

# Biographical Info & Voter's Guide

*For the 2021-2022 Elder Board &  
Nominating Committee Candidates*



**EMMANUEL FAITH ANNUAL MEETING**  
April 25, 2021 · 3 p.m.



# Annual Meeting Election Information

Church Members are reminded that under the EFCC Constitution & Bylaws, two categories of membership have been established: "Active" and "Associate." Only those in the Active category are eligible to vote. This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 25, at 3pm at EFCC. Early voting will begin at 2pm. Absentee ballots will be provided at the church office. Absentee ballots also will be available at church on Sunday, April 18. If mailed back, your Absentee ballot must be received by Friday, April 23, in order to be counted. The Board of Elders encourages every Active Member to vote.

Some in our church family, though attending for many years, have never become members. If you are in this category, your name will not appear on the membership list and you are not eligible to vote.

Please see the following pages for biographical information on our Elder Board and Nominating Committee candidates to help you make informed voting decisions for this year's Annual Meeting election.

For more information about this year's Annual Meeting, please see the Annual Meeting agenda posted at the EFCC main office front desk, or on our website page at: [www.efcc.org/annual-meeting](http://www.efcc.org/annual-meeting).

## **2021-2022 Elder Board Candidates**

*Five candidates will be elected to the EFCC Elder Board. You may vote for up to five people on your ballot.*

- Adel Abdelmalak
- Chris Dull
- Jon Goodman
- Kalani Jones
- Larry Michel
- Austin Nielsen
- John Waring

## **2021-2022 Nominating Committee Candidates**

*Three candidates will be elected to the Nominating Committee. Please vote for up to three people on your ballot.*

- Jason Askegreen
- Greg Hill
- Ron Peet
- Janice Segraves
- Mary Waring

# Elder Candidates

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## Adel Abdelmalak (Emily)



**SALVATION:** I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in my life as my Savior on July 9th, 1984 at a revival meeting in Egypt. The Scripture was from the book of Zachariah chapter 3 in which God cleans the garments of the High Priest as a symbol of forgiving of my sins and cleansing my heart.

**EFCC SERVICE:** My current ministry activities and responsibilities at EFCC are the following:

(1) Minister as a team member of the global missions trips to the Arab Countries. This ministry was observed by Pastor Dave Hall, Mrs. Chris Montgomery, Doug Smith, and Kalani Jones. (2) I help to manage the Sunday morning 8 a.m service's communion. This ministry is observed by Pastor Scott Smith. (3) I am available to teach at the Sun-deo class at 9:30am when our dear leader and elder John Wojnicki invites me to do so. (4) I help at ICF when they have Middle Eastern people who speak Arabic (with Wichit and Mariam Maneevone).

**GIFTING AS ELDER:** God by His grace granted me unique gift in terms of understanding, teaching and using the Word of God in our daily life applications. In addition, God can use me as a bridge between our church and the Arab people and the churches in the Middle East. I am studying at Bethel University to have my Master's Degree in Divinity. This is my second year of four. I believe that this great opportunity will benefit me as well as the church in terms of reaching more people who speak English as well as I do in Arabic, my original language.

**PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE:** For more than 25 years, by the grace of God, I have been leading many assemblies all around the world in terms of teaching the Word of God, counseling and solving their spiritual problems. I do that regularly in five different continents every year.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

I was born and raised in Egypt. In Egypt, the majority are Muslims, therefore, as an Egyptian Christian I lived as one of the minority without neglecting or denying my faith in Christ. This exercise gave me a deep and wide experience, and knowledge in terms of how I can manage the differences of opinion and react to temporary unpopularity by speaking the truth in love without fear.

# Elder Candidates

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## Chris Dull (Holly)



**SALVATION:** My parents were divorced when I was four years old. After remarrying, my mother and stepfather began regularly attending a Presbyterian church in Fresno. When I was nine years old, the gospel was presented to me while attending a Wednesday night service. Following the service, in the back of the family station wagon, I prayed to receive Jesus. My understanding and devotion to the Lord grew over time with an understanding of making Him Lord of my life in high school.

Romans 10:9-10; Romans 3:23-25; Romans 6:23; and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

**EFCC SERVICE:** I have been a Sunday morning core group leader in the Junior High department for the last 16 years working with Pastor John Riley.

**GIFTING AS ELDER:** My spiritual gifts are giving, leadership, and teaching. Using these gifts, I can help build up the body of believers at Emmanuel Faith.

**PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE:** EFCC Elder 2011-2017, 2018-2021.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary “unpopularity” if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

I have been unpopular many times in my life. I attempt to allow others the opportunity to express their viewpoints without compromising the truth. If I am in the minority, but believe the position I hold is correct, I attempt to persuade those in the majority to understand my viewpoint. I am not afraid to hold to an unpopular conviction, but will maintain unity under the leadership in place above me.

# Elder Candidates

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## Jon Goodman (Jo Ann)



**SALVATION:** At the age of 16 years old, a transformational coach stepped into my life. My experience playing for him broke heart habits that were extremely damaging to my life and to my soul. He showed me that there is a new way to play and a new way to live my life. He showed me the love of God. This relationship and my experiences playing for this coach instilled in me the importance of God's Word, the salvation that we have in His Son Jesus (Romans 6:23), and the responsibility that we have to give back to

others. From this, God gave me a desire to make a difference in people's lives.

**EFCC SERVICE:** FaithKids small group leader, camp speaker, and summer camp leader.

**GIFTING AS ELDER:** The calling I have is not to be an elder but to provide opportunities for others to experience God's love and watch God do the rest. I do believe that serving as an elder would allow for this opportunity to be exercised in my own faith and allow me to serve the community of faith.

**PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE:** I have had no church experience as an elder or deacon.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority? My favorite question to ask in conflict or differences is "Help me understand that point." Then I like to restate the point as it helps me understand their position. Then I love to go back to God's word to establish truth. I share that truth and let God do the work. Again, my job is to provide opportunities for others to experience God's love and God does the rest.

# Elder Candidates

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## Kalani Jones (Helen)



**SALVATION:** I came to know the Lord in the summer of 1981. I prayed to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8).

**EFCC SERVICE:** Member of EFCC Elder Board; leader of the Middle East Collaborative Team; leader of the Journey of Hope Ministry Team; FaithKids teacher for the 2nd & 3rd graders; Co-leader and homework assistant at The Bridge (more than 10 years); small group leader: Thursdays; mission trip leader: I have led multiple mission trips to the Middle East over the past five years.

**GIFTING AS ELDER:** I have the following gifts and receive great joy from the Lord when working within these areas of giftedness: Service: The Lord has given me the desire to serve others. Leadership: The Lord has given me the ability to help develop and set goals, create a team, and unify that team to accomplish those goals. Process Development: The Lord has blessed me with an engineering mind that sees processes all around me. Honestly, I wasn't praying to be an elder of the church; I was praying that the Lord would have me be ready and willing to act whenever he needed me. If the Lord, through the Elder Board and the church, confirm that I need to act in this role, I would be more than happy to serve. This falls directly into the following practice: "Lord please help me to be ready and willing to act today; whenever you need me!"

**PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE:** (2004-2005) Member of the board of directors of a public company, American Technology Corporation (Nasdaq: ATCO); (2006-2013) – Owner/Member of the executive committee (BOD) of BACTES Imaging Solutions; (2018-2021) – EFCC Elder Board.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

In my younger days, I would be very dogmatic and take a stand in a way that didn't foster communication and the potential for future conversation. As the Lord has been working with me, I now focus more on "How will this conversation impact the people involved for eternity, how can this help them become closer to the Lord." My faith is strong enough to take a position based on my convictions; but it is also strong enough to know that the Lord has me in this situation for reason. Don't lose sight of the overall purpose of sharing God's Word.

# Elder Candidates

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## Larry Michel (Debbie)



**SALVATION:** I don't remember ever not trusting Christ as my Savior. But, as far as a deep personal relationship, I would say that started in the mid-1980s when my wife and I joined a Bible study, and also when I began to be a Bible study leader. I think my favorite verse for a simple explanation of salvation is in Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

**EFCC SERVICE:** Bible study leader, leader of the Vision Team, discipleship collaborative team, Serve Day signups, coordination team for Pastor Keating's retirement activities, life group leader.

**GIFTING AS ELDER:** My top three spiritual gifts are leading, discernment, and faith. I feel called to help continue to encourage EFCC's excellence in teaching and improve our ability to empower laypeople to "be the church" in our community. I think my years as a private practice business owner would be valuable as we navigate these difficult times as a church.

**PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE:** Current board member of Play as One; current board member of Spiritual Gold; current board president of Mary Rice Hopkins and Puppets with a Heart Children's Foundation; and current board member of Men With a Purpose.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

As a private practice orthodontist in Escondido for almost 25 years, I have had plenty of opportunities to manage differences in opinion with team members. First, I needed to be sure that my position was soundly grounded in accordance with God's Word. Then it was important to listen and understand the positions and concerns of all involved. I asked more questions if I needed to. I also tried to calmly explain the reasons for my decision. If the decision that I made caused "unpopularity," I worked hard to show love and respect to the person who wasn't happy with my decision. Many times, that would cause the concerns to go away more quickly.



# Elder Candidates

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## Austin Nielson (Anna)



**SALVATION:** I began my journey as a follower of Christ as a young child, primarily out of fear of what God would do to me if I didn't. As a teen, I became a member of the Baptist church that my grandfather helped found. Over time I began to develop a deeper understanding of the Scriptures, but my faith was shallow and self-serving with little fruit. While I was in college, I began attending Emmanuel Faith Community Church (2001). It was here that God began to work on my

heart, revealing the truth of His goodness and love. These experiences brought an awareness to my life that allegiance to Jesus is more than just avoiding punishment, but that joining God's family is an opportunity to partner with Him in the restoration of this world. (Colossians 1:13-14; John 1:12-13; and Ephesians 2:8-10).

**EFCC SERVICE:** Anna (wife) and I have been serving as leaders of the adoption and foster care ministry at EFCC for approximately five years. I also have worked with Pastors Hector Morales and Luke Bajenski, and at The Bridge.

**GIFTING AS ELDER:** I believe that I have been gifted primarily in three areas: First, leadership. I enjoy tackling tough challenges and finding creative solutions to complex problems. Second, discernment. When faced with difficult choices, I rely on the Spirit to influence my decision making. Third, wisdom. I enjoy studying and rely heavily on what God teaches me through His word and through others.

**PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE:** I have been on the board of directors from 2013-present for a non-profit organization that provides orphan care to children in Romania (Heart To Heart International Ministries).

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority? When a situation like this arises, I will first try to understand where the other side is coming from as I believe other peoples' opinions should always be valued even if I disagree with them. Following that, I will prayerfully consider my stance on the issue. If I am still convinced that a minority stance is required, I will layout, with as much grace as I can, the basis for my opinion in order for others to fully understand why I am taking a stance.

# Elder Candidates

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## John Waring (Mary)



**SALVATION:** I trusted Christ as my Savior in September 2001 at about 8pm. John 3:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

**EFCC SERVICE:** Biblical Citizenship Committee; Hospice team; Helping Hands & Touch of Love; Board of Elders; Short-term mission trips to China and Broken Arrow Bible Ranch; the Prison Ministry.

**GIFTING AS ELDER:** My gifting is in discernment, leadership and helps. I believe that serving again on the Elder Board will be beneficial in three ways: A) During Elder discussions, I can bring added perspective to problems and information from some of the other ministries in which I am involved, B) Interaction and involvement with the leaders on the Elder Board will be helpful for any other ministries or service in which I am involved, and C) Interaction and dialog with EFCC leaders and godly men on the board is both inspiring and encouraging to me personally in my spiritual growth.

**PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE:** Four terms (nine years) on the EFCC Elder Board, 2007-2020.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary “unpopularity” if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

I have no problem standing on God’s truth as I have the light to know it. It is not always easy to do this gently, but that is my goal. However, my “opinion” is of little consequence. The truth is found in God’s Word.

# *Nominating Committee Candidates*

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## **Jason Askegreen (Becky)**



**SALVATION:** I believe I was around 12 years old. It's hard to pinpoint a Scripture that is more meaningful than others, because I firmly believe that all Scripture is God breathed and leads to Jesus. God has had a plan for us to return to Eden as soon as Adam and Eve had to leave. His Son's sacrifice and resurrection were the ultimate plan to connect us back to Him.

**EFCC SERVICE:** Bus driver, camp counselor and often a buddy for my son Luke. Mainly worked for Children's

Ministries, Junior High, High School, and College ministries. KidsGames teacher and Nomination Committee member. I am always on call to help out in Children's Ministries if needed.

**GIFTING TO SERVE:** I'm a maker, a builder and a problem solver. I'm good at researching and analyzing information and willing to make tough decisions based on that information.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

I stand by my convictions, but will always welcome and consider others' viewpoints, and may change my viewpoint if convinced it provides a more positive outcome. I'm not worried about what people think of me if I'm pushing for what I'm convinced (by God and man) is right.

