

LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

August 19, 2025 - 7:00PM

LEFC Office

Elders Present: Gary Hoover, Kurt Zimmerman, Tyler Ranck, Eric Wenger, Corey Mitchell, Dave Cox, DJ Weaver, Blake Herr, Phil True, Dan Heller

Guests: Gary Poorman

Elders Absent: Tony Hunt, Joel Lingenfelter

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
Prayer & Sharing	Information	The meeting was initiated at 7:04.
	Prayer	Tyler asked the Elders if there were prayer requests to share. Several prayer requests were raised, and the Elders prayed for each request.
Approval of 7/22 Minutes, Blake	Discussion	The Elder meeting minutes from the July 22 nd meeting were approved with no objections.
Executive Pastor Update, Matt Sowada Construction and Staff Update	Discussion	The following updates were provided by Matt Sowada: • Crossover room work is being completed. There was an answered prayer that the sound company (Stray) was able to complete their work. The current target for completion of the room the week after Labor Day. • The storm drain work remains as an 8-10 week lead time. Electrical and plumbing (site prep) work is progressing while waiting for the storm drain work. • Tony has returned from sabbatical. Tony reported that this sabbatical was excellent and even better than the first. • With regard to staffing- Lizz Cagno is now on staff as the assistant director of children's ministry. There are currently no staffing vacancies. • DJ provided an update on house for sale across the street from the church. The decision was not to pursue due to the lack of a clear vision for the ministry need or purpose.
Discussion: LEFC Care Ministry, Gary P and Matt S To keep our Care Ministry in alignment with LEFC's overall vision... with what is currently happening at LEFC... -Are there any gaps/care areas we're missing, or places we need to expand/establish? -What are your expectations for care at LEFC?		Tyler kicked off the conversation by indicating the objective of the conversation is to have space to have an extended discussion on care at LEFC. <i>Care Ministry Overview</i> Gary provided an overview of care ministries at LEFC. He described the care ministry's structure, which is organized into tiers—informal, formal, focused, extended, staff/Elders, and referred care—supported by 15 volunteer chaplains who act as extensions of the staff following a formal onboarding process. Gary emphasized ongoing challenges in meeting diverse needs, especially health-related and visitation requests, and noted that care needs can be communicated via an online form. Additionally, he detailed the "Care Wheel," which divides the ministry into four quadrants: Practical Care, Personal Care, Recovery Care, and Relational Care.

How/where should we direct our efforts? -What's reasonable? Who should be our priority when it comes to extending care? Community of LEFC (our flock), Lititz, or Lancaster County?		<i>Elder Board Expectations for Care</i> - The Elders asked how concerns are raised and how help is requested for individuals not currently connected to the church. Gary shared that needs can be communicated via the online form on the church website and through regular care ministry communications. Additional sources mentioned included word of mouth, life group prayer lists, and the Starting Point program. - There was a discussion for how care at LEFC could be celebrated, for example by sharing praise reports serving as encouragement for the congregation. Tyler suggested the possibility of a prayer component surrounding the care wheel model. - There was a discussion on the importance of equipping leaders. There was a discussion on the need for a group effort involved in care, the importance of communication, and leaders throughout the church being aware of the care model. - There was a suggestion to dedicate time during an upcoming congregational meeting to discuss and celebrate the care ministry, including sharing praise reports and answered prayers. - There was a discussion on the appropriate level of interaction between the Elder board and care ministries. - There was a suggestion to explore the adaptation of the care wheel model for other ministry areas to promote a holistic model across the church.
	Action	There were a series of follow up action items coming out of the discussion with owners assigned.
Project 2:42 Giving Analysis, DJ/ Eric	Discussion	There was a discussion about the breadth of giving and if giving has been sustained over time. An analysis was performed showing there was a breakdown of gift sizes across the top ten gifts. There is a sense of good breadth of participation. The giving has been spread across time showing sustained commitment.
Rising Leader Assignments (time permitting), Tyler	Discussion	There was a discussion about rising leaders with the plan that the topic would be further discussed in an upcoming meeting.
Other Notes		
-		Elder Retreat Reminder – Save the dates for October 2-4

Next Elders' Meeting: September 2, 2025
7pm @ LEFC at the church