

West Shore Evangelical Free Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2020
6:00 PM

Opening:

Worship in song led by George Romanacce

Call to Order/Prayer:

by Mark Blanchard, Chairman of the Elder Board, 6:08 P.M.

Quorum / Joel G:

A quorum was affirmed

New Members / Mark Blanchard:

The following were presented and recommended to the Congregation by the Elder Board for membership as presented by Mark Blanchard. All new members were invited to introduce themselves and give a brief testimony as to their decision to become a member of West Shore:

Brenda Allen	Jade Fertich	Andy Otto
Clinton Barnes	Scott Hancock	Emily Otto
Nancy Barnes	Brock Heller	Jeremy Samek
Casey Bechard	Shannon Heller	Sarah Samek
Ellen Bechard	Ben Holderman	Hans Schreiber
Andrew Caudill	Rachel Holderman	Lauren Stratton
Taylor Caudill	Robert Lyon	Don Trautman
Lynne Cox	Tammy Lyon	Marla Trautman
Tim Cox	Angie McKeever	Amy Underkoffler
Daniel Doyle	Luke McKeever	Joe Underkoffler
Mandy Doyle	Margaret Mull	Keri Walton
Holly Fertich	Vi Nissly	Michael Walton

Motion: *That the above candidates be approved for membership
(Seth Shoemaker / Billiejo Monday 2nd)*

Action: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Reminder of Elder Selection Process / Mark Blanchard

Mark explained how the more in-depth review of elder candidates has lengthened the elder nominating process, requiring changes to the previous elder nominating schedule. As a result, the Elder Nominating Committee will now be voted on at the June Congregational Meeting to allow one year for the completion of the nominating process.

The elder terms of Dave Balinski and Matt Krise will expire this year. Therefore, two elder candidates will be presented for congregational approval at the June 2020 Congregational Meeting.

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Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2020
6:00 PM

Solar Energy Proposal Question / Mark Blanchard

Mark shared that the Elder Board has three teams which address specific issues of the church and report back to the Elder Board. Those teams cover Stewardship, HRC and Facilities.

Mark advised the Facilities Team had received a Solar Energy Proposal. After review of the proposal, the Facilities Team presented a recommendation to the Elder Board that the proposal not be pursued. The Elder Board discussed the recommendation and agreed not to pursue this proposal, as it is not a good financial fit for our church in light of current mortgage debt and the need for capital replacements over the next five years.

Church Life Update / Lead Team Pators

Finances / Tim Ryan

Tim reported we received \$178,900 in the Christmas Eve Offering, which represented the largest Christmas Eve Offering in church history. The offering will be distributed to Hope Walks, Center for Champions and the Brethren Housing Association.

Tim also reported that giving during FY 2018-19 exceeded our budget.

Worship / George Romanacce

George reported the Christmas Eve attendance of 4498 was our largest ever. Several sermon series were presented throughout 2019 and 57 individuals were baptized.

Belong / Dan Spino

Dan reported that 831 adults and 365 students are now in Life Groups. MOPS and MOMSNext ministered to 125 women in 2019. Dan also reported that a new College Age Ministry was begun in 2019.

Train / Nate Winters

Nate reported that 71 Training Arenas held over the past four years attracted 6000 students. The Leadership Development Track, now in the third year, has enrolled 60 total students. Fellowship Groups have ministered to 400 people in the past year, while Women's Bible Studies taught 668 women.

Multiply / Ian Campbell

Ian celebrated the rise of an invitational culture within our church, in which people are sharing their spiritual journeys with non-believers. One such effort is the Alpha Course, which included 403 participants at various locations, and led to at least 25 new followers of Christ. Another effort is Upward Sports, which drew 395 participants. Ian also reported outreach was done by 64 children and adults through Awesome Adventure Mission Trips.

Strategic Initiatives / Ryan Keith

Ryan reported that our Foster Care Initiative has increased the number of foster families in our church from 8 to 29 in the past year. Sixteen support teams have been created to support these families and 175 people are involved in foster care in some manner.

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Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2020
6:00 PM

Ryan also reported West Shore Free is building a foster care process to assist other churches looking to follow our example.

Church Life Assessment / Ryan Keith

Ryan advised the annual Church Life Assessment would be available online this week and encouraged everyone to take the time to fill out an assessment.

Closing Prayer: Mark Blanchard

Adjourned: 7:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Gordon, Secretary