

Resolution

Belin United Methodist Church

Church Council

Whereas, Belin United Methodist Church (“Belin”) is a religious nonprofit corporation organized, registered, and operating under the laws of the State of South Carolina as Belin United Methodist Church, Inc.; and

Whereas, Belin was founded in 1925, predating the 1968 formation of the United Methodist Church (“UMC”); and

Whereas, some of the doctrines, beliefs and “social principles” that have been espoused by the United Methodist Church and its Council of Bishops, including its interpretation of the *Book of Discipline*, have diverged and departed from the authentic Methodist doctrines and beliefs that have historically been held by Methodists in keeping with the teachings and sermons of John Wesley; and

Whereas, the Belin Church Council voted in October of 2023 to allow Belin to enter Discernment under the *Book of Discipline* to consider whether to disaffiliate from the UMC; and

Whereas, Belin was pulled out of Discernment during the November 2023 Charge Conference operated and presided over by the UMC South Carolina Annual Conference (SCAC) District Superintendent; and

Whereas, during the General Conference of the United Methodist Church held from April 23 to May 3, 2024, the UMC denomination significantly altered its theological beliefs, practices, and its interpretation the *Book of Discipline* in ways that materially diverge from the historic, traditional Methodist beliefs and doctrines and are not consistent with the teaching and writings of John Wesley;

Whereas, in July 2024 the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and its Bishop authorized Belin and other South Carolina UMC churches to enter Discernment pursuant to *Section 2549 of the Book of Discipline* to again consider whether to disaffiliate from the UMC; and

Whereas, Belin’s Church Council voted to enter Discernment again in August of 2024 pursuant to *Section 2549 of the Book of Discipline* as was previously authorized by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and its Bishop; and

Whereas, Belin was informed on October 29, 2024 that it would be required to remain affiliated with the UMC because the UMC Judicial Council ruled that *Section 2549 of the Book of Discipline* did not provide a means to disaffiliate from the UMC; and

Whereas, Belin’s Church Council, acting as the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation, desires for Belin’s Professing Members¹ to take a binding vote whether to disaffiliate from, or remain connected with, the UMC (“The Vote”); and

Whereas, The Vote will be a simple majority vote, taking place on January 25, 2025 (from 10am – 5pm EST); and January 26, 2025 (from 10am – 3pm EST) at the Belin Family Life Center (located at 4183 US

¹ Professing Members are those individuals listed in Belin’s 2023 Church Directory (“2023 Directory”), which is the last known church-wide directory having been published, plus any new members who have been confirmed since the publication of the 2023 Directory as evidenced by Belin’s current congregational member roles.

Hwy 17 Business, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576), and during such time Belin’s Professing Members will vote Yes or No, as to whether Belin will disaffiliate from the UMC.; and

Whereas, all members who participate in The Vote will be required to (1) check-in at the Family Life Center Narthex and vote in specific classrooms with cameras at each location, (2) present a driver’s license or a photo-ID that will be compared against the 2023 Directory and new member roles; and

Whereas, all ballots cast in The Vote will be anonymous after each Voter checks in and receives their numbered ballot, which will not correlate with the check-in list in any way; and

Whereas, at 3pm EST on January 26 the votes will be tallied by Elliott Davis or Webster Rogers CPAs.

Whereas, following a tally of the votes and certification of the outcome by Elliott Davis or Webster Rogers CPAs, Belin’s Church Council will meet to immediately ratify the decision of a simple majority of those who voted under the terms outlined in this Resolution; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Church Council of the Belin United Methodist Church, as the directors of Belin United Methodist Church, Inc., approve the following Ballot Item to be voted on January 25th (10am – 5pm), and January 26th (10am – 3pm) in the Belin Family Life Center classrooms sectioned by last name, with the voters having checked-in at the Family Life Center Narthex with cameras at each location.

Ballot Item to be voted on
January 25th (10am – 5pm) & January 26th (10am – 3pm)
Belin Family Life Center (4183 US Hwy 17 Business, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576)
IN PERSON VOTING REQUIRED – MUST HAVE VALID FORM OF IDENTIFICATION

Do you vote for Belin United Methodist Church, Inc. to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church?

_____ YES

_____ NO

ballot number _____

Now therefore be it further resolved that Church Administrative Officers shall take all necessary steps to preserve Belin’s books and records and immediately provide the members of the Church Council with access to said books and records.

Resolution of the Church Council
The Methodist Church of Belin
January 6, 2025
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DONE in Special Meeting duly assembled this ___ day of _____ 2025.

SIGNATURE OF CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR:

Jessica Flynn

SIGNATURE OF CHURCH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR:

Ross Marple

ATTEST:

Drew Streett
Church Council Secretary