

MOTION: Chad Fontenot moved on September 1, 2026 via email that Marci Miller's pay come from the pianist budget. Carol Ortega seconded. Unanimously approved.

MOTION: Carol Ortega motioned on August 4, 2026 via email to allow one exception to the new preschool policies for the 2026-2027 school year for Amanda to be considered full time while only working 10 hours per month and that her check go directly towards tuition. Chad Fontenot seconded. Unanimously approved.

First Methodist Church Alvin
Leadership Board Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026

Mission: Make More and Stronger Disciples of Jesus Christ
Vision: Setting the Table for the Next Generation

Psalm 143:8 "Let the morning bring be word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life." (NIV)

Members Present:

Katie Austin	Harold Horton
Suzanne Carso	Cathy Miglicco
Kenny Carter	John Mize
Kirby Dickinson	Carol Ortega
Shary Horn	

Guests:

Darrell Bailey
Roxann Corona

Members Absent:

Chad Fontenot

- I. Opening Prayer
 - A. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.
 - B. Darrell Bailey opened the meeting with prayer.

- II. Spiritual Formation Darrell Bailey

The opening devotion based on 2 Peter 1:3-8 emphasizes God's provision and the call to spiritual growth. Darrell shared about overcoming discouragement and the importance of living with intention and purpose. He encouraged everyone to reflect on what they are doing "on purpose" – not just settling for the status quo, but actively pursuing both salvation and sanctification. Darrell shared a personal poem, Your Whisper about hearing God's voice, feeling His love, and finding comfort in His presence. The closing prayer expressed gratitude for leaders, the pastor, and the congregation, with petitions for wisdom, protection, patience, and renewed strength.

Your Whisper
By: Darrell Bailey

I hear you, God. I see you, Lord. I feel you, Father. You say
I'm so adored. Sometimes it's loud. You paint me a perfect
picture. Bright, vibrant colors. I love it most when You whisper.
No other love compares to Yours. You defeat my enemies,

then You open locked doors. So because I'm Yours, I have no fears. You hear my cries and wipe away my tears. Everything comes second to You. I really hope You see the picture. I get overwhelmed with joy, with anticipation of Your whisper.

III. Strategic Formation

Item 1: Update from SPRC Subcommittee

Shary Horn

- Staff Evaluations: Evaluations were distributed, tailored to each staff member's role. Delays due to missing electronic forms were addressed, and staff were encouraged to view evaluations as constructive. Staff received symbolic "target" stickers, reminding them not to internalize criticism, but to let it pass through without wounding their hearts.

MOTION: Shary Horn moved that we hire Matthew Todd as our church pianist to fill our current job description and salary. Seconded by: Katie Austin. Unanimous approval.

- Hiring Update: Marci Miller will serve as fill-in pianist when needed.

Item 2: Update from Finance Subcommittee

Katie Austin

- Current Status: Despite a large insurance payment, the church remains financially stable, with a positive balance for the year, though monthly income is below budget projections.
- Budgeting Practices: Emphasis was placed on closely examining next year's budget, ensuring that all expenses are justified and measurable.
- Preschool Oversight: The preschool's budget and tuition were adjusted to cover staff raises, and efforts are underway to integrate its financial oversight more closely with the church.

Item 3: Update from Trustee Subcommittee

John Mize

- Playground and AMP Wing: Repairs and maintenance were completed, including replacing rotten decking, adding mulch, and updating swings.
- Room Decorations: Requests for additional storage and decorations were reviewed, with a preference for non-permanent options to maintain building integrity.
- Lighting and Sound: Upgrades to LED lighting and installation of sound monitors for the choir were discussed, with some projects tabled until next year due to budget constraints.
- Security and Doors: All exterior doors were serviced for improved security and accessibility. Key and key fob policies are being updated.
- Window Replacement: Defective windows were replaced at no cost due to manufacturer issues, improving insulation and clarity.
- Ongoing Projects: Handrails, room numbering, and various minor repairs are in progress or completed.
- Budget Adjustment: A portion of Building monies committed to new build was used for maintenance. We need to honor that. This was unintentional and a

misunderstanding. The first step will be to examine every line item of what was approved in the minutes to determine what needs to be done to fix this.

- Investment Subcommittee:
 - Permanent Endowment funds: It's been determined by 3 individuals working independent of each other arriving at identical figures: \$30,300 of principal and \$5,528.72 in interest. This information is ready for the Trustees to evaluate whether they choose to keep the PEF interest or release it to the Finance Committee. If it's released, the Finance Committee decides what we do with the PEF interest money.
 - Edward Jones Accounts: Transfers were made to cover designated accounts and maintenance needs.
 - Praises: Chapel Air Conditioner replaced via donation. Kitchen is completed.

Item 4: Pastor's Report

Kenny Carter

- Worship Attendance: Steady growth and return of members, with positive spiritual atmosphere noted even during unexpected challenges (e.g., power outage).
- Bible Studies & Spiritual Gifts: Ongoing Bible studies are well attended, with new initiatives such as discovering spiritual gifts during Family Fueled Up and plans for a children's lesson during worship.
- Brochure Ministry Package: Completing soon and then on to printing.
- New Directory: In publication
- Children's Sermon: Beginning September, a children's lesson one Sunday a month.
- Town Hall Meeting: October 4th after church service.
- Men's Breakfast: August 22nd with Carl Hoffman speaking
- Grief Support: The grief support group is fostering strong bonds and spiritual growth. New fall session: Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
- Helen Hall is beginning a new ministry to write to our college-age students and military members to keep them connected.
- Confirmation & Discipleship Pathways: Planning is underway for a confirmation class for 6th grade – junior high targeting Easter completion, with discussions about adult classes and Bible 101 for newcomers.
- Branding: Plans to provide church-branded apparel for youth and adults to foster a sense of belonging.
- New Ministry: Processes are being formalized for new ministries, including application and reporting guidelines for transparency and effectiveness.
- Family Promise: Leadership transition and program evaluation are ongoing, with concerns raised about limitation on faith-sharing within the ministry.

Item 5: Other Business

- Meeting's Scheduling: Regular meeting dates for all committees have been set to improve consistency and participation.
 - Investment Subcommittee: 2nd Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.
 - Permanent Endowment Fund Committees: called meetings

- Trustee Committee: 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.
- Finance Committee: 2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
- Leadership Board meetings: 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Agenda Items due 24 hours prior to meeting.
- SPRC meetings: Quarterly and as needed

MOTION: Suzanne Carso moved that we approve the minutes from the June meeting. Harold Horton seconded. Unanimous approval.

- Ministry Evaluation: A system is being developed to annually assess the effectiveness of all church ministries, ensuring alignment with mission and resource stewardship.

IV. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

- A. Kirby Dickinson closed the meeting in prayer. Thanksgiving for the board's wisdom and unity, prayers for guidance, and a call to be a light in the community, all offered in Jesus' name.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.