

First Evangelical Free Church

Congregational Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2024

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 (197). We have 463 voting members, 29 of which were added in 2023.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 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 2023 Nominating Committee members, and explained the nomination process. He then introduced the candidates for church leadership.

Elders: David Ren, Joseph Zhang, Bill Peskorse (2nd term), Martin Truong (2nd term), Todd Yeager (2nd term)

Deacons: Steve Thompson, Gail Darby (2nd term)

Nominating Committee: Sarah Carlson, Jan Grove, Aaron Thorne

Finance Reports and 2024 Proposed Budget

Budget

Kevin Krosley (Executive Pastor of Leadership Development & Operations) reviewed 2023 income and expenses and 2024 budget.

2023

1. Attendance increased 16%
2. Operating fund giving and other income was up 6.9%
3. Cash reserves are strong.

2024

1. The budget for approval represents a 6.5% increase from the previous year.
2. Spending will be managed in line with actual giving throughout the year.
3. Construction is ready to begin on the Bigg House to create a central office for staff.
4. The deductible for the water damage is noted on a line item in the budget.

Outreach Fund

1. Canceled trips over the last few years have led to a strong balance in the fund
2. We have budgeted to spend \$60k more than we anticipate bringing in.

The annual external review produced no material changes to our financials.

Chuck asked the candidates to leave the room and called for questions on the candidates and budget. No questions were raised online or in the room.

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

Steve Quick, Deacon Cochair, presented his report.

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

Benevolence: Alan Heisel, Sue Stark, Sharon Lou, Don Carpenter

Facilities and Grounds: Brad Langeneckert, Steve Eck, JD Long

Finance: Steve Quick, Gayle Darby, JD Long

1. In 2023, we spent down some of our benevolence fund, so we will be soliciting giving for that once again.
2. We resolved the permitting & repairs for the main church building.
3. We resolved the permitting issue for the Berean House, but still we need to execute the repairs.
4. We received two proposals for repairs at the Bigg House.

Elder Report

Ben Thomas, Elder Chairman, Presented this report.

Ben thanked the congregation for their prayers and support over the past year. The Elder's key verse for the year was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." He shared that despite personal struggles, the Elders were able to rejoice and share time in prayer. They were encouraged by an increase in attendance and engagement. He thanked the Deacons, Staff, and new members for their dedication and service to the Church.

Other Business

Voting results were confirmed by the Deacons. 197 members were reported present; 194 ballots were cast). All nominees and motions were approved by more than 98% of the members present.

Senior Pastor Report

In 2023 we welcomed a number of new people, including staff members. Last year's focus was "Back Together," returning after the pandemic and other challenges. This year we will build on it with "All In."

1. Worship faithfully - make gathering a priority to encourage each other.

2. Embrace community - make the "one anothers" of scripture a priority by gathering in groups.
3. Serve joyfully - every believer is gifted by God to serve in the local church.
4. Giving generously - to provide for the church and those in need.

Plans include a Bible reading plan, encouragement to join Rooted or other groups, a service fair, sharing stories, a mentoring program, and a preaching series.

Chuck Hembree opened the floor for new business.

1. Raised once again that the lights on the steeple aren't working properly.
2. Asked what the current offices will be used for once the new offices are built? Missionary housing and intern/resident housing.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Wright, Church Clerk