

Biographical Info & Voter's Guide

*For the 2024-2025 Elder Board &
Nominating Committee Candidates*



EMMANUEL FAITH ANNUAL MEETING

April 28, 2024 | 1:00pm

Annual Meeting Election Information

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28, at 1pm in the Family Center (Gym). Church members will be emailed a digital link to vote for new Elder Board and Nominating Committee members, but you'll also have the chance to vote in person before the meeting starting on Monday, April 15. Pre-meeting voting will be available weekdays through Thursday, April 25, at the church office, and also at the meeting on April 28. Voting information is available at the church or online at efcc.org/events.

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. The Board of Elders encourages all Active Members 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.

2024-2025 Elder Board Candidates

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

- Jon Borland
- Jaisen Fuson
- Jon Goodman
- Larry Michel
- Deric Moen
- Bill Valleroy

2024-2025 Nominating Committee Candidates

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

- Nicole Dalakas
- Emmet Lee
- Ron Peet
- Shay Phillips
- Ken Thomas

Elder Candidates

Jon Borland (Rebekah)



SALVATION: I was fortunate to grow up in a loving Christian home and accepted Christ at a very early age. I've known all along that my salvation was based on the grace of our Father, not my works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

EFCC SERVICE: I led the Married & Company adult fellowship class for 17 years, and more recently, have been part of the committee that organizes the annual Harvest Party.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I've been blessed with the opportunity to lead teams throughout my professional career, and also feel the Lord has given me a servant heart. I'm excited for the opportunity to bring the experience I've gained to the Elder Board and contribute to the amazing legacy of EFCC.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: I've never served as an elder, deacon, or board member of a para-church organization.

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 take the time to really learn and understand all the viewpoints, and I'm always open to challenging my preconceived biases, but when it's time to make a decision, I will always pray about it, lean on my faith and the truth of the Word. In my work setting I've had to make a number of decisions that are not always popular, but are consistent with my beliefs.

Elder Candidates

Jaisen Fuson (Lynette)



SALVATION: I came to know Christ as my personal savior when I was 3 years old. I've never known a life apart from following Jesus. John 3; John 14; Romans 8; and Romans 10 are my favorite chapters on the saving work of our Lord Jesus.

EFCC SERVICE: I teach in a variety of adult fellowships and youth activities at EFCC and in town. I love to teach and counsel those who want to grow personally and spiritually.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I'm gifted in teaching, leadership, and discernment. I have served on the Elder Board of the two churches where I served as pastor, and for six years at EFCC since I became a Navy Chaplain. I love the local church and the commission God has given it to expand the Kingdom. The local church is a light to the world and the greatest means for transforming lives and communities into Jesus disciples.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: Elder at Green Valley Church - 2 years; Elder at Riverlakes Community Church - 6 years; Elder at EFCC - 6 years; Vice Chair of EFCC Board of Elders - 4 years; Chair of EFCC Lead Pastor Search Team - 1 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?*

We all have our growing edges, not everyone moves at the same pace on a team, however I don't have difficulty taking a stand. That being said, tact and patience usually pays off, producing the grace and incentive for people to progress and participate in the collaborative work required of a team. I do not carry grudges, I do love people, and I find that listening and humbly asking sincere questions disarms most conflicts.

Elder Candidates

Jon Goodman (JoAnn)



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: Currently serving on the Emmanuel Faith Elder Board, as a speaker at EFCC events, and as Community Sports Director.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I am grateful for the Lord's gifting in our lives. God has wired me as someone who loves to share who God is and how he loves each and everyone of us. I strongly pursue God's calling in my life as a teacher to love kids, their families, and our community of Escondido. The role and responsibility of Elder has been an amazing platform to impact hearts here at EFCC and in our community. Rather it is as a high school football coach or Elder my job is to provide opportunities for others to experience his love and God does all the rest! For that I am eternally grateful!

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: I am currently serving as an elder at EFCC (2021-2024).

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

Larry Michel (Debbie)



SALVATION: My grandfather and great-grandfather were pastors and my parents were active members in our church. I'm very thankful that I don't remember ever NOT trusting Jesus my Savior. But, as far as a deeper personal relationship, I would say that started when my wife and I started attending EFCC (40 years ago), joined a Bible study and also when I began to be a Bible study leader. My favorite verse on which to base my salvation is in Ephesians 2:8-9.

EFCC SERVICE: I'm currently on the EFCC Board of Elders serving as Secretary. I serve on the boards of Play as One and Love Esco, and am on the Medical Response Team here at EFCC. I am also a life group leader. Over the past few years I've worked with the EFCC Communications Team to digitize and archive almost all of the EFCC sermons from 1971 until now so they will be preserved and, hopefully, be available online soon.

