

# LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

September 16, 2025 - 7:00PM

Wenger Home

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

Guests: N/A

Elders Absent: Dave Cox

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
<b>Prayer</b>	Prayer	<p>The meeting started at 7:01 pm.</p> <p>Tyler asked the elders to share prayer requests. Several requests and praises were raised, and the elders prayed for each item.</p>
<b>Approval of 9/2 Minutes- Blake</b>	Decision	<p>The elder meeting minutes from the Sept 2nd meeting were approved with no objections.</p>
<b>New Member Assignments- Tyler - Review expectations for new member interviews</b>	Decision	<p>New member names were discussed and elders assigned. It is important that there is a spiritual and theological "guarding the gate" element to the interviews. The timing of the interviews should be before October 19<sup>th</sup> since the Congregational meeting is Nov 9<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>AI Tool for Minutes- Joel/Blake -Any objections to using an AI tool for helping with minutes?</b>	Decision	<p>Joel initiated the conversation stating it is hard for the secretary to fully engage in the meeting since he is also keeping track of what was said. Joel proposed to use an AI tool to obtain the content of the meeting and to summarize. The duty of the secretary would be to review the output from the tool (after the meeting) and ensure accuracy. Joel looked for options and made a proposal based on the tool that would best protect data and privacy. Some questions and discussion occurred regarding the level of protection provided.</p> <p>The decision was taken, without objection, to conduct a trial with the proposed tool and evaluate the effectivity in January 2026.</p>
<b>Discussion: What is LEFC's strategy for responding to political or societal issues from the pulpit?- Tony - Refresher of our historical approach and the reasons for it. How do we best navigate pressures from some in the congregation to take a more vocal stand?</b>	Decision	<p>Tyler introduced the topic of discussion based on current events to discuss the LEFC strategy. It was mentioned there is a common question among church pastors (outside LEFC) that are wrestling on how to handle these current cultural situations. One pastor chose to say nothing at all because he felt it was a lose /lose situation. Tony indicated that we need to strongly commit as an elder board to a decisive direction.</p> <p>The historical position which centered on the core belief that if you are deal with political topics, it will create a focus not on the gospel, but on other things. We need to discern when something rises to level of impact to all attendees. When do events of the world rise to the level of mentioning in the service? The historical practice to not speak to political topics has caused some to leave the church in the past.</p> <p>Every time we have gone through big events, there is a sense that this item is on everyone's mind. The approach has been to focus on prayer instead of trying to tell people what to think about it. At starting point, it is mentioned that LEFC will not focus on politics. However, there is a common accusation that if we do not say something that we lack courage.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion on this topic. Several elders shared ideas and opinions, and there was an overall unity and affirmation for the historical LEFC approach.</p> <p>There was a suggestion that we have a position paper that documents our position. The idea is to have it wide enough that it gives a little bit of latitude, but that also defines our position.</p> <p>There was a motion that we continue our approach of focusing on the gospel, not on political events, candidates, positions and activities. We will continue to operate with discernment,</p>

		<p>speak to truth, and address the issues of the day from scripture on a schedule given by the Holy Spirit, not by the news cycle. We remain committed to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, reaching the lost with the good news.</p> <p>This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.</p>
Other topic	Decision	There was a specific situation discussed to plan a meeting with Tony, two elders, and an individual in the church. The two elders were selected and the meeting planned.
<b>Elder Retreat Outline-</b> Tyler		<p>An agenda for the retreat will be provided next week. On Thursday, the departure will be approximately 1:30 pm.</p> <p>Multiplication will be a key topic. Friday afternoon will include some free time. The retreat will wrap up Saturday morning. The ask is that we make it a priority to be there for the duration of the retreat.</p>
<b>Other Notes</b>		
- Dinner Hosts Sign Up		

**Next Elders' Meeting: October 2-4, 2025**  
**Retreat to Lake Wynonah**