

Church Council Minutes

Belin Memorial UMC

Monday March 2, 2026

1. Opening Prayer – Valerie Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Will Malambri opened with a prayer.
2. Devotion – Mac Bryan provided us with a devotion.
3. Valerie asked if we could adjust the agenda since we had some guests with us and she felt they did not need to sit through our planning session. She asked if we could move our planning session till after New Business. Charlie Leoard made the motion, seconded by Dave Hobson. Motion passed.
4. Approval of February 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes.
Motion was made to approve the minutes by Bret English, seconded by Cherry Fisher-Bryan. Motion passed.
5. Discussion of Team Reports
Valerie read the SPRC report since it was not submitted in time to be part of the reports sent out prior to the meeting.
Cindy Bush chair of Membership and Evangelism stated that they received the “Welcome Ask Me” vests that were mentioned in her report.
6. Old Business
 - a. Minutes on Church Website – Cindy Mullins came up and showed us on the TV screen where on the Belin UMC website you could find the Church Council Minutes, that was more prominent than before. It is a work in progress.
 - b. Oliver’s Lodge – Paul Gardner stated that they got 4 bids to demolish the Lodge. They decided on the low bidder for about \$16,000-\$17,000. They have not signed a contract yet. A CCU professor who also runs a non-profit for deconstruction of historical properties is interested in dismantling the building and helping repurpose any salvageable parts of it. He has submitted a bid that is a little higher than the lowest bid to demolish the house. The Trustees voted and would like to consider the higher bid. Paul is conducting his due diligence on both the professor and the non-profit. His concern is that this would be the biggest project that they would have ever done. A third option is for Paul to have a structural engineer determine if any of it could be saved. There is a woman that is the cat keeper has found a rescue to take all the cats.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee – Will presented the slate of nominees for the Strategic Planning Team. The team will be looking at all our ministries and properties and will give recommendations of the best use of our properties and programs. A motion was

made to accept the list of nominees by Dave Hobson and seconded by Cherry Fisher-Bryan. Motion passed.

- d. Lent Offerings - We will be distributing our funds between an international program, Zoe Empowers, located in Africa and locally Friendship Place in Georgetown.
- e. Communications and Calendar Process – Cindy Mullins explained the process of for scheduling events, such as a Bible study or community event within the church. There is Now Page Request form for events. It is found on the website under the CONNECT tab, then click on Newsletter for the Now Page Request form. Once the form is completed it needs to be approved by Wendy Zulanch to see if there is a conflict with dates/times. The form is then sent to Cindy to determine if it should be put in the Inlet View and/or the web site. She will also forward it to the appropriate Director of Church Ministries.
- f. Belin Creative Learning Center Policies – Amanda Romance review her BCLC report stating that there are currently 17-19% that are church members. As for admitting new children the process is: those who have siblings in the program are first, then members of our church are second and after that anyone else is put on the bottom of the list. Each year, as 4-year-olds move on to kindergarten, all siblings and church members on the wait list have been admitted to BCLC. If space is available, they go to the waiting list. The question from a previous meeting was once someone heard that if they are a church member their child goes up on the waiting list they ask how do I become a member? The person is referred to the Starting Point and is given the date of the next one.

7. New Business

- a. Revision of Endowment Articles – Endowment Chairperson – Kenan Walker and Doug Wahl presented the revisions of the Articles of Organization of the Endowment Fund. The Articles used to be 8 pages long and they were shortened to two pages. Some of the items that were removed were ambiguous or no longer applied and the people who wrote them were no longer around to ask for clarification. Some of the changes were the policy around if distributions are needed in Article VI how that would be computed. They also considered Endowment best practices. The motion made by the Endowment committee was approved by the Church Council.
- b. Blessing of the Inlet 2026 Planning – Blessing of the Inlet Chairperson, Becky Hale handed out her report to everyone and went over some of the changes for this year. It will be held May 2, 2026, from 9-2pm with the Blessing Service at 10:00am. There was a discussion about the payment for the children’s activities. The price this year was going to be \$40.00 per child. After further discussion the recommendation was to look for sponsors to cover all or most of the cost for the children’s activities.

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

Valerie led the discussion on our main weakness: trying to increase participation of children, youth, young adults and families. Some of the ideas are to hand out flyers for specific populations with activities and have QR codes on them for further information. Young adults are a tough age group since there are not a lot of them in this area. There is a thought of setting up a pickle ball night for young adults. Also to look at other sports that can draw interest for different groups. There was discussion about other groups and activities specific to each group that could include a Kids Fair, baking with mom, having a dedicated area for teenagers, mothers' morning out, movie night on the lawn and many more.

9. Next Meeting: May 4, 2026

a. Invited Guests: Kim Oakley (Children's Ministry), Brandy Street (Youth Ministry)

b. Mission and Vision Planning – Opportunities and Threats – External

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mac Bryan, seconded by Bret English, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Sandra concluded the meeting with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Fox