

**English Christian Fellowship
Governance Model
March 18, 2024**

English Christian Fellowship (ECF) has a set of by-laws that fulfill the Costa Rican governmental requirements to be an official “*asociación*.” (The official name of the association is *Asociación Fraternidad Cristiana de Escazu*, but we use the name, English Christian Fellowship.) We have an annual “*asamblea*” or assembly of members of the association and a governing council that currently consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vocal, and Fiscal. The Senior Pastor sits on the council but does not have a vote.

The council provides an annual report at the annual general meeting of the association as well as proposes the budget for the following fiscal year. The council also oversees the relationship with the senior pastor as well as safeguards the spiritual and fiduciary integrity of ECF’s ministry. However, the council is not involved with the day-to-day mechanics of ECF’s ministry. We describe this governance model as “*staff led, and council empowered*.”

In part, this is owing to travel and work schedules of council members which preclude them from day-to-day involvement. But this is also due to the nature of a rapidly growing church. ECF staff is 100% present and has the freedom to make operational decisions within the approved budget guidelines. The council meets about every other month, usually on Saturday morning.

The ECF association membership primarily serves as the pool from which to draw the council. In early June, all association members are invited to the annual general meeting where the annual report is presented, a new annual budget is approved, and every two years, a new slate of council members is elected. ECF’s annual report is also available after the annual general meeting and shared in hard copy with any interested ECF worshipper (or public.)

The Pastor is responsible for inviting people to become “*members*.” These recommended individuals are, then, approved by the council for association membership. Only people with a demonstrated history of commitment to ECF are invited to become members. This means they are financially contributing to ECF and actively serving in ECF’s ministry.

2022 – 2024 ECF Council Members:

President:	Karen Foreman
Vice President:	David Charnock
Treasurer:	Scott Williams
Secretary:	Josely Kladensky
Vocal:	Alison Wicker
Fiscal:	Cristobal Millan