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Elder Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025
GCC Community Room

Members Present: Dan Brewer, John Skillman, Carol Walton, Senior Pastor Ryan Miller, Mark Harger, Hannah Goering, Nancy Westover, Charlene Quint

Members Absent: None

Dan opened the meeting in prayer at 6:35 pm.

Carol motioned to approve the minutes of July 22, 2025, and Charlie seconded. The Board voted to approve the minutes with John Skillman abstaining.

Hannah reminded the Elders to review their min-congregation lists, as well as to direct their associated Directors and Staff to do so in order to realign currently active congregants with GCC leadership. Discussion focused on how we track congregant attendance and if there was follow-up with those who leave or are notably absent for a period of time. Pastor Ryan stated that he or Pastor Brian phone those who fill in a contact card.

Hannah asked for an update on the Continency Plan assignments. She had created a document in the Elders Drive folder to be used for each entry and included a resource for reference from the State of Illinois on currently recommended practices for churches. John recommended that Tornados be added to the plan for Fire. Dan shared the link to the new Emergency Alert System of the Village of Gurnee known as Regroup. There was discussion about the dissemination of information once policies are in place.

Hannah led a discussion of responses on the Leadership Questionnaires completed by a number of congregants last December. Pastor Ryan was to review the documents and divide responses into the following areas for further discussion:

- What is working?
- What needs improvement?
- Ideas?

The information was to inform new annual goals to be set by the Elders at the next business meeting.

Nancy initiated discussion on the functioning of the current post-worship prayer team. Nancy was to follow-up up with Pastor Ryan who would then initiate a sub-group of Elders to work through the situation. Dan and Carol volunteered to work on this team.

Hannah asked Pastor Ryan how the Elders can support good relations and community building within the staff. Ryan reported a growing sense of camaraderie in working together in the months in which he has been here. But he also suggested the sponsorship of an occasional lunch out together would be appreciated. He was also interested in providing a half-day retreat just for Pastors and Staff.

The eligibility for membership at GCC was discussed. The Constitution is unclear as to whether confirmands are automatically considered members and whether baptism is required prior to membership. This was to be looked at further.

The Guiding Principles have been completed but will need a congregational survey to gather baseline data prior to implementation. Carol agreed to develop a survey based on the outcomes desired as listed in the Mission Principles.

John reported that GCC ended last fiscal year with a deficit, but July giving was increased from recent months. The Endowment Fund has been increased by additional donations and needed maintenance on the building will begin soon. Further EF decisions are awaiting the recruitment of new members following some resignations. John reported on the August Director's meeting. Mark Harger was scheduled for the next Director's meeting.

Dan called the meeting into Executive session at 9:14PM. The regular meeting was called back to order at 9:22 PM.

The next Elder meeting was scheduled for August 26 to begin at 6:30PM via Zoom. Pastor Ryan will send log-in information. It was to consist of Growth and Development via a study of Chapter 1 and 2 in the book *Lead with Prayer* and an extended prayer time. If necessary, urgent business was to be addressed.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Hannah at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Westover
GCC Church Secretary