

Hope Evangelical Free Church Board Minutes

Meeting held on the Campus of Hope Church
3000 Lenhart Road, Springfield, Illinois 62711
August 24, 2026

Dave Richardson, Acting Presiding Elder, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

Missing Board Members: Shannon Alderman

Opening: Cheri Fraker opened the meeting with prayer. Gary Clark led the group reading of the Elder Board Values and Norms.

Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the July 27, 2026, meeting minutes with three revisions. The approved minutes will be posted to the Hope Church App.

Old Business

- **Process Policy #14 (Whistleblower) update**
The Whistleblower Team provided a draft policy to the Elders. The team will present an update at the September meeting.
- **Elder Selection Development Update**
 - We currently have one candidate after four candidates have decided to end their candidacy (to be seated in January 2027).

Senior Pastor Reports

- **Strategic Plan Review**
 - We reviewed the Engagement Pathways for adults and students tied to our Vision Report Policy.
- **Vision Metrics**
 - We reviewed the 2027 Fiscal Year budget.
 - Personnel.
 1. We have an Interim Director of Operations supporting weekly operations for Finance, Human Resources, and Facilities. He will help develop the profile and a candidate list for his replacement.
 2. We discussed personnel updates.
 - Limitations Compliance
 1. We reviewed updates on our Child Safety Policies and updates on other staff training.

- Announcements
 1. Annual Business Meeting is Wednesday 8/26/26, 6:30pm to 7:30pm.
 2. Spiritual Retreat for Elders and Staff is scheduled for 8/29/26, 9am to 1pm.
 3. Vision Night is Thursday 9/3/26, 6pm to 7:30pm.
 4. Fall Series Launch is Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Policy Work

- We reviewed all Elder Evaluations.
- We will announce the Elder Selection Candidate Review Team.
- We will solicit the names of prospective Elders in August and September for the 2027 New Elder Development Class. The deadline is 9/6/26 for recommendations.

Announcements

- Strategic Plan Review:
 - VIP Status updates.
- Vision Metrics Review:
 - Financials, Personnel and Limitations.
- September 2026 Policy Review:
 - Review the Process Policies (9-11 and 15-17).
 - Approve Audit Firm.
 - Begin the Elder Development Class.
 - Start interviewing Elder Selection Candidates.
 - Approve the Elder Selection Candidate Questions.
- David announced that the next meeting date will be Monday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m.
 - Curt Mavis will open the September meeting with prayer.
 - Dave Richardson will set the Meeting Context.

Adjournment

Mark closed the meeting with prayer, and we adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Hamilton