

# LIFEPOINTE CHURCH



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

November 5, 2023 | 11:00am in the Worship Center

Budget Q&A Session: October 29, 2023 | 11:00am in the Fireside Room

This document has been prepared for distribution prior to the Annual Business Meeting to be held on November 5, 2023 at 11:00am in the Worship Center, and prior to the Budget Q&A meeting to be held on October 29, 2023 at 11:00am in the Worship Center. In addition, Q&A sessions for the elder candidates were held on Oct. 8, 2023 and Oct. 22, 2023.

## Greetings, LifePointe Church -

We have much to praise God for this year! Please plan to join us for the Vision Sunday worship service at 9:30am on November 5, 2023 as we celebrate some of the things that God has been doing in our midst, and look ahead to where He is taking us in the coming year.

As we take our *next steps* into a new fiscal year – which, for us, represents a new season of vision-driven planning to accomplish our mission of making disciples – it is the sincere desire of the elders that no voice or question be left behind. **In that spirit, we need your help to make sure every question is heard and addressed.**

If you cannot attend the Q&A meeting provided October 29, please call or email an elder with any questions or input you have. Any of us are happy to talk with you, or meet with you or your LifeGroup or DTM. Though there will be a focused time for discussion and questions during the Business Meeting on November 5, history has proven the business meeting itself simply does not provide the right opportunity to honor every question that may come up in a congregation of our size. With this in mind, **please make every effort to love your church by pursuing opportunities to provide feedback and ask questions prior to the Business Meeting.**

### **Annual Business Meeting Agenda: November 5, 2023**

- A. Re-Election of current elder Scott Van Alsburg to the Elder Board for a 3-year term through October 2026.
- B. Election of new elder candidate Ross Ridgeway to the Elder Board for a 3-year term through October 2026.
- C. Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)

Please join us in prayer for this new year, as we take our next steps together. God is good!

**With deep love in Christ,**

*LifePointe's elders*

<b>LifePointe Elder Board</b>		<b>elders@sharethelife.org</b>	
Brad Miller	970-214-2504	wbradmiller@msn.com	<i>Lay Elder; Elder Board Chairman</i>
Rex Steffen	970-818-1157	rex@steffenhome.org	<i>Lay Elder</i>
Jim Ramirez	970-402-6170	jramirez47@comcast.net	<i>Lay Elder</i>
Scott Van Alsburg	970-481-3433	js-va@hotmail.com	<i>Lay Elder</i>
Paul Jonez	303-517-4251	jonez.paul@gmail.com	<i>Lay Elder</i>
Craig Fortunato	970-425-3069	cfortunato@sharethelife.org	<i>Pastor of Community Life &amp; Preaching; staff Elder</i>
Zack Yarbrough	970-236-1912	zyarbrough@sharethelife.org	<i>Pastor of Vision &amp; Preaching; staff Elder</i>
Wes Moore	970-344-8344	wesmoore@sharethelife.org	<i>Pastor of Administration &amp; Preaching; staff Elder</i>

## Agenda Item A: Re-election of current elder Scott Van Alsburg to the Elder Board

*The Elders recommend Scott Van Alsburg to the Elder Board for a 3-year term to end October 2026.*



### Scott Van Alsburg

*The Elders are excited to once again present Scott Van Alsburg as returning candidate for Elder. We have evaluated Scott's qualifications – including his service during the last 3-year term – and find him to continue to be well-qualified according to the Scriptures and our by-laws, and gifted in such a way that will greatly benefit the church. We resonate with Scott's deep love for God's Church, both at LifePointe and throughout the world, and are excited about seeing the church continue to benefit from Scott's experience, wisdom and humility.*

*Opportunities to know Scott better, or to bring questions for the Elders with regards to his candidacy, were announced on September 29 and included the following Q&A sessions:*

**Fireside Room | October 8<sup>th</sup> | 8:15am  
Worship Center | October 22<sup>nd</sup> | 11:00am**

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In 1982 Susan and I landed at LifePointe Church (known then as First Baptist Church). Not having grown up in the evangelical church I was amazed at the families attending with multiple generations from grandparents to grandchildren. As I write this we are now in that place. We have three married children. One attends and serves at LifePointe, one at Mountainview Church and one at Timberline Church. They represent our longest running prayer, that our children would love and follow the Lord. We now have nine grandchildren who are the focus of our current number one prayer as grandparents. As you would expect they also keep us busy because of the blessing of having them all living locally.

