

LANCASTER EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Elder Board Meeting

August 15, 2023

Attendees: Dave Cox, Todd Andrews, Tony Hunt, Tom Daly, Tyler Ranck, Phil True, Joel Lingenfelter, Corey Mitchell, DJ Weaver, Chip Mershon, Gary Hoover

Absent: Ed Scheuerman

I. Opening Items

- This was a fellowship meal meeting held at Todd's house
- Tom called the business meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the elders shared in a time of prayer.
- The minutes for July 18 were approved without objection.
- Prayer Focus
- Elder personal and Oikos
- Revitalization
- Church Vision
- Tony brought up options for Christmas services due to the fact that Christmas eve falls on a Sunday this year. Discussion followed as to how many services we should have and if we add a 4th what time would it be in addition to the traditional times of 3:00, 4:30 and 6:00 pm. Based on last year's attendance at these services and the current growth trends there is potential for 2400 or more people to attend this year's Christmas eve services. After much discussion the elders felt that it would be good to offer a Sunday morning service if possible. Tony agreed to discuss this possibility with Ken and Alex.

II. Engaging Culture Discussion

- What spectrum of background, beliefs, and situations should we expect to be addressing?
 - Most likely there will be members present who have family members or friends who are part of the LGBTQ community.
 - Members may ask if they should attend weddings for same sex marriages.
 - How do we as Christians handle being silenced versus speaking up and labeled as a person who "hates" people from the LGBTQ community.
 - There may be members from the community in attendance who will strongly oppose the Biblical teaching on marriage, sexuality and gender.
- Share & dialogue on Tony's text and ours
- In our responses, what might it look like to balance equipping with truth and persuading with compassion?
- What words, phrases, or tones do we see being central to how God directs us in engaging this topic?
 - Humility and clear communication that we as elders recognize we are all sinners saved by the grace of God.
- What words, phrases, or tones that might distract or be unhelpful?
 - The Elders discussed how it is important to avoid language that promotes "feelings" as a justification for what we believe.
 - It was also discussed how we do not want this evening to become focused on a specific area of sin but rather we want to help our congregation learn to live among unbelievers in a loving, Christ honoring way.

An overarching desire is that the elders clearly communicate in the following ways: Commitment to the word of God, the leading of the Holy Spirit and seeking godly counsel – After much discussion it was decided that the Elders will not automatically share their scriptures but rather after Tony speaks and the congregation is given time for Q and A, elders will share scripture as they feel lead and that is pertinent to the questions being asked. Any sharing of scripture and explanation should be done concisely.

****Elders are asked to be at LEFC at 6:00 pm in the encounter room August 23 to pray together before the meeting. If possible elders should also make themselves available for prayer or discussion after the event for those from the congregation who may desire this.**

III. September 5 Preview:

1. Begin framing the next steps for meeting kidmin needs and expansion for parking.
2. Begin to lay ground work for what is next for LEFC as we anticipate continued growth and a new vision for future growth.

IV. Closing

- Next Meeting will be held **September 5th at 7:00 pm at LEFC conference room.**

The meeting closed in a time of prayer at 9:00 pm.