

# SUMMIT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

## Board of Trustees Meeting

May 8, 2026

PRESENT: Angie Arnold, Larry Berlin, Tristan Bridges, Rick Derr, Del Hamon, Jeff Holloway, Raul Martinez, Chuck Schmidt, John Steele, Academic Dean Larry Leathermon, President Dave Parrish, Director of Operations Missi Prohs

ABSENT: Roger Curry, Lyle Hinebauch, Jim Kittell, Ila McClenahan, Kirk Rusch, Jonathan Seng, Warren Steele

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

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

The Mission Statement of the college was repeated by the board:

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

For the devotion, Dave shared that with the transitions taking place at the college, God continues to bless the college and our purpose has not shifted. Funding needs and student needs continue. A graduation of ten students tonight is encouraging with many of those ten already involved in ministry.

Minutes of the past meeting on January 24, 2026, were presented for approval with motion by John Steele and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Del Hamon; accepted as written.

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Angie led the Book Study on Chapters 11-15 of "Mission Drift." Our next book will be *Extraordinary Hearing* by Greg Pruett, a follow up to his book *Extreme Prayer*. This book gives practical, biblical insights on how to pray and how to hear from God that will help unleash the power of prayer in your life. Angie will let us know what to read for the September meeting.

Jim Kittell's term expires this month and Jim has agreed to continue to serve. John shared that Jim is concerned that he has difficulty making all the meetings but the consensus was that his contributions and his representation are important to the board. Angie Arnold made the motion to affirm Jim; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff; so affirmed.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rick Derr shared we are experiencing a significant downturn in donations and the college is in a shortfall and it will be a challenge to meet payroll in a couple weeks. There is a CD at Platte Valley Bank of \$35,000 due to be renewed. The committee suggests transferring it to a Flex account with Riverstone, to be accessed with board approval. Current interest is at 4% but we don't know what the interest rate will be. Tristan suggested looking into Solomon Foundation as another option for an easy access account; Solomon would be able to easily transfer funds within a couple days. Question raised what would be an emergent need – not meeting payroll would be the biggest need. Board approval would be needed to access the funds. Question raised if there is a reason behind the downturn in giving? Individual donors have decreased more than church giving. No specific reason other than economic conditions. Concern raised that if donations do not increase, the \$35,000 will be gone quickly. Should the funds be moved to General Fund? God has come through before when funds were needed. Missi will look into interest rates. Executive Committee will give the approval for disbursement of the funds but an email will go out to the full board of the need. Motion from Rick is to move the money to an easy access account to be accessed with board approval; 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tristan; approved.

The Finance Committee went through the budget line by line and Missi justified the items. There are funds included for another professor.

This budget total expenses is \$914,000; last year was \$893,000. Cultivated gifts needed last year was

\$214,000; this year is \$265,000. Line 15 is bottom line for income is \$914,000 income (includes cultivated gifts).

Year To Date Column C is at \$535,000; we have one more quarter and may get to \$750,000 but may be about \$200,000 short this year. The board was reminded that cultivated gifts are funds that are currently not being given, but a new gift. We need \$55,000 monthly donations to balance the budget and currently are at \$20,000-\$30,000/month.

If there are no funds, they don't get spent. We need another professor but can't make a job offer without funds to pay that professor. Question raised if we don't increase our students do we need another professor? Numbers for students in the fall are not projected as high as we had hoped. To continue our emphasis in Missions we do need a professor on site to fill that role. We are working with adjuncts, but would specifically like to have a female professor on site. Question raised if a potential professor were to approach us and say they want to come what would our response be? Dave shared that conversations are in process and the person is not ready, but an offer can't be made at this time. Things have been sacrificed to get this additional professor on the budget and we would have to ask for patience in discussions with a potential professor. With ten graduates and only two definitely coming in the fall, can we justify hiring another professor? Larry B. shared that he would have to abstain from any discussion and Dave said he could be a part of the discussion but not vote. The person that Larry B. knows has not come to a conclusion yet but he feels the board needs to make a decision that if that person were to say they were coming tomorrow they could be assured they have a job and if that's not possible then they need to be told that. The individual has a lot of loose ends to tie up. Larry said if it wasn't someone he knows and loves dearly he would be in agreement with the discussion of 'How can we afford it?' Dave shared that his hope is that his payroll be eliminated from the General Fund. We would still have to cover that position so what would we gain?

It was agreed to table the budget discussion for more details from Dave regarding the *Grant Proposal: Ministry Apprenticeship Development Initiative*.

#### DEVELOPMENT/PRESIDENT

Discussion and an explanation of the *Grant Proposal: Ministry Apprenticeship Development Initiative* that was forwarded to the board, was made by Dave and Rick.

