First Methodist Church Alvin
Leadership Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 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 me 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".

Members Present:		Guests:
Katie Austin	Shary Horn	Roxann Corona
Kenny Carter	Harold Horton	
Kirby Dickinson	Cathy Miglicco	Members Absent:
Chad Fontenot	Carol Ortega	Suzanne Carso
		John Mize

I. Opening Prayer
   A. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.
   B. Carol Ortega opened the meeting with prayer.

II. Spiritual Formation

Carol Ortega presented a "miniature grief session" modeled after the regular support group. The session began with a group prayer for guidance, healing, and empathy for those experiencing grief. Christian-based resources like Grief Share provide daily inspirational emails with scripture and prayer.

Individual sharing is encouraged but not required; participants can disclose their loss, grief related experiences or simply listen. A story shared of a participant whose faith grew significantly through the group, highlighted the spiritual transformation possible through shared grief. Confidentiality and respect for each person's comfort level are central.

The "Footprints in the Sand" poem was read, illustrating God's presence and support during life's hardest moments. A quote from Dr. Paul David Tripp reinforced that God remains beside us through suffering, even if we cannot feel His presence.

The six stages of grief were discussed: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance, and meaning-making. These stages of grief are described as non-linear, likened to a pool ball moving around a table—always present but less chaotic over time. Time alone does not heal; intentional work and faith are necessary for healing. The group reflected on the "faith of a mustard seed" as a symbol of hope and perseverance. Creating a memory box, journaling, and avoiding numbing behaviors (like overworking or substance use) were recommended for processing grief. Carol

shared her own struggles with suicidal thoughts, emphasizing the importance of seeking help and the normalcy of difficult emotions in grief.

Meetings end with scripture cards and a closing prayer while holding hands and allowing each person the opportunity to pray or simply participate silently.

III. Strategic Formation

Item 1: Trustees Report and Investment Report — Cathy Miglicco

- By board consensus, Harold Horton will be new the Investment Team Leader.
- Investment and trustee teams reported on account management, playground safety upgrades, and facility improvements (e.g., door access, lighting, handrails).
- Playground renovations were funded through a combination of donations, preschool contributions, and designated church funds as approved by the consensus of the board.

Item 2: Finance Report — Katie Austin, Roxann Corona

- Church finances are stable, with August expenses under income, but caution is advised for the remainder of the year.
- Budget shortfall is currently around 2%, with ongoing monitoring.

Item 3: SPRC Report — Shary Horn

- Staff evaluations were positive, noting staff enthusiasm, love for the church, and effective leadership.
- Evaluation results will be reviewed with staff and shared with the board.

Item 4: Pastor's Report — Kenny Carter

Events & Ministry Updates:

- Worship on Sundays continues to be well attended. Children's lesson each second Sunday of month. Each Board member challenged to lead one in the following months.
- Fueled Up Family night continues to be well attended. Bible studies – Discovering Spiritual Gifts and other fall studies in line. Spring study projected including a Bible study for preschool teachers led by Sarah Woodmansee.
- Helen Hall leading Faith from Home Initiative, ongoing ministry to military and college students. Already receiving positive comments.
- Family Promise October 25 – November 1. June Neely and Theresa Hernandez have stepped up. In need of leader after 2026…prayers.
- Men's breakfast, Larry Huffman speaking - Saturday, September 19th.
- Team continuing working on brochure for ministries to serve in.

- New directory is in line for publication.
- Matthew Todd, our new pianist is working out very well.
- Preschool is off to grand start. Sarah is leading an amazing children's ministry in our preschool and on Sunday mornings.
- T-shirts or polo shirts for youth and adults with our brand to market our church are in process. Negotiations for online store front with Downtown T-Shirts.
- Fall Festival scheduled for October 17 from 4:00-7:00 p.m., focusing on community outreach.
- Grief support gatherings: 2nd and 4th Mondays (Sept/Oct), 2nd Mondays (Nov/Dec). Ongoing prayer for increased participation in grief support.
- Developing Budget 2027 will begin this month.
- SPARK program for 18-22 year olds up and going.

Thanks be to God for all He has planned for HIS church here in Alvin to be a part of. Thank each of you for serving as leaders on this board and beyond.

Item 5: Other Business — Cathy Miglicco

MOTION: Harold Horton made a motion for Kirby Dickinson to be appointed as Ministry Team Leader program to administer the various ministries that operate here at the church. Katie Austin seconded. Unanimous approval.

- Ministry Team: A new process for ministry oversight was introduced. The Ministry Team Leader will coordinate communication, support, and reporting for all church ministries. All ministries will complete an application outlining their goals, needs, and resource requirements. Regular ministry reporting and evaluation will ensure alignment with church vision and resource stewardship.
- Facility Use Request: A homeschool co-op requested temporary use of church facilities for 60 children, offering substantial rent. The board discussed logistics, insurance, and facility conflicts, agreeing to gather more information before making a decision.
- Ivy Essentials Pantry is restructuring: In January, distributions will move to the second Saturday of each month, with improved registration and tracking. Plans are being considered to establish the pantry as an independent nonprofit, potentially enabling greater community support and grant eligibility.

IV. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
   A. Chad Fontenot closed the meeting in prayer.
   B. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Desire Your Will – hunger and thirst (Matthew 5:6)
Discern Your Will – prayer and the Word (Romans 12:2)
Do Your Will – to God be the glory! (1 Corinthians 10:31)