

Biographical Info & Voter's Guide

*For the 2022-2023 Elder Board &
Nominating Committee Candidates*



EMMANUEL FAITH ANNUAL MEETING

April 24, 2022 · 1:30 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 24, at 1:30pm in the Worship Center. Early voting will begin at 12:30pm. Absentee ballots will be provided at the church office. Absentee ballots also will be available at church starting Monday, April 11. If mailed back, your Absentee ballot must be received by Friday, April 22, at 5pm 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 more 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.

2022-2023 Elder Board Candidates

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

- Caleb Bartels
- Rich Bell
- Greg Hill
- Chris Holz
- Todd Medin
- Steve Nelson
- Doug Smith

2022-2023 Nominating Committee Candidates

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

- Maribel Hillmer
- Ron Peet
- Emilio Salazar
- Janice Segraves

Elder Candidates

Caleb Bartels (Krissy)



SALVATION: I trusted Jesus as my Savior at the age of 5 with my dad in our living room. We talked about who God is, what sin is, what my sin deserved, and how Jesus took on my punishment so that I could be reconciled with God. I recall our discussion and desiring to join Jesus with my family in heaven one day. Since then, I have seen the Holy Spirit confirm my faith throughout my life in many ways, most notably in the steady progressive refinement of my heart in seeing Jesus as my greatest treasure, in whom ultimate and perfect satisfaction

exists. (Romans 3:5-27, Philippians 3:9-13, Ephesians 1:3-14)

EFCC SERVICE: Faith Kids — teach 1st and 2nd grade Sunday school, lead 2nd grade small group (Nicole Jiles, Jeremy Johnson) since 2021; Play as One — Basketball coach/discipler for elementary kids (John Goodman) since 2018; Men's Bible study small group facilitator since 2018 — Scott Smith.

GIFTING AS ELDER: Discernment — God has gifted me with the ability at times to receive clear understanding or discern wise courses of action for myself or as advice to others. I feel this has been crucial in my experiences within leadership where decisions are required without obvious solutions.

Service — God has gifted me the desire to serve others, both within the body of Christ and externally to those around me.

Teaching — While I can't speak to if I am any good at teaching, God has given me great joy when I do get opportunities to teach.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: No previous experience.

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 prioritize understanding the point of view of the other person(s) to where I could faithfully restate their view — which requires conversation. Then, I research and consider my convictions in light of that understanding to determine how critical and how confident my conviction is. Ultimately, if I feel my convictions stand true and are critical, I will hold firm while seeking to engage the other person(s) further. If I find they're not critical, I consciously try to look past my conviction to that which is critical. If I find my conviction is not true I seek to submit my conviction and change my mind to conform with what is true.

Elder Candidates

Rich Bell (Dawn)



SALVATION: I received Christ on June 6th, 1977, at a camp in Colorado. (A key verse is John 3:16.)

EFCC SERVICE: I help in kindergarten with Nicole Jiles; past Chairman of the EFCC Elder Board; Vice Chairman of the Elder Board; ADCO executive team; High School pastor search committee; Statement of Faith board.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I have had the privilege and calling, and been blessed to help lead the last 17 years with an

incredible church family at EFCC, and leaders and Pastors. If the Lord leads then I would be honored to help where I can, in any way I can.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: Chairman of Trustees (Elders) Lincoln Ave Baptist Church; Board Member Bethel Seminary; a Founding Member of Pacific Global Seminary.

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?*

Seek the core thoughts and then try to unify if possible. I have done this many times and you have to move in humility and grace if possible.

Elder Candidates

Greg Hill (Lindsey)



SALVATION: I trusted Christ as Savior as a 1st grader in the old children's area, Building 7, at EFCC. Since then, there have been faithful and less faithful seasons of life. As I grow older, I am growing in faith in and allegiance to King Jesus. (Romans 10:9, John 3:16)

EFCC SERVICE: Worship leader and teacher for Faith Kids.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I believe I am gifted as a teacher, leader, and helper. I feel called to serve my church family in any capacity it needs.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: I served as an elder at EFCC from April 2018 to April 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 attempt to come to an honest understanding of differing opinions and do my part to ask questions and seek to create peace. I do not take issue with holding an unpopular opinion and would hope that others would extend the same peace seeking attitude I strive for.

Elder Candidates

Chris Holz (Melody)



SALVATION: Early on I dedicated my life to Christ. But it's definitely been a longer journey than just "that one time". Romans 10:9-10 about confessing with your mouth is what comes to mind as a key verse for me.

