necessary closing documents and owner financing agreement, and after doing so to make the property safe to include demolition and grading of the property”.

The motion was seconded by Dave Hobson.

The motion was opened for discussion. The discussion included the benefits and detriments of adding another parcel, the need for an overarching strategic plan for fulfilling our mission, the price of the property and ways to fund it, the poor condition of the building on the Oliver's Lodge property, zoning or easement restrictions, and the risks involved in not purchasing at this time.

After further discussion the vote was called on the original motion. The motion was approved with a majority vote, with one no vote and one abstaining.

Motion was made to adjourn the Charge Conference, motion passed.

4. Welcome & Introductions of new Council members

Valerie welcomed everyone and stated that since we are a smaller board she would like us to get into more planning and doing rather than just hearing reports. She introduced our new members Bret English, Annagray Malambri and Cindy Bush.

5. Approval of December 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made to approve the minutes by Cherry Fisher-Bryan, seconded by Chris Sullivan. Motion passed.

6. Meeting Dates

Church Council – see the Major Dates sheet attached to the packet.

7. Attendance – Done

8. Communication/Information

See the Agenda for details.

9. Mission and Vision Planning

The council then broke into groups of two and did an exercise of listing our Strengths and Weaknesses which are internal, then Opportunities and Threats which are external. The cards were turned into Valerie to put together the comments, and a summary will be distributed later.

10. Other business, questions and comments

There was a request to consider having the immediate past Chair serve on the Church Council as a full member to help with the continuity of the Church Council. Barry Taylor made a motion “that the Nomination Committee consider the Church Council adding the immediate Past Chair as an official member of the Church Council for the period of one-year effective January 1, 2026.” The motion was seconded by Gordon Myers. After some discussion, the motion was approved.

Mac Bryan made a motion “To authorize the Nominations committee to create a diverse committee of 12 people to review the use of all properties and create a plan”. Seconded by Dave Hobson.

After discussion the motion was approved.

Darrell Duggins praised Paul Garner for the work he has done on the operating budget and that we had a good close to this past year. We are in a good financial position for the beginning of 2026.

The next meeting is February 2, 2026.

11. Closing Prayer - Sandra Stevens Poirel closed us in prayer.  
Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Fox