



West Shore Evangelical Free Church
Elder Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024
6:00 PM

Attending: Dave Baechtle, Dave Balinski, Ned Davis, Brock Heller, Matt Krise, David Mills, John Nesbitt, Rob Pepper, Tim Ryan, Trent Thompson, Tim Jones, Wendell Witter

Absent: None

Call to Order: 6:21 pm

Prayer: John Nesbitt

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: *That the regular minutes of the 07/09/24 Elder Board Meeting be approved as proposed.*

Ned Davis / Matt Krise 2nd

Action: **Approved by voice vote**

Motion: *That the 6/9/2024 Congregational Meeting be approved as proposed.*

Tim Ryan / Brock Heller 2nd

Action: **Approved by voice vote**

Membership Interviews:

Justin Eby

Geena Eby

Motion: That the above candidates be approved for membership.

John Nesbitt / Tim Ryan 2nd

Action: **Approved by voice vote**



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Board Advisory Team Reports:

Finance Advisory Team (Dave Mills)

- Finance team met to begin working on mortgage recommendations considering the August 2025 rate change and will work to model different mortgage options based on different rates.
 - Team to present mortgage recommendations at the November meeting
- The team will also investigate potential options for debt reduction.

Facilities Advisory Team (Dave Balinski)

- Team provided a priority list of facility projects for the future.
- The board asked questions and gave feedback on the ranking of priorities to align with ministry priorities.
- Tim & Trent will facilitate conversations with staff about various programming needs/vision and how that might shape facility needs.
- Team plans to share staff feedback with an outside consultant for facility improvement recommendations.

Human Resources Advisory Team (Tim Ryan)

- Team will meet at the end of August to tackle the following priorities
 - Report back to the Elder Board at the September board meeting with the team's top 2 – 3 upcoming priorities.
 - Brainstorm and implement strategies to generate more interest/referrals/applicants for open positions.

Security Team (Ned Davis)

- Team is working on developing training for various security scenarios
- Team is still recruiting additional volunteers and hoping to have co-ed teams during each service.

Human Resources: (Tim Ryan)

New Hires:

- Hannah Witter, Student Ministry Outreach & Missions Intern (Returning)

Departures:

- Alesha Campbell, Awesome Adventure Volunteer Coordinator



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Operations:

Dave Baechtle reminded the board that the Elder Nomination Process is open for submissions

Review of “Ministerial Staff Search Process” Document

- The purpose of the document is to outline recommendations to clarify and simplify ministerial search processes.
- Elders provided feedback on the “Ministerial Staff Search Process” document

Discussion of potential open doors for ministry

- Trent provided a summary of his meeting with a sister EFCA church in the region that is seeking help to remain viable and begin growing again
- Trent provided an update on a Nepalese/Bhutanese congregation that asked about potentially utilizing WSFC facilities

Further discussion on Ministerial Staff preaching in other contexts...

- Elders discussed a variety of options for how staff and lay members may express the positions and practices outlined in the “Women, Men, and Gospel Ministry” position paper in other church contexts.
- The board affirmed that since the position paper defines practices at WSFC and allows for “variations in practice between churches faithfully seeking to serve God,” staff and lay members have liberty outside of WSFC in the practices defined in the paper.
- The board will review the position paper for clarifications that are needed due to this discussion.

Closing Prayer: Dave Baechtle

Adjourned: 10:13 PM

Respectfully Submitted:
Wendell Witter, Secretary