EFCC SERVICE: Interim Leader of Married and Company Sunday Adult Bible Fellowship; life group host; Harvest Party committee; Faith Kids program for the 3rd grade class.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I think I'm pretty level-headed in my approach to people. I genuinely care and am curious about where people come from. I ask a lot of questions and work hard to make decisions that take multiple factors into account. Feedback from colleagues is that I often ask the hard question and I'm not afraid to notice the elephant in the room.

When I was told that my name was put in for consideration as an elder, my first reaction was a big "no". But then God told me that that's exactly why he is putting it out there. Sometimes the thing that will stretch me is the thing I don't want to do. I mean it would be much easier to not run. But it is in that aversion that God puts us to the test. So my first step is to say "Here am I" and see if God wants to put me there. This is better because I really don't want to be an elder for elder's sake, but want to serve the body as best I can with the gifts God has cultivated in me.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: No prior experience.

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?*

If anything, I find myself digging in more when people see my viewpoint as unpopular. It's more adventurous that way. But it is usually because I'm asking the questions that people don't want to address. It does bother me when I know people don't like me for whatever reason. But I have found that often that is because of other reasons than where I stand.

Pretty much daily I am temporarily unpopular with one of my kids. Patience, calmness, and a steadfast conviction in what I'm doing is the game. But also, when the tensions rise, I'll ask the Lord what to do. Often enough he pushes me to lead in humility by reconciling conflict and loving the other person.

Elder Candidates

Todd Medin (Julie)



SALVATION: One Sunday when I was ~8 years old ... at the church we attended in Poway the pastor had an altar call, and I asked my dad if I could go up and accept Christ as my Savior. I had asked to be saved many times before, but really didn't understand what I was doing. This time I knew what I was doing. I talked to Mr. McClung for about 15 minutes. He went through the "Romans Road" with me, and asked me if that is what I wanted to do. I said "yes" and prayed to receive Jesus as my Savior from my sins. I have never felt

that I needed to be saved since that day because I know I am!

EFCC SERVICE: I have been the vice-president/president of several Sunday school classes throughout my years at EFCC (young married class, 1989-93, Families in Faith (FIF) in the 2000s). I taught 4th and 5th graders on Sunday mornings for several years, then switched to Wednesday nights with Primetime. Julie and I have now returned to FIF on Sunday mornings.

EFCC leaders that have seen me in leadership roles: Scott Smith, Greg Lane, Greg and Carol Dion (Primetime directors), Kelli Warren, Nicole Jiles, Francie Overstreet. Currently, Greg Hill has seen me involved with Primetime.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I am spiritually gifted in teaching and financial giving. I also have strong "peacemaker" capabilities. I'm good with understanding priorities, decision making, setting goals and developing the means of accomplishing those goals.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: No previous experience.

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 general, I try to be a peacemaker in whatever situation I am in... yet without compromising my beliefs... AND being a peacemaker where I show genuine concern for all (usually by being a good listener to the sides and trying to repeat what I think they are saying).

Elder Candidates

Steve Nelson (Amy)



SALVATION: Friends and preaching. I came to faith the summer after my senior year of high school in 1985, through the preaching of one of my pastors, after different friends of mine and their families invited me to attend their churches and spend time in their homes—four or five different friends/families, from four or five different churches. Many verses about God’s pursuit of me and my life and salvation are meaningful, but to pick three of the most significant: Titus 3:4-5, Romans 9:16, and 2 Corinthians 4:5,7.

EFCC SERVICE: I’ve chosen to spend most my kids’ childhood, since the first was born in 1997, by serving at home, and in small groups, rather than in church leadership roles. Currently, I am serving on the team helping to transition EFCC’s church plant, Orchard Community, into the new facility it was gifted from Cornerstone Church. Most recently, I serve as a life group leader, and occasional legal advisor to the staff team. Those who can provide insight: Greg Lane, Rich Bell, Scott Smith, Jim North, Josh Rose, Francie Overstreet, Jemima Tapia, Anna Nielsen, Werner Jacobsen, Jeremy Johnson, Ryan Paulson, Lynette Fuson, Scott Smith, John Riley, Esteban Tapia, and Todd Willer.

GIFTING AS ELDER: The gifts others have affirmed in my life include team and consensus building, clarity of purpose and direction, and a preference for quiet, behind-the-scenes influence. I also like to help the church with change, improvement, and proclamation as we experience new contexts for the gospel in every new generation — we hold on to all the convictions of the historic gospel, and they don’t change.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: I served as an elder at my church in Santa Barbara after college, when we re-started an older, more traditional Evangelical Free Church with an infusion of college and young adult believers.

