

Church Council Minutes

Belin Memorial UMC

Monday June 1, 2026

1. Opening Prayer – Valerie Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Will Malambri opened with a prayer.
2. Devotion – Barry Taylor provided us with a devotion
3. Approval of May 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made to approve the minutes by Bucky Anderson, seconded by Chris Sullivan.
Motion passed.

4. Invited guests

a. Creekfront Salkehatchie – Debbie Leonard – Debbie is out of town, so Valerie did the report. Creekfront is the camp that Belin UMC sponsors. In 1975 John Culp started a work camp with the intent of bringing teenagers and adults together to work on local homes. The homes that needed attention to keep them warmer/safer/dryer. The first one was held in Hampton County. As of 2026 there are 35 camps with 3,000 youth and adults giving a week of service to help their neighbors in need. Debbie Leonard led the charge to have a Salkehatchie here at Belin. After a slow start, the following years our program filled up and is going strong. Through the years we have hosted 600 volunteers and improved 45 local homes. The ages that have served are from 14 years old to 70 years old. There are 48 youth and 22 adults that serve during that week, and the youth and adults come from various religions and backgrounds. Each camper pays \$300 with \$250 going to the camp and \$50 to the Methodist Conference to cover insurance. The camp gets \$17,500 from our campers and this year Debbie has a budget of \$5,000 from Belin, it had been \$10,000 in prior years. She is asking for prayers to fill the following requests: an additional \$5,000; donations of meals or money for meals and other items; donation of 100 aluminum bottles that are refillable for the campers, to cut down on the plastic bottles; also looking for runners to be able to pick up materials as needed for the work sites. The camp this year will be at the end of July.

b. BCLC leadership – Amanda Romance, BCLC Director – Amanda was asked how can they help us to bring young families into our congregation? They currently send out flyers to families letting them know what is happening in church for youth and adults. They are thinking about having a BCLC day at one of the adult services that the children participate in and encourage the parents to come to see them, so they can experience our church service. They have an Open House at the beginning of the school year when the parents are encouraged to come in to see the program, when they are picking up their children. They could include more information about what is happening in the church at that time. The open house this year is August 17, 2026. They have a parent's club that meets once a month that plans various appreciations for the teachers, classroom parties. They could be asked if they would like to have a speaker from the church to talk to them about our various youth and adult programs.

5. Discussion of Team Reports

Valerie read the following report from Brandy Streett since it did not get submitted in time to be part of the reports sent out prior to the meeting.

Youth group is winding down for the school year. We had our end of the year celebration two weeks ago at Gordon and Brenda Myers' home. We celebrated graduation on Sunday, confirmation, senior fun day to Family Kingdom, and our last prayer breakfast is tomorrow. Tomorrow night we kick off our summer youth group. Tuesday's 6-7:30 youth group; Thursday's 10-noon youth pickleball; and lunches and coffee meet ups throughout the summer.

On the 2nd Sunday in July the Sanctuary will be closed for at least 6 weeks for renovation. The pews will come out to be refinished, and the floors will be redone. All services will be held in the Family Life Center 8:45 for the Habor and 11:00 the Traditional service with the choir.

6. Mission and vision planning – Wildest Dreams

Everyone was given a piece of paper to write down ideas that we would like to see as something the church could do.

7. Old Business

a. Oliver's Lodge – Deconstruction of the building is going well. It may be a little longer than expected.

b. Marketing and communications – Wendy Zulanch will be retiring the end of June after 18 years of service. Cindy Mullins will be the new director of the Family Life Center. There will be an opening in the Communication area. We are looking for someone who can do internal communication but also external communication and bring back in house some of the elements that we contracted out. A search in the regional area will be done.

c. Litigation update – We just received notification that Judge Gibbons has included Belin Revival group case with the other cases and will be heard June 29, 2026. Additional information will be given before the hearing.

8. New Business

Darrell Duggins reviewed the last four months of our budget and expenses. We are currently running in a deficit but in May it looks like we will be more in line with budget. We are behind in contributions which happen every year.

Needlepoint of St. John's United Methodist Church – They did needlepoint kneelers for the front of the sanctuary. Henrietta Huff has brought it to our attention and would be interested in leading the project.

9. Next Meeting: August 3, 2026

a. Invited Guests: Mary Mallick, Director of Adult Ministries; Jeff Turner, Fall BBQ Chair

b. Mission and Vision Planning – State of the church at mid-year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mac Bryan, seconded by Dave Hobson, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Sandra concluded the meeting with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Fox