

## Church Council Minutes

Belin Memorial UMC

Thursday February. 5, 2026

1. Opening Prayer – Valerie Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Sandra Stevens Poirel opened with a prayer.
2. Devotion – Bret English provided us with a devotion.
3. Approval of January 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes.  
Motion was made to approve the minutes by Mac Bryan, seconded by Chris Sullivan.  
Motion passed.
  - a. Publication of Minutes on Church Website
    - The minutes have been put on the Church website but are hard to find. Discussion of different options occurred, and they will be shared with Cindy Mullins' who can decide where the best option would work. There was a suggestion made that after our meetings a small write-up could be put in the Inlet View on what happened at the Council Meeting. No decisions were made.
4. Discussion of Team Reports
  - The Secretary requests that Team Reports be submitted as Word documents to facilitate easy compilation. You should submit your report either within one week after your meeting or by the Monday preceding the next council meeting.
  - Will Malambri clarified in the Adult Ministry report that the Belin Ministry Fair is scheduled for March 8th at the Family Life Center, not in February.
  - Barry Taylor reviewed the Trustees report that included the projects to be completed this year. We've signed the Olivers Lodge Settlement Documents, and now the property belongs to us. A fence has been installed around the property, a structural engineer is evaluating the building, and they are receiving bids for potential of dismantling or demolishing the building. He also mentioned they are working on the details of what is best way to relocate the Sanctuary services in July and August when they are working on the pews and flooring.
  - Will mentioned the activities happening this Sunday with Communion, Youth Sunday in the Harbor, Boy Scout birthday in the Sanctuary at 11:00 service, recognition of the youth basketball coaches and volunteers will be at the 11:00 service in the Harbor. After the 11:00 service, a brief outdoor program in the parking lot will unveil a plaque marking the first Belin Sanctuary site. He noted that Lent begins on February 18th and announced the Wednesday noon services during Lent, with different ministers delivering messages and lunch following in the Family Life Center.
  - Paul Gardner highlighted the Finance Team report and went over the final financial report for the year ending 2025. With all the concerns this past year we ended the year in great

financial shape. A question was raised about disbursements from the Endowment Fund. It was suggested the Endowment Team consider making the decision about how much money is available for the following year by early fall so those funds can be considered in the budgetary process.

5. Mission and Vision Planning-Strengths from January 2026 SWOT Exercise

Valerie had us break into teams of 2 and discuss ways to nurture and strengthen our strengths. Every team needed to select three items from the list to elaborate on. She collected the results and will send out the results the Council members.

6. Old Business

a. Olivers Lodge

The trustees have retained a structural engineer to review the Oliver's Lodge property. It was suggested to periodically update the congregation through the Inlet View.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

They have had 2 meetings and nearly 60 names have been suggested. They are considering every part of the congregation and pray fully selecting 12 names to review all the facilities.

c. Immediate Past Council Chair Position

At the recommendation of the Nominations Team, we welcomed Jessica Flynn back as the Immediate Past Chair of Council. This position will allow the previous chair the opportunity to be a member of the Council with voice, but not vote for the calendar year following his/her chairing the council.

7. New Business

a. Lent Offerings

Valerie was looking for ideas to use the lent offerings this year. Some local and maybe some internationally. Ideas were Zoe missions, Morning Glory building project, supporting a child to go to Morning Glory, New Direction, South Strand Mobile Meals, New Direction in the South Strand. These suggestions will be passed on to the staff to make the final decision.

8. Next Meeting: March 2, 2026

a. Mission and Vision Planning – Weaknesses from January 2026 SWOT Exercise

Please pray on how we can address these weaknesses for our discussion next month.

9. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mac Bryan seconded by Chris Sullivan, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

10. Will concluded the meeting with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Fox

