

Hope Evangelical Free Church Board Minutes

Meeting held on the Campus of Hope Church
3000 Lenhart Road, Springfield, Illinois 62711
December 15, 2025

Shannon Alderman, Presiding Elder, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Shannon Alderman, Gary Clark, Anthony Hamilton, Curt Mavis, Brian Mills, TC Morsch, Caleb Payne, Jeff Pfaffe, Dave Richardson, Shelley Simpson, and Tony Suggs.

Opening: Caleb Payne opened the meeting with prayer. Shelley Simpson led the group reading of the Elder Board Values and Norms.

Prayer and Reflection – Time was set aside for the elders to pray.

Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the November 24, 2025, meeting minutes with one revision. The approved minutes will be posted to the Hope Church App.

Senior Pastor Reports

- **Independent Auditor's Review Report**

Lauren Groff (Sikich) reported that "Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting."

- **Strategic Plan Review**

Brian explained the reasoning behind his strategy for replacing Carol with an outsourced accounting firm and internal resource team.

- Vision Initiative Project Status

Brian provided a Leadership Pipeline Fall Progress Report detailing the status, progress, and challenges for each director/pastor. There was also discussion dealing with Hope's leadership culture and how to motivate and increase this area of service.

- **Metrics**

- Financials

Brian supplied financial reports and explained the usual giving trends experienced over a typical year.

- Limitations compliance

There is nothing to report at this time.

- Personnel

Brian is asking a consultant to consider a customized service to guide the church staff through the transition period related to Carol's replacement.

Policy Work

- **Accept Newly Affirmed Elders**
The Board officially affirmed the two new elders, Sheri Fraker and Mark Sexton. Their term will begin in January 2026.
- **Officer Selection**
The Board elected Shannon Alderman for Presiding Elder and Anthony Hamilton for Secretary for 2026.
- **Elder Board Retreat Agenda**
Brian included the agenda in his report.
- **Annual Agenda**
Shannon will organize the 2026 meeting agendas, compiling the calendar of meeting dates and schedule for elder opening prayer and setting meeting context.
- **Staff Housing Allowance Approval**
The board approved the housing allowance for eligible staff members.
- **Policy #14(Whistle Blower) update**
Jeff reported that he has been in conversation with Kim Wonnell and that she is willing to review the current policy and will contact Jeff when the task is completed.

Announcements

Shannon will develop the 2026 schedule for the Elder's opening prayer and setting meeting.

Shannon announced that the next meeting date will be Monday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. Caleb Payne will open the January meeting with prayer and Shelley Simpson will set the meeting context.

Adjournment

Curt Mavis closed the meeting with prayer, and Shannon adjourned the meeting at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Pfaffe