

Sovereign Grace Churches Council of Elders Meeting Minutes
Orlando, Florida, November 4, 2019

1. **Call to Order.** Mark Prater (Mark), executive director, called to order the meeting on Monday, November 4, 2019 in Orlando, Florida at 1pm.
 - a. **New Churches Recognized.** Mark Prater recognized new churches joining Sovereign Grace: Athens, TN; Sydney, Australia; and Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
2. **Roll Call.** Mark conducted a roll call. 71 of 86 total delegates were present, representing a quorum.
3. **State of the Union of Sovereign Grace Churches.** Mark gave the annual State of the Union address for Sovereign Grace Churches.
4. **Recognize Rules Committee.** The Rules Committee. (per BCO 15.4.3.1) has three members from the Polity Committee. The members for this meeting were Dan Baker, Shawn Powers, and Aaron Law.
5. **Vote for Executive Committee members.** The delegates voted by written ballot on three open positions for the Executive Committee. Jon Payne and Steve Teter were elected to the executive committee on the first ballot. Walt Alexander was elected to the executive committee on the 2nd ballot.
6. **Affirmation vote for Polity Committee members.** The following elders were affirmed by written ballot to serve on the Polity Committee: Bart Lipscomb and Jake Simmons.
7. **Affirmation vote for Court of Appeal members.** The following elders were affirmed by written ballot to serve on the Court of Appeals: Rob Flood, Cedric Moss, Trey Richardson, Steve Teter, and Josh Tong.
8. **Affirmation vote for Theology Committee members.** Shawn Woo was affirmed by written ballot to serve on the Theology Committee.
9. **Affirmation vote for Response Committee for Sexual Misconduct members.** The following elders were affirmed by written ballot to serve on the Response Committee for Sexual Misconduct: Greg Dirnberger, Kyle Huber, Aaron Mayfield, Derek Overstreet, and Josh Murphy.
10. **Revised CoE Child Sexual Abuse Statement.** The CoE approved unanimously by voice vote the amended language to the statement approved in 2018. *(Posted on the SGC Website)*
11. **Executive Committee Update.** Jon Payne, Chairman, gave an update from the Executive Committee.

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12. **Polity Committee Update.** Marty Machowski, Chairman, gave an update from the Polity Committee.
13. **Proposed Amendments to the Book of Church Order (BCO).** Mark moderated the presentation of proposed amendments to the BCO. Amendments to the BCO are governed by Section 15.3.3 and require a simple majority vote to be adopted. The BCO, as amended is available on our website.
14. **New Business Motions.**
 - a. The Motion for the Theology Committee to review the process of ordination transfers was approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - b. The Motion by the Executive Committee to task the Polity Committee to propose edits to the current BCO for length, clarity, and usability was approved unanimously by voice vote.
15. **Theology Committee Update.** Jeff Purswell, chair, gave an update from the Theology Committee including final steps necessary to approve a new statement of faith.
16. **Ratification of Sections of the Statement of Faith.** Sections 11-13 were provisionally approved by unanimous voice vote. The BCO now requires $\frac{3}{4}$ of the church regions to approve these sections. The Theology Committee hopes to present the final draft of the entire statement of faith for discussion and vote at the 2020 CoE Meeting.
17. **Executive Director Update.** Mark updated the CoE on current priorities of the Leadership Team.
18. **Vote to Affirm Sovereign Grace Churches FYE August 31, 2020 Budget.** Mark presented the FY20 budget for affirmation by the CoE. The Executive Committee approved the budget on August 15, 2019. The budget was approved unanimously by voice vote.
19. **Meeting Adjourned.** The meeting was adjourned on Monday Evening.