

**Sovereign Grace Churches Council of Elders Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2021**

1. **Call to Order.** Mark Prater, Executive Director, called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 8, 2021 at 1pm ET in Orlando, FL.
 - a. **New Churches Recognized.** Mark Prater recognized new churches joining Sovereign Grace: Conroe, TX (Bart Lipscomb); San Antonio, TX (Philip Estrada); Guadalajara, MX (Roberto Estupinián); and Silao, MX (Manolo Quintal).
2. **Roll Call.** Mark Prater conducted a roll call. 68 of 84 delegates were present, representing a quorum.
 - a. Marty Machowski put forward a motion to suspend rules that voting members must be physically present (per Section 15.25, 15.38, etc.), so that those unable to attend in person (due to pandemic travel restrictions) could vote remotely. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
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. **Vote for Executive Committee Members.** The delegates voted in-person and electronically on three open positions for the Executive Committee. Bruce Chick, Abelardo Munoz and Dave York were elected.
6. **Affirmation Vote for Polity Committee Members.** The following elders were affirmed by in-person and electronic vote to serve on the Polity Committee: Devon Kauflin and Aaron Law.
7. **Affirmation Vote for Court of Appeal Members.** The following elder was affirmed by in-person and electronic vote to serve on the Court of Appeals: Joshua Jordan (replacing Ed O'Mara).
8. **Report from the Response Committee for Sexual Misconduct.** Aaron Mayfield provided an update on the work of this committee and resources available through SGC and MinistrySafe.
9. **Executive Committee Update.** Ken Mellinger, Chairman, gave an update from the Executive Committee, including an Executive Committee report as requested in the 2020 CoE meeting on their evaluation of the current allocations of giving to Sovereign Grace

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between central and regions.

10. **Theology Committee Update.** Jeff Purswell gave an update on the work of the Theology Committee and reported that the Statement of Faith, ratified in 2020 by the Council of Elders, had been unanimously ratified by all Sovereign Grace Regions. He also gave an update on the committee's work on updating the Ordination Standards to reflect the new Statement of Faith (See 11 below). A BCO amendment was presented and approved modifying Section 15.3.8 relating to Ordination Standards and Exams.
11. **Approval of the Updated Sovereign Grace Ordination Standards.** A motion was made to approve changes to the Ordination Standards in the BCO. The amended standards were approved, as amended, by unanimous voice vote.
12. **Polity Committee Report.** Marty Machowski, chairman, gave an update from the Polity Committee.
13. **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 15.3.3 and require a simple majority vote to be adopted. The BCO, as amended, is available at www.SovereignGrace.com.
14. **Present and affirm the Sovereign Grace budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.** Mark Prater presented the FY21 budget for affirmation by the CoE. The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the budget at their retreat in August 2021. The budget was affirmed by unanimous voice vote.
15. **Meeting Adjourned.** The meeting was adjourned at 8.03pm ET on November 8, 2021.