GIFTING AS ELDER: Being a business owner for 25 years has allowed me to understand and assist with some of the decisions the board of elders has made in the past few years. At EFCC there is a lot happening in addition to worship. We have a large campus with many employees so, I believe, the experience I have in business may be helpful. My family and I have attended EFCC for over 40 years so that may give me some insight as to the history and culture of those who worship here. Also, I have a heart for the pastors and others who work at EFCC to see that their spiritual and other needs are met.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: EFCC Board of Elders, Play as One board of directors, Love Esco board of directors, Spiritual Gold: Ministry of Dr. Richard L. Strauss board of directors, and Mary Rice Hopkins and Puppets with a Heart Children's Ministry board of directors.

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's most important be sure that my position is soundly based on God's word. It is then important to do a lot of listening to be sure that I understand the issue fully and that I completely understand the concerns of the others. I've heard many times at our elder board meetings, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." It's most important to keep the "main thing" the "main thing" so we focus on living in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.

Elder Candidates

Deric Moen (Amber)



SALVATION: My first real solid memory of submitting and giving my life to Jesus was in November of 1980. This was at a Wednesday night church program at EFCC. I had deep conviction that evening that I had not put Jesus on the throne of my life, and I was still trying to be in control. My heart burned all the way home that evening, as I confessed to my family what I had sensed and how I felt I had not completely surrendered my life to Christ. That night in my mom and dad's room they got down on their knees with me while I confessed my sin and told Jesus I wanted Him to be on the throne of my life and in

charge of everything. That night is my first memory of acknowledging Christ; fully believing in my heart and confessing with mouth that Jesus is Lord.
Romans 10:9-10

EFCC SERVICE: (1) Organize and facilitate a discipleship class every year called, The Spiritual Authority Cohort. (2) Serve on special projects for the High School Ministry and Missions Department. I helped to prepare for and lead the recent HSM Mexico House Build Trip. (3) Disciple a number of high schoolers, young adults, and adults from our EFCC community. (4) Organize and lead solitude retreats for men. (5) Help lead our Inner Healing Prayer Team.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I'm a shepherd - evangelist (Eph 4:11), an encourager of people. I'm passionate about discipleship and seeing His Kingdom come fully. I see God's potential. God uses me in discipling hearts, helping people come to faith, and building foundations for being and living as 'sent ones' (John 17:18). At times, I sense His heart strongly for situations or circumstances and it can manifest in faith, wisdom, and insight. I most strongly relate with the Bible character of Barnabas. This happens through advocacy, coming alongside, connecting, and equipping people for His Glory, Mission, and Kingdom.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: I've worked in a number of leadership roles in a variety of churches and para-church organizations over the years. I helped launch and serve as a board member for Obscure Ministries, and I was on the board of directors for our mission agency, which we established in Spain. Throughout my missionary journey, most of my time has been spent developing structures and strategies to reach those outside the church.

(bio continued on next page ...)

Elder Candidates

Deric Moen bio (continued) ...

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've helped leaders work together, who hold a number of different opinions. I feel confident standing in the minority usually because I've built relational equity, and I do my best to put my identity in Christ. What's helped me stay calm and loving when in the minority is Christ's example and not finding my identity in being 'right' or 'wrong'. In scenarios where there are differences of opinion, I help people find common ground, shared values, and movement toward resolution.

Elder Candidates

Bill Valleroy (Melody)



SALVATION: I became a follower of Jesus at a Young Life backpacking trip when I was 19. One of the many verses that I trust my salvation on is Acts 16:31 where it says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”

EFCC SERVICE: I help with a men’s morning Bible study. I also go on mission trips.

GIFTING AS ELDER: I’m comfortable leading different kinds of groups. I strive to be truthful in all that I do. I believe that I have a good understanding of what God’s Word says and strive to live it.

PRIOR ELDER/DEACON EXPERIENCE: I’ve been a past EFCC board member for six years. I also have been on the board for the last 10 years or so of Generate Hope who serves trafficked woman.

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 enjoy interacting with people who have a different opinion than me. I have a good nature about me that allows me to stand up for what I believe in a way that is non offensive to those who listen.

Nominating Committee Candidates

Nicole Dalakas (Vassilis)



SALVATION: I did not grow up going to church but was invited in high school by a friend to attend a church summer camp. It changed my life by hearing the truth there and I gave my life to God the summer of 10th grade. I spent a huge part of my weeks until graduation at the church volunteering, working and attending programs. I base my salvation on all of the written Word, but Ephesians 2:8 is one of many verses I go back to.

