

**Sovereign Grace Churches Council of Elders Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2024**

1. **Call to Order.** Mark Prater, Executive Director, called the meeting to order on Monday , November 4, 2024 at 1pm in Orlando, FL.
  - a. **New Churches Recognized.** Mark Prater recognized new churches joining Sovereign Grace in Italy (Torino), Kenya(Nairobi), Namibia(Windhoek), and The Philippines(Manila). Ethiopia(Addis Ababa) and England(Bristol) were also formally recognized as partner churches.
2. **Roll Call.** Mark Prater conducted roll call. 65 of 70 US delegates were present, representing a quorum. 11 of 21 Emerging Nation delegates were also present.
  - a. The CoE approved adding an update from the SGC Court of Appeals to the agenda by unanimous voice vote (after approving suspension of rules for 30-day notice in 8.4.1.3). See Agenda item 9.e.
3. **State of the Union of Sovereign Grace Churches.** Mark Prater gave the annual State of the Union address for Sovereign Grace Churches.
  - a. Key updates were also given by Jared Mellinger(Publishing), Jon Payne(Church Adoptions), and Joel Shorey(Church Planting).
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 Chad Haygood, Aaron Law, and Chris Patton.
5. **Elect Executive Committee Members.** The delegates voted on three open positions. Brian Chesemore, Andy Farmer, and Dave Odom were elected.
6. **Affirm Polity Committee Members.** Joel Bain and Aaron Law were affirmed for three-year terms.
7. **Affirm Court of Appeal Members.** Aaron Campbell was affirmed for a six -year term.
8. **Affirm Response Committee for Sexual Misconduct Members.** Kyle Huber, Derek Overstreet, and Bert Turner were affirmed for three-year terms.
9. **National Committee Reports were presented:**
  - a. Theology Committee, by Jeff Purswell.
  - b. Response Committee for Sexual Misconduct, by Derek Overstreet.
  - c. Executive Committee, by Ken Mellinger
  - d. Polity Committee, by Marty Machowski.
  - e. Court of Appeals, by Josh Tong.
10. **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](http://www.SovereignGrace.com).

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**11. New Business Motion.**

- a. Church Planting Fund. The CoE approved by unanimous voice vote a Leadership Team business motion to split the already existing Church Planting Fund into two separate and distinct funds: the US Church Planting Fund and the Global Church Planting Fund.

**12. FY25 budget for affirmation by the CoE.** The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the budget at their retreat in August 2024. The budget was affirmed by unanimous voice vote.

**13. Meeting Adjourned.** The meeting was adjourned at 8.12pm on November 4, 2024.