Whereas I didn't grow up in the evangelical church, Susan did. We both however, started our lifelong walk as followers of Jesus Christ in high school. For Susan it happened at an old-fashioned southern revival (she grew up in New Orleans), for me it happened through the ministry of Young Life. I made my decision at their camp called Frontier near Buena Vista, Colorado in 1977. I was born and raised in Chicago with some time in Venezuela, Brazil, New Mexico, and New Jersey. We met in college at Texas Christian University while attending a bible study.

I'm retired from our family construction company in which I was the President for several years before moving back into project management and then retirement. Susan's work was raising our children, taking care of me, and managing our home. She's still doing the last two. In addition, we've both tried to commit ourselves to service at LifePointe. Susan served for over 30 years in leadership of Woman's Ministry, Mothers of Preschoolers, and various bible studies. She still leads bible studies. My service had been in Wednesday night children's ministry, various children's Sunday school classes before serving as an Elder from 2000-2016 and most recently from 2020-2023. For both of us we believe strongly in the blessing and design of God's Church as foundational to the believers "working out their salvation" as Paul exhorts us in his letter to the Philippians. It would be a humbling experience to serve LifePointe as an Elder once again.

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*If you have questions or concerns for Scott regarding his fitness to serve as an Elder, it is the calling and privilege of Christians to first bring these questions directly to him. You can reach Scott at 970-481-3433 or via email at js-va@hotmail.com. Thank you!*

## Agenda Item B: Election of new elder candidate Ross Ridgeway to the Elder Board

*The Elders recommend Ross Ridgeway to the Elder Board for a 3-year term to end October 2026.*



### **Ross Ridgeway**

*The Elders are excited to present Ross Ridgeway as a new candidate for Elder. We have evaluated Ross's qualifications – including the circumstances of his previous marriage – and find him to be well-qualified according to the Scriptures and our by-laws, and gifted in such a way that will greatly benefit the church. Seeing the faithfulness demonstrated in every area of his life, we believe Ross to be a great blessing to LifePointe Church.*

*Opportunities to know Ross better, or to bring questions for the Elders with regards to his candidacy, were announced on September 29 and included the following Q&A sessions:*

**Fireside Room | October 8<sup>th</sup> | 8:15am**  
**Worship Center | October 22<sup>nd</sup> | 11:00am**

Sheri and I began attending LifePoint 10 years ago and were immediately drawn to the genuine warmth of the people here, the Biblical faithfulness of the teaching, and the centrality of Christ in all things. We were married here in June 2014 and have since been blessed with two beautiful daughters. Everly is almost 8, a second grader at Resurrection Christian School, and is outgoing and very high energy. Clara is 4 and in preschool, and she is relational, playful, and imaginative. I also have an adult child, Haley, who was previously involved at LifePointe but is currently not walking with the Lord. We faithfully pray for and speak truth in love, desiring Haley's restoration.

Together, Sheri and I own a professional services and consulting business that we operate out of our home. We are blessed to work with a handful of employees based in Colorado as well as clients spread coast to coast who offer services to the Federal government.

As background, I was born in Alabama and grew up just outside of Oklahoma City. We didn't attend church as a family, but God was regularly revealing Himself to me through a variety of people in my childhood. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma (Boomer Sooner!) with degrees in math and philosophy, and then began my career as a software developer for the Federal Aviation Administration. I was married in 1996 and Haley was born in 1998. I always knew there was a God, but it wasn't until I was almost 30 and starting a family that God really got my attention. Through the work of the Spirit and the discipleship of two men God brought into my life, I truly trusted Jesus as my Savior and my Lord. In 2010, my wife unexpectedly decided she didn't want to be married anymore. I sought counsel from the elders of my church and earnestly pursued reconciliation, but after 18 months she filed for divorce.