A friend of Rick contacted him asking if he knew of a place where a major donation could be made – Shane & Annette Aulick. Rick made arrangements for Shane and Annette to visit with Dave and tour the college. Within an hour, Shane pinpointed some shortcomings of the college – the need for another recruiter and an exit strategy for Dave as President, given his age. Shane had difficulty agreeing to make a donation to the college in light of these. Dave explained the mentorship and apprenticeship program that is in the works and Shane suggested that Dave take the lead on the apprenticeship program, and Dave responded that funds would be needed. A proposal was drafted and presented to Shane; originally \$95,000 per year for 3 years – he revised it to \$100,000 for two years and Shane agreed to that proposal. Dave reiterated that this is the direction Summit needs to move in – education and training in preparing students for leadership in the church. Dave has already spoken to churches about the program and at least 12 have responded positively, including other denominations, that want to hear more about this program. The salary of the position, a car and another recruiter are included in the proposal.

The time frame of this discussion began on March 23 with Rick's first phone call with Shane; April 14 Shane asked about the proposal and on April 20 the proposal was given to Shane. The proposal was received back from Shane this past Wednesday. Shane will be looking for results from this project. Shane questioned who would oversee the project and Rick responded the board would be overseeing it. A timeline needs to be developed soon. This program and position was not included in the budget as the agreement to the proposal was received after the budget and reports had gone out to the board. Rick suggested using the funds from the proposal to cover Dave's salary as overseer of the program and that salary would not be drawn from the budget. His current salary would stay in the budget for the next President that is hired. The proposal funds would go in a separate account and not be part of the General Fund. The concept is that as soon as the funds

are received Dave's salary would be coming from that account. A president search needs to begin soon. Currently, we do not have anyone in line for the President, so Dave would be wearing two hats. Two years down the road, as churches are on board and there is perpetual engagement with the school, the President and Recruiter could oversee the program. Without outside financing, we could not consider such a program as this, but with such an offer, how can we say no, especially since this program is in line with vision and strategy for the school.

This apprenticeship program would give churches a pathway to educating and training their staff for ministries and missions, as well as encouraging young people to enter the ministry. Such a program could assist churches to thrive – whether it is to prepare someone to step in for a retiring minister, filling other ministerial staff positions or missions emphasis. The apprenticeship program would highly recommend that students be on campus for at least two years, before moving into an apprenticeship position. We do have an exception to that with a potential student in Cozad who is already working as a policeman, has a degree and will not be required to be on campus to start the program. The church in Huron, South Dakota is on their 4<sup>th</sup> apprenticeship, which is a great example for this program that the apprenticeship program could be ongoing with the participating churches. While Christian colleges may be declining and government is refusing to support Christian colleges like they used to, churches need to take a more active role. Churches could prioritize this program not just for staff but for ministries within their churches. This could be a challenge for the churches to look to their own congregation for people within that could be equipped to be educated and trained for ministry in the church. Larry Leathermon shared that some churches in eastern Nebraska have taken on presenting certificates to some of their people in particular churches; Crossroads Christian College in Minnesota is working with Hope International University and giving certificates to people within the churches but these certificates are not really preparing people for ministry. The apprenticeship program would prepare churches and their people for ministry.

Dr Paul McAlister at Crossroads is excited about this program and would be open to introducing Dave to churches in Minnesota about this program. Rich Milliken from Kingsway Christian Church in Omaha is excited to share this program with his leadership. Jason Kirsch with Nebraska Leadership Forum in Nebraska, has agreed to invite Dave to speak, even to denominational churches, regarding training kingdom workers.

York University is interested and excited about the opportunity of an apprenticeship program to assist them with training and staffing associated churches. They are associated with many churches looking to have to close due to lack of staff.

Dave's recommendation is that he would continue as interim President along with the position of Director of Field Operations for the apprenticeship program. Larry Leathermon shared that he and Dave work very closely and he would be on site and available when Dave is traveling.

Rick believes there needs to be a timeline prepared to share with Shane. The grant is being offered with the stipulation that there will be board oversight.

Rick moved that we accept Aulick's grant for the apprenticeship program; Larry B. 2<sup>nd</sup>.; approved. Question raised if there needs to be anything in writing that Shane would be not be in a position to have a part in the decision making of the program; agreed that the funds are a donation to the school and the board has oversight, so no need for anything in writing. Rick believes there needs to be a timeline prepared to share with Shane; Rick and Dave will work on a timeline. The grant is being offered and accepted with the stipulation that there will be board oversight of the program. Dave will continue doing what he has been doing for the program, but the question was when will the funding come in. Rick suggested the goal is to begin the program as of July 1, with the beginning of our fiscal year. Rick said he could speak to Shane about the timing of the gift, but we can begin the program at any time. Rick and Dave were very honest with Shane that the college budget is very lean.

