

First Methodist Church Alvin  
Leadership Board Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2026

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

Members Present:

Suzanne Carso  
Kenny Carter  
Kirby Dickinson  
Chad Fontenot

Shary Horn  
Harold Horton  
Cathy Miglicco  
John Mize  
Carol Ortega

Members Absent:

Katie Austin

Guests:

Roy Chapman

I. Opening Prayer

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- B. Kirby Dickinson opened the meeting with prayer.

II. Spiritual Formation

Cathy Miglicco referenced S-H-A-P-E from Rick Warren's book, *Purpose Driven Life*. She shared Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." and 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

S-H-A-P-E: Discover How God Designed You to Serve

**Spiritual Gifts:** God-given abilities for serving others.

**Heart:** Passions and burdens God places within us.

**Abilities:** Natural talents, used for spiritual purposes.

**Personality:** Serving authentically as God designed us.

**Experiences:** God uses both painful and joyful experiences for ministry.

Where my gifts empower me, my heart moves me, my abilities equip me, my personality fits me, and my experiences intersect – that is where God is calling me to serve.

Leaders were encouraged to serve within their S-H-A-P-E to avoid burnout, echoing Jesus' sustainable leadership practices: withdrew to pray, delegated responsibility, served from His calling. Members were challenged to identify draining tasks, ask whether it aligns with your S-H-A-P-E, delegate when possible, and then schedule intentional, as an act of obedience. God fuels what He initiates.

III. Strategic Formation

Shary Horn reaffirmed that this is a serving board. Each board member is expected to serve within the church and our subcommittees. Main subcommittees: Finance, Trustees, and SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee), with subgroups for trustees (investments) and SPRC (scholarships). Members were asked to review and update

their current areas of service, with a reminder that board participation is tied to active service.

Item 1: Pastor's Report

Kenny Carter

Discipleship and Fellowship:

- New Members (Jan. 25): 5 people to join church.
- Family Fueled Up:
  - Will not meet Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – Please attend Ash Wednesday Service.
  - Will not meet April 1 – Please attend Holy Week services.
  - Esther and Romans (Jan. 21): New Bible studies with strong participation.
  - Moms Reset Group: Thriving with growing attendance - 20 moms with 30 children.
- Confirmation Class: Cameron Losoya. Formation dates TBD
- Ash Wednesday Service (Feb. 18 @ 6:30 p.m.): Replaces regular Wednesday night programming – Family Fueled Up.
- Baptism (March 15): Baptisms Day of Celebration
- Holy Week (March 29-April 5)
- Palm Sunday (March 29)
- Maundy Thursday (April 2)
- Good Friday (April 3)
- Easter (April 5): Easter Egg Hunt

Events and Outreach:

- Martin Luther King Day Parade (Jan. 19): A positive, unifying experience. Our church actively participated: Praying and financial support.
- Family Promise (Jan. 25-Feb. 8)
- New Year Super Bowl of Caring (Jan. 11-Feb. 8): Food drive for Food Pantry.
- Sweetheart Meal (Feb. 15): Pending Financial Subcommittee permission - fund raiser to provide food for Family Fueled Up.
- Ivey Essentials (Feb. 16 @ 9:00 a.m.): Packaging products for distribution.
- Ivey Essentials (Feb. 18 @ 4:00-6:00 p.m.): Distribution
- Gathering Place (Feb. 18 @ 9:00-2:00 p.m.): Alzheimer's Ministry
- Wild Game Night (Feb. 27): Friday, 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Town Hall (March 1)
- Spring Festival: Not scheduled this year to focus on Easter.
- Ministries brochure offering places to serve: Brenda Mercer's team working on this.
- New Directory: Roxann Corona, Mathew Gruetzmacher, and Tina Loy coordinating
- Food Pantry Collections (Jan. 11 – Feb. 8)
- Teacher Encouragement Efforts: Collecting \$5.00 Sonic gift cards for Stevenson Elementary teachers and Alvin Methodist Preschool teachers. May donate money toward gift cards.

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

### Item 2: Update and Reports from Finance Subcommittee

Shary Horn shared the following to disperse the church's financial responsibility:

- Itemized information that should be shared at each board meeting: cash flow, update on current budget, expenditures with corresponding account(s), and bank statements. She also asked for an end of year account for 2025. Roxann Corona had indicated the Shelby program would have no difficulty obtaining the information.
- The need for cross training more than one person to reconcile the bank statement for accountability, safekeeping, and transparency.
- Met with Roxann Corona about the following procedures: how to get into the money market account; how to use the money market account; and, how quickly (2-3 days) money would be available.
- The need for a yearly in-house audit. The last audit was completed in May 2024 covering the financials of 2023.

### Item 3: Update from SPRC Subcommittee

Shary Horn

**MOTION:** Suzanne Carso amended her motion to allow Cameron Losoya to defer up to one week vacation to this 90-day probation period. Harold Horton seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Emphasis on updating policies to include a check off list for new hires: background checks, clear onboarding processes, and orientation procedures.
- Actively praying and searching for church pianist.

### Item 4: Update from Trustee Subcommittee

Cathy Miglicco

- Building:

Completed:

- 3 of 4 crash bars installed on sanctuary doors (front and 2 side doors) for improved security.
- Painted sanctuary ceiling done.
- Painted children's wing walls and doors. \$7,300 – from Huser's interest.
- Sanctuary smoke alarms installed and labeled on panel.

Pending:

- 4<sup>th</sup> crash bar on order because the door is shorter
- Atrium doors arriving Jan. 23.
- Carpet pending bid.
- Kitchen renovations: Planning meeting set Jan. 28 @ 10:00 a.m.; extra funds received may allow for expanded renovations. Priorities include addressing sewer issues before further upgrades.

On-going Repairs: Volunteers continue to handle many maintenance tasks, saving the church significant funds.

- Soffit vents replaced 6 of 7
- Bathroom doors
- Security: New policies for sanctuary doors access on Sundays to enhance safety.

- Grounds: New cost-effective mowing service secured. Mowed and trimmed trees for \$550. Will mow 7-8 times per year.
- Finance and Investments:
  - Investment returns are lower this year; the board is monitoring rates and maintaining a conservative approach with CDs and money market accounts.
  - Operating capital reserve (\$100,000) maintained for emergencies.
  - Calls for increased transparency and accountability:
    - Regular budget updates, access to bank statements, and cross-training among finance team members.
    - Annual audits or reviews are expected but need to be scheduled and reported.

Item 5: Other business

Shary Horn

Roy Chapman asked about the automatic push buttons to open the doors. Board not sure of their status.

Item 6: Election of 2026 Chairperson of the Board and  
Election of 2026 Recording Secretary

Kenny Carter

- Chairperson: Cathy Miglicco was nominated and elected by acclamation as the new chairperson. Shary Horn, the outgoing chair, was thanked for her faithful and wise leadership. Shary shared advice: Never make decisions alone; communicate and rely on the board. Emergencies require swift action, but policy and teamwork are essential for long-term healthy church leadership.
- Recording Secretary: Carol Ortega was nominated and elected to continue in this role.

IV. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

- A. Cathy Miglicco closed the meeting in prayer.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on January 20, 2026.