

2023 District Business Meeting Minutes

*EFCA Texas-Oklahoma District Leadership Conference
Austin Oaks Church, Austin, Texas
Friday, February 24, 2023*

General (Business) Meeting, 4:30PM, February 24, 2022

I. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

John Gordon welcomed the delegates opened the meeting with prayer at 4:36PM

II. CREDENTIALING OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES

(A) Duly appointed and certified delegates from local Evangelical Free Churches within the District. Each church shall be entitled to delegates in accordance with the following: two delegates for churches with up to 25 members and one additional delegate for every additional 50 members or part thereof. Each delegate must be at least 18 years old and a member in good standing of the represented Evangelical Free Church within the District at the time of the Conference.

- 26

(B) Pastors of churches or congregations affiliated with the District, and other licensed or ordained ministers living within the District who are members of the Ministerial Association of the EFCA.

- 32: 27 Pastor and 5 Ordained

(C) The District Board members.

- 8

Total - 66

III. APPROVAL OF 2022 DISTRICT CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MC that the District Conference to approve the minutes from our 2022 conference.

IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRMAN REPORT

John Gordon gave the Chairman's report. He reviewed the board's and activity in 2022, highlighting the transition to new District Superintendent Brent Burckart. He also described the work of the District Board during his tenure as chairman and charged the current District Board from Paul's charge to the Ephesian elders.

V. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Brent described his first ten months as District Superintendent. He expressed thanks for the godly people who lead the District. We are in an exciting and challenging season, and committed to equipping our churches minister the Gospel effectively. Brent encouraged pastors to be involved in ministry cohorts where we support and encourage each other. He noted that we are launching two new churches this spring, and accepting one new church into full membership in the District. He asked for participation in the annual District Survey. He expressed his gratitude to God for his position as District Superintendent and recognize the District Staff.



VI. DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS REPORT

Katie Arnold gave the report. Katie expressed gratitude to Bob and JoAnn Rowley for the handoff last year, and for the current District staff. She celebrated the successes of church planting and indicated that other folks are interested in entering the pipeline.

VII. DIRECTOR OF HISPANIC CHURCH PLANTING REPORT

Manuel Abarca Sáez gave the report. Manuel thanked the District staff for support of Hispanic churches and church plants. He described the Hispanic Church planting network's activities this year. He also described the current Hispanic Church plants and called for prayer and support.

VIII. MINISTRY VIDEO REPORTS

The following reports were given by pre-recorded video:

- a. Student Ministry Report – Tim Rowley
- b. Credentialing / Small Group Specialist Report – John Watson
- c. Thrive Ministry Report – Monica DeGarmeaux

IX. FINANCIAL REPORTS & APPROVAL OF 2023 BUDGET

- a. 2022 Financial Report

2022 Treasurer Report was presented by Kevin Hammond. Kevin reported that in this transition year we were over budget in several areas, especially due to the overlap between Bob Rowley and Brent Burckart and the purchase of a car. He said that the District general fund operates at a deficit, but we are still in a solid cash position.

- b. Finance / Budget Panel Discussion

John Gordon led a panel discussion with Brent Burckart and Kevin Hammond. Brent described our financial position. We have a large cash balance, but we are running some pretty significant annual deficits, averaging \$237,000 over the last three years. We need to take significant steps to reduce the deficits by decreasing expenses and increase income. Our average per church giving is low compared to other Districts, but this means there is room to grow toward the target of each church contributing 2% of its budget to the District.

Kevin addressed the large increase in the proposed budget which is due to expenses that were in the Church Planting Fund being brought into the General Fund. Brent explained that the desire is to capture all expenses and salaries in one fund so that we can clearly see our deficits on one page.

- c. Approval of 2023 Budget

MC to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 budget as presented.

Discussion:

Q: How do reduce expenses when they are primarily personnel?

A: We are going to look at reducing personnel expenses.



Q: Has the number of employees grown?

A: Most of the increase is from employees coming over from the Church Planting Revolving Fund

Q: Is there a firewall in place to protect the Church Planting Fund?

A: Spending is limited to budget approval for the General Fund. Church Planting funds are expended depending on the number of Church Planters being funded.

Q: Where are the assets invested

A: Invested in CD's

Q: Could we use Christian Investors?

A: That would be a board decision, but they are not FDIC insured, and current rule prevent us from any non-FDIC insured investments.

Q: How is the District Support from churches calculated

A: We are predicting a modest increase in giving from churches, but we would welcome more.

Q: I would push on churches to give more.

A: That's exactly what we're trying to do, with a gentle or a more than gentle push. Our goal is to take in more and spend less than the budget.

X. APPROVAL OF NEW & CONTINUING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Heath Haynes (2nd three-year term)

Drew Leaver (2nd three-year term)

Kevin Hammond (1st three-year term)

MC that Heath Haynes, Drew Leaver and Kevin Hammond be approved to serve as District Board members for three-year terms.

XI. ACCEPTANCE OF NEW CHURCH

MC The board recommends that we accept King's Community Church, New Braunfels, TX as a member church.

Gabe and Monica DeGarmeaux came forward representing King's Community Church.

Drew Leaver led in prayer for King's Community Church

XII. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER

MSC John Gordon moved that the meeting adjourn

John closed in prayer at 5:51 PM

