

Hillcrest Church of Christ Elder Nominee Information Form

General Information Personal:

Name: Kevin Batten
 Address: 2218 Bunker Hill Dr
Abilene, TX 79601
 Email: dkbatten@yahoo.com
 Occupation: Real Estate Entrepreneur
 Employer: Self-employed
 Age: 54 Christian Since: 1985



Family:

Wife: Christina Batten Christian Since 1992
 Child: Aubrey Batten Age: 37
 Child: Chloe Evans Age: 25
 Child: Cade Evans Age: 22

Church:

How long have you been a member at Hillcrest Church of Christ? Since 2009

In what capacities or leadership roles have you served at this or other congregations? When and when?

Hillcrest Church of Christ	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher • Class Chairman • Life Group Leader • Short-term Missions • Worship Live-stream coordinator • Eldership Select Committee Member • Family Community Team (Benevolence) Committee Member • Educational Committee Member • Missions Committee Member 	<p>2010-Current 2011-2013 2011-2013 2011-Current 2019-Current 2020 2021-Current 2021-Current 2024-Current</p>
Other congregations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Minister; Minda St. CoC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deacon ○ Fill-in Preaching • Interim Minister; North 10th & Treadaway CoC • Interim Minister; N5th & Grape CoC 	<p>1998-2007 2002-2009 1998-2009 2010-2011 2016-2017</p>

Biography:

I grew up in East Texas and for most of my young life attended the Shiloh Rd Church of Christ. I graduated from Whitehouse High School in 1989 and promptly attended Abilene Christian University earning a Bachelors of Business Administration degree. After graduation, I was employed with a couple of financial institutions as a consumer and later a commercial loan officer for several years. That experience led me to start my own entrepreneurial ventures that primarily involve today, real estate and Christian production services.

While attending ACU and Sam's Club, I met my future wife. Not long after meeting Christina, she obeyed the gospel and her fire for the Lord was quite contagious. We married in 1995. We have three married children, and three grandchildren. Our oldest son Aubrey lives in Joshua, TX; Chloe, our daughter, Fayetteville, AR; and our youngest Cade with his wife Emma live in Abilene and attend Hillcrest.

Please give a few examples of spiritual disciplines you practice in an effort to grow in the image of Jesus.

Kingdom work, when done with a pure motive, will bring about spiritual formation. As far as disciplines are involved, three primary and habitual practices that I embark on are as follows:

- Prayer and Planning with short term devotional time. [Everyday without exception]
- Focused Bible Study anywhere from 30 minutes to 1-1/2 hours. [Everyday without exception]
- Monthly retreat for prayer, reflection, goal adjustments, (and disc golf). [Every month]

The questions on the rest of the Information Form were designed to stimulate the introspection of nominees and to provide information to members of the Hillcrest congregation. Therefore, we ask you to give your thoughtful and prayerful attention to the questions that follow.

Please respond in the spaces below to each question. Feel free to use additional paper, numbering each answer to correspond to the question being considered, if necessary.

Section 1: Introspection Related to Self and Family

1. Are you willing to serve to the best of your ability? What motivates you to serve the Lord as an elder at Hillcrest?

If so affirmed, I am willing to serve as an elder at Hillcrest to the best of my ability. My motivation is to give God the glory (Eph 3:21).

2. After a study of 1 Timothy 3:1-16 and Titus 1:5-9, do you and your family concur that you qualify scripturally to serve as an elder? Yes No
3. Please describe the special circumstances, if any, that you considered in making your determination to question 2 above.

My best answer to this would be to repeat the apostle Paul from 2 Corinthians:5-6: *Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant ...*

4. After a study of Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Peter 5:1-3, are you and your family willing to give the time it will require you to fulfill the duties of an elder? Yes No

Section 2: Introspection Related to your Vision for Hillcrest

5. Describe the Hillcrest congregation as you see it now.

I see Hillcrest as a well-balanced, healthy and peaceful congregation among the current servant-leaders, staff, ministry leaders, teachers, and overall congregants. I praise God for this! I also see a lot of new faces whom I do not yet know. Post covid, Hillcrest (along with many congregations) experienced a great influx of new members. Approximately 50% of Hillcrest membership is different than it was five years ago. Let us continue to get to know one another.

6. Describe the Hillcrest congregation as you would like to see it in five years.

Five years from now, I pray that Hillcrest has *maintained the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*, and the body at Hillcrest is 1) cohesive, 2) tethered to New Testament doctrine, and 3) accepting the challenge of continual evangelistic efforts and growing all of our members.