Since joining LifePointe, I've led/co-led the Men's Ministry and Men's LifeGroups, as well as co-teaching last spring's "How to Interpret the Bible" DTM. I've also served as part of the tech team on Sunday mornings for several years. Sheri and I are both part of the team working to improve the church's "Backyard". Sheri is leading the Mom's Life Ministry this year, is a regular vocalist on the worship team, and serves as a teacher in the early childhood ministry.

For 25+ years, my faith journey has been marked with God's unmistakable presence, matchless love, and redeeming work. Through His mercy and grace, He has sovereignly redeemed my life and my story for His purposes. If entrusted with the responsibility of eldership, I hope to offer a perspective that, while informed by my own experiences, remains

firmly rooted in Biblical truth, empowered by the Spirit, and motivated by love for God and love for others. As His church, we have the answers that lost and hurting people are desperately searching for.

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*If you have questions or concerns for Ross regarding his fitness to serve as an Elder, it is the calling and privilege of Christians to first bring these questions directly to him. You can reach Ross at (970) 232-8370 or via email at [ross2work@gmail.com](mailto:ross2work@gmail.com). Thank you!*



## Agenda Item C: Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)

The Elders, together with the Trustee Board, recommend a budget of \$1,207,116 for the Fiscal Year 2024 (November 1st, 2023 through October 31st, 2024).

<b>Budget Overview - LifePointe Church Fiscal Year 2024</b>				
<b>Income:</b>	<b>FY24 Plan</b>	<i>FY23 Plan (last year)</i>		
<i>Regular Tithes &amp; Offerings</i> <sup>1</sup>	\$1,059,218	\$1,065,127		
<i>Legacy Giving</i> <sup>2</sup>	\$7,044	N/A		
<i>Facility Use Income</i> <sup>3</sup>	\$31,116	\$22,500		
<b>Income Total:</b>	<b>\$1,097,378</b>	<b>\$1,087,627</b>		
	<b>Proposed FY24 Budget</b>	<i>FY23 Budget (last year)</i>	<i>\$ change compared to last year</i>	<i>% change compared to last year</i>
<b>Debt Service Allocation</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$84,996</b>	\$84,996	\$0	0%
<b>Global Missions Fund</b> <sup>5</sup>	<b>\$156,460</b>	\$157,409	-\$949	-0.60%
<b>General Fund</b> <sup>6</sup>	<b>\$855,922</b>	\$822,722	\$33,200	4.04%
<i>Personnel &amp; Benefits</i> <sup>7</sup>	\$582,350	\$597,497	-\$15,147	-3%
<i>Shared Ministry Expenses</i> <sup>8</sup>	\$236,040	\$192,267	\$43,773	22.8%
<i>Ministry Budgets</i> <sup>9</sup>	\$37,532	\$32,958	\$4,574	14%
<b>Total Operating Budget</b> <sup>10</sup>	<b>\$1,097,378</b>	<b>\$1,065,127</b>	<b>\$32,251</b>	<b>3.03%</b>
<b>Total Budget Request, Plus 10%</b> <sup>11</sup>	<b>\$1,207,116</b>			

<sup>1</sup>**Regular Tithes & Offerings:** Includes regular, non-designated giving to the church. The budgeted amount for this line is equal to regular giving through the previous year.

