

# First Evangelical Free Church

## *Congregational Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2023*

This meeting took place both in person and online. Online sign in and voting were done via an online form in jotform. Ballots were anonymous.

Kevin Krosley, Executive Pastor of Leadership Development and Operation confirmed quorum and opened the meeting in prayer.

Chuck Hembree, Acting Church Chairman, called the meeting to order. Members present (in person and online) exceeded the 25% quorum (121). We have 599 voting members, 15 of which were added in 2022.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2022 Congregational Meeting minutes. Minutes were approved in person and online.

## Election of Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee

Martin Truong, Nominating Committee vice chair, thanked the 2022 Nominating Committee members, Kim Bowers, Kim Benting, and David Ren, and explained the nomination process. He then introduced the candidates for church leadership and solicited questions:

**Elders:** Rich Keffer

**Deacons:** Sharon Luo, Don Carpenter, Steve Eck, Brad Langeneckert, JD Long (2nd Term), Alan Heisel (2nd term)

**Nominating Committee:** Becca Kruse, Beth Tabor, Anne Sharpe

No questions were raised online or in the room.

## Finance Reports and 2023 Proposed Budget

### *Budget*

Kevin Krosley (Executive Pastor of Leadership Development & Operations) reviewed 2022 income and expenses and 2023 budget. Kevin shared the [efree.org/financials](https://efree.org/financials) web page which has in-depth reports on the budget. The 2023 Tier 1 budget is 8.5% higher than the 2022 actual giving. The Tier 2 budget is \$33K less than 2022 actuals. The congregation is being asked to approve the Tier 1 budget.

### Special Considerations

1. Open positions are built into the budget on a prorated basis.

2. Due to interruptions from the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, several mission trips have been canceled. Thus we have built up a surplus that we plan to spend down this year.
3. We have set aside a portion of the Employee Retention Credit to carry over for building projects.

The annual audit produced no material changes to our financials.

Chuck called for a motion to vote on the budget.

Chuck called for questions on the candidates and budget.

1. Doug Pogue asked how the noticeable drop in membership informed the budget. The majority of the change in membership was due to a clean up of the membership roles. The budget was based on the actual giving and considered new givers as well as the cash reserves.
2. Benevolence was spent down by about \$50K, and we will continue to spend it down before we return to the congregation to increase donations.
3. Are there any strings attached to the ERC? No, it is a rebate through the IRS and there are no contingencies.

## Voting

In the room, members submitted a single ballot with all candidates and motions, or voted online. Online, members voted anonymously via an online form.

The vote was called and ballots were collected.

## Deacon Report

J.D. Long, Deacon Chair, presented his report.

JD recognized Dean Wimpfheimer and Marilyn Simpson, who are rolling off the board.

Benevolence: We fielded 67 requests and helped 54 individuals, 3 families through crisis response, and 17 Carman Trails students at Christmas.

Facilities and Grounds: developed an asset management system to look at what things need to be replaced over time.

Finance: the committee comes alongside staff to review the budget and audit.

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## Elder Report

Ben Thomas, Elder Chairman, Presented this report.

In the last year:

1. Crossroads resolution group continued the work of resolving conflicts and teaching us how to handle conflict in a biblical way.

2. Developed aspirational priorities to guide us - end statements to answer the question, "Why does FFC exist?"
3. Prayed for congregation, staff, Deacons, and ministries.

Where are we headed?

1. We are excited to come back together as a congregation.
2. We continue to pray about ministry post-covid.
3. We are seeking leadership for Student and Family Ministries.
4. We will be exploring the value of a name change.
5. The health of our church and our ministries is a priority. Volunteers will be included in shepherding meetings.

## Other Business

Voting results were confirmed by the Deacons. 189 members were reported present; 171 ballots were cast). All nominees and motions were approved by more than 89% of the members present.

Chuck Hembree opened the floor for new business:

1. Someone pointed out that the steeple is no longer lit up at night. Kevin will check into that change.

## Senior Pastor Report

Adam thanked Ben and JD for their leadership. He shared some highlights from 2022: launched Rooted and have had 300 people participate; 190 visitors, about 25% of which stayed; built a safety team & had training; Andrew Miller became worship pastor; we hosted a worship camp; we launched a partnership with Compassion and church plant, and sponsored over 100 kids; we explored partnerships in Greece and Kenya; take back black friday was a success; we hosted a spring carnival which was a lot of families' first time back to church, as well as other family events; we had outreach to our community; and baptized over 40 people.

In 2023, our focus will be "Back Together." There has been a rise in the number of Christians are disconnected from the church. We want to draw people back into communion with other followers of Jesus Christ. He shared several new initiatives to achieve this goal.

Chuck Hembree called for a motion to adjourn and closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Wright, Church Clerk