

BOB BURCKLE, PRESIDENT

Bob Burckle was named President of Eastern European Mission in 2015, after having served on the EEM Board for more than 15 years. An engineer by trade, Bob earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Louisville. While working in the industry, he earned his MBA in Marketing and Finance from the University of North Texas. His work in small and large technology companies has allowed him to apply best business practices to the operations at EEM.

Bob has traveled extensively in different countries as part of his responsibilities as a missions chair, deacon and elder at various churches. He also serves as president of Character for

Kids, a non-profit initiative to promote character education among youth and young adults in the global community with special emphasis in Ukraine, Russia and Eastern Europe. He has been married for more than 40 years to his wife, Joan. They have two adult daughters, Lauren and Brittany, and three granddaughters. Bob is humbled to know that he and his colleagues have been chosen and are privileged to spread God's Word throughout Eastern Europe.



DIRK SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT



Vice President Dirk Smith joined Eastern European Mission following his highly successful tenure as a development officer with his alma mater, Harding University. An accomplished manager, he earned experience in business development with an eye for revenue building through positions with firms like Jackson & Coker in Dallas, Texas, and T. Williams Consulting serving clients in Pennsylvania, New

Jersey and New York. He has a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and an MBA with a focus on Organizational Development and Ethics.

At EEM, Dirk oversees fundraising and marketing efforts as well as assists with U.S. operations. He is an experienced presenter and storyteller and loves sharing the stories of what God is doing through the ministry of EEM.

Dirk was married to his beautiful spirit filled wife, Wendy, for 34 years. Wendy battled ALS for 4 years and went to her perfect rest on January 9, 2023. Dirk resides in the greater Nashville area and is Dad to three adult children, Taryn, Tyler and Trevor.