

## **Hope Evangelical Free Church Board Minutes**

Meeting held on the Campus of Hope Church  
3000 Lenhart Road, Springfield, Illinois 62711  
July 28, 2025

Shannon Alderman, Presiding Elder, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The Board approved the June 23, 2025; meeting minutes as written. The approved minutes will be posted to the Hope Church App.

### **Senior Pastor Reports**

Brian started his report by thanking TC Morsch for all her work on the One Life program. Brian also highlighted the Employee Retention Credit money that has been received; rather unexpectedly, and how the congregation was asked last year for a significant increase in giving to cover deferred maintenance and that the congregation “stepped up” even before the ERC money was received. Brian has told the staff to “let go of fears,” God is working in this church and has great plans for Hope.

- **Strategic Plan Review-Great Commission Engine-Relationships**  
Brian presented the staff survey results on their view of relationships within the church. The Board was then canvassed and gave their reasons to help explain how they voted. Brian will present this information back to the staff.
- **Metrics (“Transformed in and through the community”)**  
Brian’s report included extensive documentation dealing with group attendance, curricular offerings, special events, baptism trends and stories, and congregational spiritual health. Brian explained in more detail the group attendance metrics and how the staff is working to make the reporting show a more accurate picture of what is occurring.
- **Limitations Compliance**  
Brian’s report included further information on the Employee Retention Credit money received and how it will be was and will be used.
- **Personnel**  
There is nothing to report at this time.

## **Policy Work**

- **Elder Selection Process Report**

Shannon prayed for the candidates and the process. Curt and Jeff presented their thoughts on the candidates based on interactions in class and in personal meetings. The Board reviewed and discussed the candidate questionnaires. The board decided to move all candidates to the next phase of interviews in September. Jeff will inform candidates of this decision and serve on the interview panel. Shannon and Brian will appoint the rest of the Review team by the August meeting.

- **Solicit Names of Prospective Elders**

The Board was directed to think of individuals for possible inclusion in the elder development process starting this fall.

## **Announcements**

Shannon announced that the next meeting date will be Monday, August 25 at 6:30 p.m. Shannon Alderman will open the meeting with prayer and Gary Clark will set the meeting context.

Brian asked the Board to pray for and support the FY2026 Support Planning schedule and informed the Board of how engaged the Finance Team was and praised Carol for recruiting and developing such a good team.

Shannon also reminded the elders to go over their individual and board evaluations that will be discussed in the August meeting.

## **Adjournment**

Dave closed the meeting with prayer, and Shannon adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Pfafe