<sup>2</sup>**Legacy Giving:** Praise God with us! For the last four decades, the church has been administering a special fund setup by church member Don Bigelow upon his death in 1982. In his will, Don gave a broad purpose for the fund: to provide ministry to children and youth, in honor of his mother Edna May Anders Bigelow, and maintain the principal amount of the fund in perpetuity. Through the years, the principal amount in the Bigelow Fund has grown thanks to the careful stewardship of the Trustees. Since 2013, proceeds from the fund have increased while applications for use of the proceeds has decreased. In an effort to steward well the donor intent of the fund to enable ministry to kids and youth to continue, the Trustees this year are applying a portion of the proceeds to help fully fund the budget requests of our youth and childrens' ministries. So, thanks to the forward-thinking generosity of Don Bigelow as he considered in his last will how to handle the proceeds of his estate, we continue to see a lasting impact in ministry to kids - even 41 years later! Praise God!

<sup>3</sup>**Facility Use Income:** The Trustees have established a set of building use policies aimed at faithfully stewarding the facility God has given us, by providing access for selected organizations and ministry partners that have disciple-making missions parallel to ours. As outlined in these policies, some building users pay a fee to help offset the actual costs (utilities, HVAC, custodial, etc.) of their facility use. While these funds have always been included in the budget as an offset to the *Shared Ministry Expenses* category, this years' Budget Overview lists Facility Use Income separately for the sake of clarity. This is partly because the Trustees are looking for creative ways to help offset our operational costs of the facility without disrupting ministry, so our hope is to see this line increase in the coming years.

<sup>4</sup>**Debt Service Allocation:** This is a fixed dollar amount (as opposed to a percentage) that includes all of our minimum annual debt payments. Until our debts are paid off, this will remain a fixed expense.

<sup>5</sup>**Global Missions Fund:** After the Debt Service Allocation is made, the *Global Missions Fund* receives 16.06% of regular, undesignated tithes & offerings. The dollar amount listed above is an estimate for the year based on last year's giving; amount allocated for the Global Missions Fund is 16.06% of actual giving. The Global Partnership Team, under the leadership of **Brian Hoag** and **Matt Beall**, are appointed by the Elders to prayerfully plan how these funds will be distributed.

(notes continued on next page)

<sup>6</sup>**General Fund:** After the Debt Service Allocation is made and the *Global Missions Fund* portion is transferred, the remainder of regular giving (along with additional income listed above) is allocated to the *General Fund*. The General Fund covers the church's ministry expenses in three primary categories: *Personnel & Benefits*, *Shared Ministry Expenses*, and *Ministry Budgets*.

<sup>7</sup>**Personnel & Benefits:** This portion of the General Fund provides budget money for payroll needs including staff salaries and benefits. This year's Personnel Budget includes 3 part-time staff and 7 full-time staff. Individual employee compensation packages are confidential, and are set by the Board of Trustees and the Elder Board. Salaries are determined by many factors including funds available, giving trends, and nationally-comprehensive, data-driven salary ranges for people like ours, at churches like ours, in cities like ours.

<sup>8</sup>**Shared Ministry Expenses:** This portion of the General Fund provides budget money for shared items such as building & grounds maintenance and repair, utilities, information technology, accounting, fire system monitoring, insurance, security, and volunteer background checks.

<sup>9</sup>**Ministry Budgets:** This portion of the General Fund provides budget money for discipleship and program materials. It includes church-wide ministries such as *Community Life* and *Worship Arts*, as well as demographic-specific ministries such as *Children's* and *Youth Ministries*. **We use a vision-driven, zero-based budgeting process** that involves input from both volunteer and staff ministry leaders in determining ministry budget allocations.

<sup>10</sup>**Total Operating Budget:** The amount budgeted for the coming fiscal year is equal to the Income Total listed above.

<sup>11</sup>**Total Budget Request Plus 10%:** It is our custom for the actual total budget amount to be voted upon by the congregation to equal the *Total Operating Budget* plus 10%. Adding 10% to the *Total Operating Budget* provides congregational authorization to spend up to 10% above budget (if giving and income are up) without calling a special business meeting during the middle of the year for approval.

## Frequently Asked Questions - FY24

### Why is there a new green section for “Income” on this years’ Budget Overview?

In past years we have always had any known or expected income (from outside groups using our facility) included in the budget as an offset to our facility’s operational costs in the *Shared Ministry Expenses* category. This year we see an increase in expected *Facility Use Income*, as well as a new income category *Legacy Giving* that together are having a more significant impact on our budget planning. So, for the sake of clarity, we have decided to list all budgeted income in a separate section from budgeted expenses.

