

# SUMMIT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

## Board of Trustees Meeting

January 24, 2026

PRESENT: Angie Arnold, Larry Berlin, Rick Derr, Andy Gudahl, Jeff Holloway, Ila McClenahan, Raul Martinez, Kirk Rusch, Chuck Schmidt, Jonathan Seng, John Steele, Warren Steele, Academic Dean Larry Leathermon, President Dave Parrish, Director of Operations Missi Prohs

ABSENT: Tristan Bridges, Del Hamon, Lyle Hinebauch, Jim Kittell, Roger Curry, Wing Wong

A quorum is present to take formal action on all recommendations.

Meeting was brought to order by Jeff Holloway and Jeff opened with prayer.

For the devotion, Larry Leathermon shared a devotion from 'My Utmost for His Highest,' reminding us to stay on target.

Minutes of the past meeting on September 13, 2025, were presented for approval with motion by Warren Steele and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Derr; accepted as written.

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Angie led the Book Study on Chapters 6-10 of "Mission Drift." Next meeting we will review chapters 11-15. Does anyone have a suggestion for the next book to read and study together? Please share any ideas with the Personnel Committee. During the book study, it was suggested that we as a board repeat the Mission Statement of the college at every meeting after the opening. Rick so moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Steele; approved.

*Summit Christian College, an institution of higher learning, educates leaders for Christian service.*

Dave reminded the board of the wide ranging world influence of Platte Valley Bible College and Summit Christian College over the past almost 75 years the college has been in existence.

Jeff Holloway, Rick Derr and Wing Wong's terms expire this month. Jeff and Rick have agreed to continue to serve. Wing would like to take a break for a year and will consider joining the board again in a year. We will plan to keep Wing on the email list for the weekly Prayer Points to keep him informed of happenings at the school. Angie made the motion to affirm Rick and Jeff; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kirk Rusch; so affirmed.

Jim Kittell's term expires in May of this year. Waiting for response from Jim.

Annual Evaluation results were emailed to everyone. The Personnel Committee met with Dave to discuss his evaluation.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The 2024-25 audit from Dana Cole & Company was received and needs approval. It was very encouraging to get another clean audit. It was sent to ABHE in December and we have not heard back, which is a good thing.. Rick moved to approve the audit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Berlin; approved. Sears donation was a big help to the audit this year. Rick encouraged everyone to read through the audit.

Missi presented the proposed salaries for next year, reflecting a 3% raise for faculty, staff and administration. The Finance committee recommends that the salary increases be accepted, Rick so moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Gudahl; approved. The question was raised about the funding for another professor and we know that we need more students to support that additional professor. 15 students are needed to fund the salary for a professor. Our continued focus has to be on recruitment and in turn the increase of enrollment helps build our donor's confidence in the college.

The Housing Allowances to be approved include: Dave Parrish - \$17,000, Larry Leathermon - \$13,000, Aaron Prohs - \$15,000 and Jeffrey McKean - \$15,000. Andy moved for approved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick; approved.

With the hiring of Larry Leathermon as Academic Dean, approval is needed to add him as a signer on the bank account as well as get him a credit card through the college. Kirk so moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John; approved.

A tuition increase of 4.25% was proposed for approval. Dorm rates will remain the same. Larry so moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick; approved.

Rick pointed out that there is an error on the dashboard when you look at Year to Date vs. Actual. That will be corrected next month. He also let us know that if you have Excel, open the dashboard with that program and you are able to hover over the 'red triangles' with your mouse for a further explanation of those items.

Warren asked the question if we can project where the college will be in three years financially? That is a difficult question, because history tells us that God has come through, when what is on paper tells us we will not be able to continue. As a rule, 75% of our income comes from donors and 25% from students. Many colleges see 75% coming from students/government assistance. When Dave speaks to donors he does ask for 3-year commitments, to aid in planning for the future.

The question was raised if another professor will be hired? The funds are currently not available. Another professor will be added to the budget again for the next year. The timing of hiring will be dependent on who shows interest and the availability of funds. The board was reminded that one of the requirements for a professor is a Master's degree in the area where they will be teaching. With the closing of a couple of our sister colleges, many professors may be looking. In the recent Academic Dean search contact was made with many professors, but they were not interested in the Academic Dean position. As many may still be unemployed, we need to be diligent in our search for the right fit at Summit.

With the discussion of distance education with students from programs in Minnesota and elsewhere in Nebraska, distance education students pay full tuition unless they are part of an organized apprenticeship with the school and then tuition is 50%.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Larry emphasized that we are looking for increased student enrollment to in turn hire another professor. He has been having conversations with an excellent candidate. This person would also oversee the distance education as well as the apprenticeship program. The current faculty and staff are being delegated to take on extra responsibilities.

Larry has discovered all that is required of ABHE to complete the reports required. He gave kudos to Scott Gribble and Kayleen Collopy for all of their assistance with his Academic Dean responsibilities.

The 2026-2027 Catalog and 2026-2027 Personnel Handbook were presented for approval. Warren moved to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry; approved.

#### STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Everything is going well. The new RA is Gary Scholl, since Branden is getting married in April. The apartment at the school will be freed up when Branden moves out.

#### ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Did not meet this month.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dave shared his upcoming travel, meetings and discussions with CrossRoads Church Partners, CrossTalk (Tim DeFor), York University, and 10Two (Andi Grant), looking for opportunities to partner with these organizations to bring instructors as well as students to Summit.

#### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee reminded the board of upcoming events including the Summit to Summit, Golf Tournament,

Praise Banquet and end of year giving.

The schedule reflects that the college will be connecting with at least 28 churches for Love Month, covered by three people. Warren Steele is picking up a couple engagements as well.

Branden shared that he is facing the challenge of doing the paperwork and traveling and having trouble doing both of those well. The plan is to hire someone to assist the recruitment office with the paperwork which will be a positive move for Branden.

Andy raised the possibility of inviting ministers from supporting churches to come and speak at chapels and other activities at the school. This semester with 10 graduates doing senior sermons there are not many openings for chapel speakers, but that is a good idea to keep in mind. He also mentioned bringing back Couples Day and Ladies Day, events held in the past, that brought people from supporting churches on campus.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Jeff encouraged anyone interested to join the trip to Israel, May 25-June 4, 2026. Info is available on the college web site at [summitcc.edu](http://summitcc.edu). He thanked everyone for donations to Scott and Tammy Gribbles's trip. Missi also mentioned that Jeffry McKean is completing a form for Professional Development to help with part of his trip.

Andy Gudahl announced he will be stepping down from the board as of this meeting. He was thanked for his many, many years of devoted and faithful service.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 8 at the school, the same day as graduation and the day before the Summit to Summit.

John Steele closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Arnold  
Secretary  
Summit Christian College Board of Trustees