EFCC SERVICE: I am in my 5th year as a Kindergarten teacher on Sunday mornings in FaithKids. For the last three years at Christmas time, I have been the gift coordinator for the Snowball Bash, the Christmas party for foster and adopted kids and teens.

GIFTING TO SERVE: I find that I am gifted in talking to and connecting with new people. I find it a joy to make people feel comfortable and smile in every conversation. By talking to many people at EFCC over the years, I feel very connected to our congregation. Between talking with everyone I meet and being involved in volunteering, small groups and Bible studies, I feel led to reach different corners of our congregation to get connected together.

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?*

Since a difference in opinion can happen frequently, I try to focus on kindness, finding common ground and listening to all opinions and sides. I do stand my ground and focus on love and winning others over not with my words but my actions.

Nominating Committee Candidates

Emmet Lee (Sandra)



SALVATION: As a non-believer, I was attending church for a few years until I decided to believe in Jesus in 2011 when I took my first communion at EFCC. I believe in Jesus "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes"

EFCC SERVICE: Welcome Ministry (Welcome Desk); baptism team; Play As One (Lead basketball clinician);

Short-term missions trips (3) to Broken Arrow Bible Ranch; co-leader of small group Bible study on Wednesday nights.

GIFTING TO SERVE: I have been accepting of leadership roles. For Play As One, I started coaching there as one of the team coaches when Jon Goodman asked me to be the head clinician. When Pastor Assad Saif headed up the baptisms, he allowed me to make changes to improve the efficiency of the outdoor baptisms. I feel led to proceed with training in the marriage ministry to hopefully lead more couples to the fulfilling and God-ordained institution of long-lasting marriage.

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 human beings flawed in the flesh, we have to realize that there will be differences in opinions. These tend to be opinions that cannot be changed but when it comes to God's mercy and grace and Jesus's teachings and sacrifice, most of those differing opinions become minor differences. I believe that our unity as a Church is more important than pointing out those differences that may separate fellow Christians and eventually allow Satan to take a foothold in the Church. As unity is important, using love as a guiding principle in dealing with the differences is the best course of action.

Nominating Committee Candidates

Ron Peet (Judy)



SALVATION: I grew up in a strong Christian home and accepted Christ as a young child. (John 3:16, Eph 2:8,9). While I was in college I really decided to follow Christ more closely. Now married with children and grandchildren, I try to put Christ first in all of my decisions.

EFCC SERVICE: I currently am involved in and help lead two different small groups. I am a member of the Global Outreach Committee and also a board member with Men On A Mission. I am

also currently on the Nominating Committee and volunteer as a greeter at the 9am service in the Chapel.

GIFTING TO SERVE: I have been involved at EFCC for a long time and feel that I have the gift of discernment. Having attended for a long time I have a wide group of people that I know at EFCC.

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 try to listen to others first to see what their ideas are. If my convictions are different I pray for wisdom and then graciously give my position. I try to use Scripture to back up my position.

Nominating Committee Candidates

Shay Phillips (Irene)



SALVATION: I surrendered my life to Jesus in the year 2000. My salvation is based in Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." And on Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

EFCC SERVICE: I am currently serving as a life group leader, a Wednesday night small group leader in Faith Kids with 4th and 5th grade boys, and Sunday mornings as a Tech lead for the 10:45am elementary service.

GIFTING TO SERVE: I feel that I am gifted to fulfill the responsibility of a Nominating Committee member as one who is level-headed, self-controlled and not argumentative. I feel called to the position by confirmation from God through individuals in my life who have approached me about the position as well as prayerful thought about serving my 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 manage differences of opinion with grace and charity, but I am willing to stand firm in my convictions. I am willing to be "unpopular" for Christ's name to stand in the minority if I believe it is the Lord's will in a matter.

Nominating Committee Candidates

Ken Thomas (Jill)



SALVATION: I put my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at Sunday School when I was a young child. I base my salvation on John 3:16 and Romans 10: 9-10.

EFCC SERVICE: I currently serve as a board member with Play As One.

GIFTING TO SERVE: I have the spiritual gift of service, and it brings me much joy to serve in various ways at Emmanuel Faith and elsewhere. It is very important that we as a church body elect the right godly people to lead us. I would be honored to be a part of it.

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 respectfully speaking up and voicing my convictions in a proper setting, regardless of the popularity of those convictions. Given the situation, I might first give it time, prayer and thought before making that stand to do it in a way that is honoring God.



Emmanuel Faith
Community Church

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