

**Sovereign Grace Churches Council of Elders Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023**

1. **Call to Order.** Mark Prater, Executive Director, called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 13, 2023 at 1pm in Orlando, FL.
 - a. **New Churches Recognized.** Mark Prater recognized new churches joining Sovereign Grace in The Philippines(Cavite City, Imus City, and Isabella), Liberia(Monrovia), and USA(Mechanicsburg, PA).
2. **Roll Call.** Mark Prater conducted roll call. 65 of 70 US delegates were present and 12 of 20 Emerging Nation delegates were present, representing a quorum.
3. **State of the Union of Sovereign Grace Churches.** Mark Prater 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 Devon Kauflin, Bart Lipscomb, and Aaron Law.
5. **Elect Executive Committee Members.** The delegates voted on one open position. Steve Teter was re-elected.
6. **Affirm Polity Committee Members.** The following elders were re-affirmed for three-year terms: Bruce Chick, Chad Haygood, and Marty Machowski. Chris Patton was added.
7. **Affirm Theology Committee Members.** The following elders were re-affirmed for three-year terms: Mark Alderton, Walt Alexander, Josh Blount, Rick Gamache, and Matthew Williams.
8. **Affirm Court of Appeal Members.** The following elder was re-affirmed for a six -year term: Eric Rangel.
9. **Affirm Response Committee for Sexual Misconduct Members.** The following elder was added for a three-year term: Keith Bunting.
10. **National Committee Reports were presented:**
 - a. Response Committee for Sexual Misconduct, by Aaron Mayfield.
 - b. Theology Committee, by Jeff Purswell.
 - c. Executive Committee, by Ken Mellinger
 - d. Polity Committee, by Marty Machowski.
11. **Proposed Amendments to the Book of Church Order (BCO).** Mark Prater moderated the presentation of proposed amendments to the BCO. Amendments to the BCO are governed by Section 8.5.3. The BCO, as amended, is available at www.SovereignGrace.com.
12. **New Business Motions.**
 - a. Ordination Status. The CoE approved by unanimous voice vote a motion to ask the Polity Committee to evaluate the current structure of our ordination statuses and bring recommendations next year.

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b. Mexico Nation Status. The CoE approved by unanimous voice vote, the following motion: On behalf of the elders and churches in Mexico, and with the recommendation of the SGC Leadership Team, and the affirmation of the SGC Executive Committee, Mark Prater moves that the Council of Elders approve Nation status in keeping with section 12.4.23 of the US Book of Church Order that will establish SGC Mexico as an ecclesiastical nation.

13. Affirm the Sovereign Grace budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. Mark Prater presented the FY24 budget for affirmation by the CoE. The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the budget at their retreat in August 2023. The budget was affirmed by unanimous voice vote.

14. Meeting Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7.19pm on November 13, 2023.