7. What activities would you pursue, or encourage others to pursue so that the Hillcrest congregation (individually and collectively) can make a greater impact for Jesus Christ in our neighborhood and the city of Abilene?

Activities should start with the individual in their spiritual formation with devoted times of prayer and Bible study. Just as Paul commands Timothy, *Watch your life and doctrine closely, persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers*. Bringing others to Jesus and teaching about Jesus should be a primary pursuit for everyone. We should speak the truth in love. Other activities for self and others will vary dependent upon ones giftedness. And, Hillcrest should strive for full kingdom work through the church.

Section 3: Introspection Related to the Spiritual and Congregational Health of Hillcrest

8. What do you view as the single most important task of an elder at Hillcrest?

The most important task derived from the shepherding metaphor is to feed, protect, and care for the flock.

9. How would you relate the following scriptures to yourself and to the Hillcrest congregation?

Ephesians 4:11-16

Many metaphors of God's people are used in the Bible but **the body** is unique to New Testament believers alone. Christ has gifted to the body servant leaders (Eph 4:11) in order to facilitate the body unto full maturation. In order for the body to grow into this fulness of Christ, servant-leaders (while being perfected themselves) have the duty of perfecting (growing) the saints as well. Another way to say this is recognizing the responsibility of building up the body of Christ. This passage reflects upon the very life and development of spiritual formation for every individual and the body as a whole, and ultimately defines the life of the church. Hillcrest must continue to employ *the work of service* for each member, in order to attain this directive.

Acts 20:25-31

This passage as an example of warning to the **elders** concerning themselves is quite alarming. Years later, as Timothy not only witnessed this account at Miletus but is now urged to correct the sins of some of the elders, readers are now blessed to examine a contrast of good leadership (qualities discussed in 1 Tim3) and bad leadership in regards to doctrine and godliness. Sadly, error of this nature in churches still occur (even in Abilene, TX). As an elder, being on guard should always be at the forefront within shepherding responsibilities.

John 10:2-5

How does John 10 relate to myself and Hillcrest? First of all, *The LORD (Jesus) is my shepherd* (Ps 23:1). He is our good shepherd (Jn 10:11), and the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet 5:4) to the entire congregation. He is our example on how to live and shepherd and sets forth the teaching for His sheep to follow. This teaching was passed down through the apostles and delivered to us through the Word.

Hebrews 13:17

This mutually beneficial text concerning leaders and the fellowship of one another depicts a function of roles within a congregation. The text does not teach blind obedience or authoritarian headship but an accountability for both leaders and fellow disciples in walking in a manner worthy of the gospel. From my observation, I see respect given to its leaders and leaders that serve with humility and joy. I pray Hillcrest will continue in this practice.

10. What are the greatest challenges facing the Hillcrest congregation in the coming days?

A vibrant church will always have challenges, both from within and without. One challenge, especially one of our size, is the danger of complacency and apathy within members. Another ongoing challenge is passing an active faith to the younger generations, where they in turn pass their faith onto the next generation, and on and on. And lastly, as is mentioned in question 12, not protecting from negative worldly influences of the day that can infiltrate the purity of the church – either in doctrinal error or godlessness. Developing and enriching biblical literacy among all members is paramount.

11. How do you view modern cultures impact on today's Church (for example, in the areas of personal morality, sexual identity and behavior, gender issues, racial bias, politics, etc.) and how should the Church respond?

The church should be the pillar and ground of truth. The church is the example and mouthpiece of the kingdom in word and deed shining God's light into the darkness. It is a sad commentary when the culture influences the church through relativism, ungodliness, and cultural self-righteousness contrary to God's word. The church must operate with grace and truth with those from without and make sure our paradigm is from a biblical lens first. The enemy's constant assault on God's truth must not prevail within the church.

12. I have read the beliefs document (expanded version) posted on the Hillcrest website and the Hillcrest policy manual. Yes No

I can serve as an Elder at Hillcrest in support of these beliefs and policies. Yes No

If you have any reservations about serving in support of either document, please describe your reservations:

No reservations

13. This space is for further comment on any subject. If in reference to a question above, please begin your comments with the number of the question being discussed.

Many of the answers given above are abbreviated. I would be glad to entertain any questions regarding my answers above or my doctrinal positions on biblical matters if so desired.

Kevin Batten

Name (please print)



Name (signature)

February 11, 2025

Date