

West Shore Evangelical Free Church  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2021  
6:00 PM

**Opening:**

Worship in song led by George Romanacce

**Call to Order:**

by Mark Blanchard, Chairman of the Elder Board, 6:13 P.M.

**Quorum / Joel G**

A quorum was affirmed

**Opening Prayer:**

Mark Blanchard

**Special Rules for February 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting**

- 1. Applicability.** The Special Rules are applicable to the February 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting only. Virtual attendance is not a right, but a one-time allowance to the degree achievable, due to the unique nature of COVID-19 and its implications
- 2. Virtual meeting participation.** Only WSFC church **members and prospective members** up for approval may **virtually** attend the February 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting.
  - a. The meeting will be held using the Zoom virtual meeting application. Zoom provides both video and audio feeds to participants.
  - b. Zoom must be at least version 5.0.
  - c. **Members must pre-request a Zoom link to participate virtually** in the February 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting. The member shall not share the link with anyone else. It is solely the member's responsibility to request the link, using the procedure outlined by the church.
  - d. All congregational meeting Zoom link requests must be submitted not later than noon, February 17, 2021 to ensure links can be delivered in time for the meeting. New requests will not be accepted after this time. Zoom links will be sent to member email of record. If the member does not receive the Zoom link by noon, February 18, 2021, please immediately contact the church and request April Forster or email April Forster. No corrective action to provide a link will be possible after noon, February 19, 2021.
- 3. Zoom Login information and participation requirements.** WSFC staff shall send the Zoom link by email to every verified member requesting a Zoom link, by 4PM EDT on February 19, 2021. The member solely is responsible for:
  - a. Their own computer (smart phones not recommended as display screen is not large enough to effectively participate in a voting meeting).
  - b. Their own **high speed** internet connection.
  - c. All necessary and current version software/applications to participate on Zoom.
  - d. Possessing sufficient knowledge of all their components and software, including Zoom to effectively participate.
  - e. A separate telephone connection to call our church tech support in the event of technical difficulties. Technical support will be available from

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30 minutes prior to the meeting start until the meeting is adjourned, on a first come-first served basis in the call order received. For technical help, call 717-697-0226 and you will be routed for assistance.

- 4. Zoom link call-in time.** The WSFC staff will open the Zoom Meeting link 15 minutes prior to the meeting start. Ensure you join with both audio and video enabled.
- 5. Meeting-room equipment.** WSFC shall provide the Zoom meeting setup and link for joining the meeting and an audible two-way connection to hear virtual participants and all action on the floor of the in-person meeting which the WSFC staff shall connect to the Zoom meeting at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting.
- 6. Location of Chairman and Zoom co-hosts (vote tellers).** The Chair of the meeting shall be present in the sanctuary and will be on the Zoom link. The Zoom participation will have an appropriate number of co-hosts present in the in-person meeting, proximate to the chairman, and on the Zoom link, each with a unique group of members in their co-host breakout room. The co-hosts will report quorum and vote results for their breakout room directly to the Secretary/Chair, and the Chair will announce the combined in-person and Zoom results.
- 7. Arrival announcements.** Members who participate in the meeting by Zoom shall type in their display names using their membership name(s) of record at the first opportunity after joining the Zoom connection and remain on mute at all times, unless requesting/being granted the floor.
- 8. Zoom participation by more than one member on a single Zoom device connection.** For establishing a quorum and voting, all members on that device must be visible to the Zoom co-host and vote by the method specified, (e.g., raise hand). Only members shall be on the Zoom connection.
- 9. Departure announcements.** Members who leave the Zoom connection room before adjournment will automatically drop from the co-host screens and shall not announce their departure.
- 10. Quorum calls.** The presence of a quorum shall be established **in-person** by the Secretary or designee at the beginning of the meeting and **on Zoom** by on-line co-hosts who will move Zoom participants into "Breakout Rooms" for a count, then return to the main session and report results to the Secretary or designee and Chair.
- 11. Obtaining the floor.** To seek recognition by the Chair, a Zoom connection member shall raise their hand until acknowledged by the Zoom co-host, who will inform the Chair. The Zoom co-host will note all those virtual participants wishing to speak in their approximate order of request and, at the Chair's direction, "Unmute" each speaker in order. The individual will address the chair and state his or her name. Those present in person wishing to speak shall follow the Chair's direction. When not speaking on the floor, Zoom participants shall remain on "Mute" to prevent feedback.
- 12. Motions submitted in writing.** Business for this meeting shall be limited to the items specified in the meeting agenda. Members who participate in the Zoom meeting virtually may not submit motions in writing during the meeting; but all participants are entitled to make procedural motions/amendments orally.
- 13. Voting methods.** There will be no ballot or secret votes or roll calls votes for this meeting. All votes shall be taken visually by stated sign, e.g., raised

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hand/standing. Unless a counted vote becomes necessary, only the result (passed/failed) shall be entered in the minutes. Business may also be conducted by unanimous consent.