### Can you provide a run-down of the General fund budget for this fiscal year?

First of all, take a moment to praise God with us for the remarkably faithful and generous giving we are blessed with this year! In the face of great financial headwinds including an inflation rate at the highest in recent memory, we can see God’s faithfulness demonstrated in those who give at LifePointe. There was a surge of giving in September, which actually outpaced giving from last December. Thank you! We have MUCH to be grateful for and to celebrate.

Inflation has continued to impact our expenses, including costs associated with running and maintaining the facility. In fact, expenses this year have risen much more quickly than our giving, which has required some challenging adjustments to the budget. **Personnel & Benefits** have decreased for FY24 after cutting funds budgeted last year for hiring a part-time administrative support position. None of our staff is budgeted to receive a cost-of-living-adjustment, despite an historically high inflationary environment. Despite finding cost-savings in some areas of **Shared Ministry Expenses**, the increased cost for utilities (up about 30% over last year) has forced us to budget significantly more in this area and re-assess fees that outside building users pay to use our facility.

### What is missing from this year’s budget?

For the third year in a row, it pains the Trustees and Elders to not provide any kind of cost-of-living increases to staff salaries, or to provide employer-funded retirement benefits. This is especially a concern, as a number of our ministerial staff have opted-out of social security. To “catch up” on these cost-of-living increases and begin to provide retirement benefits for full-time employees, we would need to allocate about an additional \$90,000 for personnel.

## **FAQ's – continued**

### **How is the total budget amount determined?**

We work with the plan “this year’s giving is next year’s budget” as a starting place for the total budget amount. The total general giving amount for the previous 12-month period, plus other listed income, is equal to the **Total Operating Budget** listed in the graphic above; designated giving (i.e., Benevolence giving, Building Fund giving, etc.) is not counted towards *this year’s giving* as we plan the following year’s budget.

### **What numbers are members voting on during the Annual Business Meeting?**

LifePointe Church’s by-laws give members the privilege to vote on the annual budget amount for each fiscal year. While the Trustees and Elders work diligently to consider known variables and create a detailed budget plan to share with the whole congregation, the number we vote on is the Total Operating Budget plus 10%.

### **Who creates the budget?**

Ultimately the Elders are responsible for the budget proposal that is presented to the congregation. The Trustee Board is tasked by the Elders to steward the physical resources of the church, including the work of putting together the annual budget plan, which they present to the Elders. After working together and collaborating with ministry leaders, a final budget proposal is presented to the congregation for approval. The point-person on staff for this process is Wes Moore, Pastor of Administration & Preaching. The Trustees currently include: Marc Snow (Chairman), Jeff Hill, Donn Leber, Chad Hall, Corey Neuroth, Al Larson, and Wes Moore.

### **What if I have questions about the budget, or want more detail?**

Please join us at the Budget Q&A session on October 29, 2023 at 11:00am in the Fireside Room. If you cannot attend the Q&A Session, please contact an Elder or Trustee with questions or reach out to Wes Moore, Pastor of Administration & Preaching at 970-484-4053 or wesmoore@sharethelife.org.

### **Personnel and Benefits is the largest budget section. How is it determined?**

While staff compensation packages at LifePointe are confidential, we can share the process used to determine this section of the budget. The Elders and Trustees are responsible for setting salaries and compensation, and they examine a variety of factors. These include both cost of living and nationally-comprehensive data on salary ranges for people & positions like ours, employed by churches like ours, in cities like ours. For several years we have taken steps toward establishing more appropriate compensation packages for our staff.

### **When does the Fiscal Year begin and end?**

LifePointe Church’s Fiscal Year runs from November 1 through October 31. Our by-laws require the church’s budget to be voted on by the congregation at an annual business meeting that falls within 30 days of the start of the Fiscal Year.