

Hope Evangelical Free Church Board Minutes

Meeting held on the Campus of Hope Church
3000 Lenhart Road, Springfield, Illinois 62711
November 24, 2025

Shannon Alderman, Presiding Elder, called the meeting to order at 6:31 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.

Members of the Elder Development Class – Greg Polovich, David Sack, Valerie Ausmus, Noel Beard, Peggy Johnson, Daniel Hamilton

Opening: Tony Suggs opened the meeting with prayer. Shannon Alderman 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 October 27, 2025, meeting minutes with revisions. The approved minutes will be posted to the Hope Church App.

Senior Pastor Reports

- **Strategic Plan Review**
 - Engagement Pathway: Adult & Student
Brian answered and explained the data presented in the Engagement Pathways. Brian highlighted the large non-holiday attendance numbers that occurred in November and the blessing of growth that the church is experiencing. There was discussion of attendance issues particularly at the 9:00 service and possible remedies.
- **Limitations**
There were no limitations to report at this time.
- **Personnel**
Brian discussed his ideas for changes to the Finance Team focusing on how to strengthen the team for the future and the development of a “Resource Stewardship Team” to assist the Business Manager.

Policy Work

- **Adoption of proposed Policy changes to #13 and #14 policies**
The Board approved the changes to the 13) Response to Formal Grievances. Regarding 14) Whistleblower policy, it was decided after discussion to seek help from a finance team member to review the policy and suggest changes to modernize the policy.
- **Affirmation of New Elders (2026)**
The Board voted to affirm the New Elders, Cheri Fraker and Mark Sexton for their term starting January 2026, pending there are no congregational reasons to the contrary collected by Wednesday, November 26.
- **Governance Model Overview**
Brian and board members answered questions from the elder class members in attendance, about the Governance Model and any other questions they had about serving on the Board.

Announcements

Shannon announced that the next meeting date will be Monday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Shannon reminded the Board to submit nominations for officers to him before the next meeting. Caleb Payne will open the meeting with prayer and Shannon Alderman will set the meeting context.

Adjournment

Dave Richardson closed the meeting with prayer, and Shannon adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Pfafe