**14. Loss of meeting-room Zoom connection.** Should the meeting room Zoom connection be lost by WSFC, the chair will allow a reasonable time to reestablish the connection, temporarily suspending activity. The members present in the meeting room at such a time may take those actions that are in order in the absence of a quorum. Should the Zoom connection fail to be reestablished, the meeting may continue if a quorum is present in-person. At such time thereafter as a quorum is no longer present the meeting will adjourn.

**15. Other technical malfunctions and requirements.** Each member is responsible for maintaining his or her own Zoom connection to the meeting; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

**16. Forced disconnections.** The chair may order one of the Zoom co-hosts to disconnect or mute a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the Zoom connection or meeting. The chair's decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.

**17. Agenda.** For purposes of this meeting the agenda will include, in order, and be limited to:

- a. Call to Order/Opening Prayer
- b. Quorum Call
- c. Adoption of Special Rules (including agenda)-requires 2/3 majority of those present and entitled to vote
- d. Acceptance of New Members (after which they may participate and vote)
- e. Church Life Updates
- f. Adjournment

**18. Discussion/Debate.** Discussion on any main motion and its related actions of business shall be limited to 30 minutes. Individuals granted the floor are limited to 1 minute to speak for or against. Individuals in-person will be recognized by the Chair in the approximate order of their request alternating for and against and alternating with Zoom participants recognized by the co-hosts in the approximate order of their request and alternating for and against.

**Motion:** *That the Special Rules for the February 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting be adopted*

*(Chris Hare / Matt Krise 2<sup>nd</sup>)*

**Action:** Approved by unanimous consent

**New Members / Mark Blanchard:**

The following were presented and recommended to the Congregation by the Elder Board for membership as presented by Mark Blanchard. All new members were invited to stand up or be recognized via the Zoom connection:

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Hannah Cornett  
Marylyn Eberly  
Robert Eberly  
Abby Flanders  
Matthew Flanders  
Heather Hutchison  
Jim Hutchison  
Eric Johnson

Jodi Johnson  
Abbey McMillen  
Sherry Mowery  
Meri Ocker  
Julia Pearl  
Josiah Read  
Daniel Sampson

Dawn Sampson  
Julie Van Eman  
Sam Van Eman  
Bret Wagner  
Jennifer Wagner  
Deborah Wirth  
Bill Wirth

- Motion:** *That the above candidates be approved for membership  
(Dave Baechtle / Seth Shoemaker 2<sup>nd</sup>)*
- Action:** Approved by unanimous consent.

**Church Life Update / Terry Allison**

Terry provided an update on our Community Resource Center. Somali refugee families, in our backyard, often struggle in helping their children with school work. Terry has been praying for years for a neutral site, in which our church could provide assistance to these families. Last fall, God provided the office space to begin a tutoring program for refugee students. Today, more than forty students participate. Students are recommended for the tutoring program by their Mechanicsburg School District teachers, and accepted after an application is filed by their parents. Students attend one hour tutoring sessions two days a week. School principals report our tutoring is making a difference in the lives of the students. Our church views the Community Resource Center as an opportunity to demonstrate God's love to our neighbors. Terry closed by praying for all those involved at our Community Resource Center.

**Church Life Update / Trent Thompson**

Trent reported the Elder Board, along with several women from the congregation, have written a position paper on Women in Ministry. Trent reminded us that men and women are created of equal value in the image of God, however, men and women have different roles in the church. In our church, only men serve on the elder board, teach from the pulpit, and hold the title of pastor. This position paper gives clarity to the position of our church, and will be available on our church website.

Trent advised that Nate Winters is transitioning from training responsibilities to lead a new Marriage Ministry. The training responsibility has been incorporated into a new position of Director of Training and Women's Ministry. The search for female candidates to fill this position has begun.

Trent closed his update addressing the question of how to move the church forward in unity in these challenging times. He drew attention to Ephesians 4:1-3, which call us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, with all humility, gentleness, patience and bearing with one another in love. We are to be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Trent cited politics and racial justice issues as particularly divisive in these days. In the political arena, he advised that church

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members exercise humility, and understand that believers can make different political decisions in their desire to honor God. It has been the historical practice of our church that believers can disagree on politics. On racial justice issues, Trent advised those who may question secular philosophies related to racial justice issues, as well as those led to actively engage racial justice issues, should not be judged for their approach. On both politics and racial justice issues, Trent challenged church members to always assume the best of each other.

Trent's update was followed by a question and answer session open to all attendees.

**Closing Prayer:**

Trent Thompson

**Adjourned:** 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Gordon, Secretary