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?*

Whether my personal belief lands in the minority or majority, I always hope that my convictions are well thought out, but held loosely enough to be hospitable to people who disagree with me. Often these are people who earnestly follow God, but their life beliefs and practices are different. For me, the question of popularity is irrelevant. I will continue to hold my sharply held beliefs, will be open to correction or discovery if I’m wrong, and will treat others who disagree with respect, and love them as Jesus would.

Elder Candidates

Doug Smith (Susie)



SALVATION: I became a Christian in January, 1966, at the University of Wisconsin. The verse that was a turning point for me was John 17:7 which says basically if anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether Jesus' teaching is true. I invited Jesus into my heart and have walked with Him ever since.

EFCC SERVICE: I am currently involved in the high school ministry meeting with sophomore boys. I also

teach from time to time in adult Sunday school classes. I am a current member of the Elder Board.

Adult Sunday School Teaching: I have taught in five different Sunday School groups, going through a variety of books in both a systematic and a topical manner.

GIFTING AS ELDER: My spiritual gift is teaching. Teaching is something I love to do. My call is to make disciples. It is a lifetime activity which drives and motivates my priorities and my use of time. I am a thoughtful person, respectful of the opinion of others but not afraid to voice an opposing point of view.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: I have been in the role of Elder on and off in this and other churches starting in 1978 for a total of 20+ years.

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 an ability to see both sides of an argument clearly. I do not like conflict and seek to avoid it. But when I am convinced that a course of action is the correct course, I seek to make my point of view clear, looking for common ground.

Please continue to the next section to review our candidates for the EFCC Nominating Committee.



Nominating Committee Candidates

Maribel Hillmer (Doug)



SALVATION: I trusted Jesus as my Savior when I was 9 years old. I have embraced several passages of Scripture like John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, the letters to the Romans that clearly teach me about my sinful state, as well as the redemptive plan of God.

EFCC SERVICE: Spanish Ministries Leadership team. I am in charge of facilitating small group discussions on the Growth Track Wednesday gatherings.

I am part of the team of intercessors who ministers to anyone needing prayer on Sunday morning right after the service ends in the Spanish service. From time to time, I have been asked to be a translator for some events, most recently at a women's event held on March 18, 2022.

Currently, I am part of a group of people who are taking a training course for Lay Counselors under the ministry of Care and Counseling led by Lynette Fuson.

GIFTING TO SERVE: I am a mature believer acquainted with the word of God who relies on His guidance through his word and prayer to be shown the steps I need to take to make God honoring decisions. Also among the gifts God has given me, I have been granted the gift of discernment from the Holy Spirit, which has allowed me to know how to best pray for myself and 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?*

I accept that others may have different opinions than mine, but I try to value the opinions of God more than the approval of others. I realize I can not convict anyone of sin, and that my convictions need to be true to the word of God, so if I need to stand alone with a conviction I hold dear then I will stand alone.

Nominating Committee Candidates

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

Emilio Salazar (Rosario)



SALVATION: I trusted Christ as my Savior on November 30, 1990. (Romans 8:1)

EFCC SERVICE: Teacher in Kids Church — Greg Hill, Nicole Jiles. Virtual group, Wednesday night leader — Pastor Esteban Tapia.

GIFTING TO SERVE: I love to share, I am not ashamed of the gospel, we love to be involved with all members, we have grace.

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 am a very quiet man, I don't like to argue, I try to fit in.

Nominating Committee Candidates

Janice Se Graves (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.

EFCC SERVICE: I recently left the EFCC children's staff after 27 years as the Early Childhood Coordinator. I worked under Francie Overstreet, Chris Montgomery and Nicole Jiles. Pastor Greg Lane has been a pastor the whole time I have been here and also knows me well. I currently serve on Wednesday nights with the children's department as the leader of verse games for 4th and 5th graders. I also help run 3rd-5th grade winter camp as well. I am looking to see what God has for me now that I am not on staff, and excited to see where He will use my gifts and talents within the church.

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?*

I strive to listen to the other opinion and hopefully be able to clearly communicate my opinion back to them. If necessary, seek wise counsel and also ways to support my convictions. Ultimately through prayer and time, hopefully we can come to an agreement and understanding.



Emmanuel Faith
Community Church

639 East 17th Ave. • Escondido, CA 92025
(760) 745-2541 • www.efcc.org