A succession plan for President needs to be put in place.

FINANCE (CONTINUED)

Discussion on the budget continued. Missi was asked what major fund raising opportunities are coming: Summit to Summit, Golf Tournament and Praise Banquet. More golf teams are needed if anyone is interested. The offering has been down the last two years for the Praise Banquet. With the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the college being celebrated this year, a big push for donations will be made. More emphasis needs to be put on the envelopes on the tables at the banquet. Chuck also suggested adding a Legacy option to the Praise Banquet card and giving more emphasis to Legacy giving.

Operating expenses have increased with repairs as well as insurance costs. We did not include any estate gifts in the budget as none are forthcoming. Churches and individuals are struggling as well. Larry B. reminded us that our prayers could be specific as we approach the coming fiscal year and budget.

Rick asked if there were any additional questions on the proposed budget, or if we need to trim it. Tristan moved to approve the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chuck Schmidt. 7 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstention (Larry B. due to a conflict of interest); budget passed.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Larry Leathermon presented ten 2026 graduates for approval. All requirements have been met.

John Franssen - Certificate of Christian Foundations

Gary Scholl - Certificate of Christian Foundations

Adelle Bowman - Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies

Anna (Libby) Aguayo - Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies

Jason Bowman - Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies

Kelsie Lawson - Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies

Andrew Vakoc - Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies

Richard Nameth - Bachelor of Science in Ministry Studies

Cameron Thomas - Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies

Maddison Duke - Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies.

Larry B. moved to accept the 2026 graduates as presented; John Steele 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved.

Larry L. shared that conversations continue to develop a partnership with York University for the Basic Speech class; currently looking for an instructor. York wants to make our student their student but we do not want to do that because our student could lose out on the possibility of a Pell Grant as they would no longer be a full time student. York has some stipulations before continuing, so discussion will continue. Andie Grant has a long relationship with York and believes this is something that can be done so we will meet together as a faculty soon, communicate with York and see if this is something that can be worked out. The question was raised of the possibility of York students coming to Summit. When we were first approached, York's ministry emphasis was waning and the thought was we could assist with that. The initial goal of the discussion with York was to provide support, classes and professors, thinking we may gain students, but with their accrediting requirement [their asynchronous (on-demand) classes vs. our synchronous (real-time) classes] that does not look to be the case.

Larry is looking to be a site coordinator with ABHE. The recommendation has been made so Larry will be assessed, his knowledge expanded in a particular field and he will be plugged in. This will give him an increased knowledge about accreditation and keeping Summit in compliance with ABHE.

Larry's report covered classes he has taught and classes he will be teaching. He shared he has been in leadership for years in the military but this current position and working with the faculty and staff is different and he is learning all the aspects of being Academic Dean at Summit.

## STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

The students are great and nothing major to report.

## ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Del shared notes from the Alumni Committee and Alumni Association.

The Alumni Gathering is today. The Alumni Association also works with the Summit to Summit. There was one applicant for the scholarship this year. Discussion has included the Praise Banquet and the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration and speakers will include: Jayne Heimer, Lauren Whaley, Ed McQueen, Kaylin Steele, and Steve Talley, covering the various decades of the school. There will be a photo booth; Summit merchandise and memorabilia will be available. They are working on music for the banquet.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Troy Reynolds, currently ministering in Council Bluffs, will be main speaker at the Commencement tonight.

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Branden shared two students are definitely coming in the fall and he has ten on the list for potential students.

The committee asked Dave to define 'seat time' for the board and he provided the following definition. Seat time is the amount of scheduled instructional time a student is expected to spend in direct engagement with faculty-led learning activities in order to earn academic credit. Traditionally, this has been tied to the credit hour. In U.S. higher education, one semester credit hour has commonly been understood as approximately: one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction per week, plus about two hours of out-of-class student work, over a standard semester. So, for a typical 3-credit course, "seat time" often implies something like: 3 hours per week in class or structured instruction plus 6 hours per week of outside preparation, reading, assignments, or study. Listening to a recorded class cannot be considered seat time.

The current budget was based on 3 new students in the fall. Upcoming activities include Fall Fling with a goal of 100 attendees. He is looking at some options for Fishermen's Crew. Camp teams are preparing to go out and Dave will be participating in some of those camps.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, at the school, the day after the Praise Banquet on September 18.

Chuck Schmidt closed with prayer.

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