# Nominating Committee Candidates

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## Greg Hill (Lindsey)



**SALVATION:** Originally, I trusted Christ as my Savior as a young elementary student in the EFCC programs. Throughout my life I have had times where I did not walk with the Lord, at times I drifted. But I made a choice as an adult to place my full trust in the sacrifice of Jesus to forgive my sins. (Acts 16:31, Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:17).

**EFCC SERVICE:** I have served on the EFCC Elder Board for the past three years. I am not currently serving the church on campus, but plan to be part of the reestablishment of the FaithKids ministry.

**GIFTING TO SERVE:** I feel I have been specially gifted by the Spirit in service. Serving the church “behind the scenes” is right in my strengths. Having served in the role of elder, I would be able to help answer potential candidates’ questions about the level of activity in serving as elder.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary “unpopularity” if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

I have never had a problem being the “unpopular” one. I do not have an accusatory or aggressive personality, that tends to lend itself well to seek resolution when there is a difference of opinion.

# Nominating Committee Candidates

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## Ron Peet (Judy)



**SALVATION:** I accepted Christ as a young kid on a Wednesday night having been influenced by my family and the teaching at EFCC, but it really wasn't until college that I started putting Him first in my life. I base my salvation on John 3:16, Romans 3:23 and John 1:12.

**EFCC SERVICE:** I am currently on the Global Outreach Committee at EFCC. I also lead two small group Bible studies, and have

been on the Nominating Committee various times.

**GIFTING TO SERVE:** I feel my main spiritual gift is discernment which helps to see qualifications for potential elders.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

It is very important to stay with biblical views even if it makes you unpopular but to do so in a loving manner. Prayer and humble communication are mandatory.

# Nominating Committee Candidates

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## Janice Segraves (Kasey)



**SALVATION:** I grew up in a God-fearing, believing home. My father was a senior pastor of an evangelical free church, so I was raised in church from the beginning. When I was four, I accepted Christ as my savior, believing as much as I could at that age. When I was 12 my father unexpectedly passed away and for the first time I really questioned my faith. I wondered if I only believed because my parents believed and if it was all I had ever known. That questioning time caused me to really examine what I believed and to make my faith my own. When I was in junior

high I rededicated my life to Christ and made him the Savior of my life, knowing that I had a personal relationship with him that I desired and not because of anyone else. I have strived to continue to grow in my relationship with him ever since.

**EFCC SERVICE:** Emmanuel Faith Children's Staff: 27 years under the leadership of Francie Overstreet, Chris Montgomery and Nicole Jiles. Positions held include: Nursery Coordinator and Early Childhood Coordinator. I also have served with the Moms Together leadership team and as a Hume Lake registration volunteer.

**GIFTING TO SERVE:** I have been open to what God would like me to do beyond just working/serving in Children's ministry and this is one area I do feel I could serve in. Since I have been involved in the church for so long, I do know quite a few people, either current or former volunteers in children's, or the parents that have brought their children to us and that could be an asset when seeking new elder candidates. I also believe that the role of elder is so vital to the health and direction of the church, so I take this role seriously and see it as extremely important for the future of this church.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

Well, I have at times gotten defensive and that is the wrong way to deal with any situation. I strive to listen to the other opinion and hopefully be able to clearly communicate my opinion back to them.

# Nominating Committee Candidates

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## Mary Waring (John)



**SALVATION:** I was raised by a Christian mother in a works-based religion. In my mid-thirties, a friend explained the importance of having a personal relationship with God and I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**EFCC SERVICE:** During Covid restrictions, I have led a small group women's Bible study under Paster Scott Smith. I have led multiple trips to serve the Navajo women at Broken Arrow Bible Ranch. I have been a women's Bible study and team leader under Lynette Fuson. I also served on the Global Outreach overseas missions leader under former Outreach Ministries Pastor Dave Hall.

**GIFTING TO SERVE:** God has given me the spiritual gifts of administration, service and encouragement, and the desire to serve others.

**MANAGING CONFLICT:** How do you manage conflict and react to temporary "unpopularity" if your convictions drive you to take a stand that is in the minority?

Prayerfully. I prefer to have amiable relations with everyone, but I am comfortable standing up for what I believe is right, especially in relation to spiritual matters.



**Emmanuel Faith**  
Community Church

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