

LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

Feb 3, 2026 – 7:00 PM

LEFC

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

Guests: N/A

Elders Absent: Matt Sowada

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
Approval of Jan 6 meeting Minutes-Blake	Decision	The elder meeting minutes from the Jan 6 meeting were approved with no objections.
Nominating Committee Follow-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve Deacon/Deaconess List Approve Elder List and Determine Order of Ask 	Discussion	<p>The elders focused on reviewing and approving nominations for deacons, deaconess, and elders, with discussions about candidates' qualifications and the balance of experience and diversity on the boards. Three elder positions are opening. The group evaluated elder candidates based on experience, teaching ability, organizational history, and balance of age and maturity. No major concerns were raised about the candidates presented. Without objection, the elders affirmed the list of deacons and deaconess and determined top candidates for elder board.</p> <p>In addition, there was a discussion of by-laws related to elder nominations with a cap of 12 elders and defined ratio of staff to elder board with the heart of maintaining a high regard for layman leadership. Non-sitting elders allow for additional support as the church grows. Laity leadership also allows for support for multiplication.</p>
Non-Sitting Elder Role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we continue to expand? How to keep involved/informed? 	Discussion	This agenda item was not discussed due to time constraints.
Prayer Drive Feedback From your time in prayer, any feedback or ideas for these potential areas of multiplication?	Discussion	<p>Tony provided an update on three churches potentially seeking revitalization or partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a Mennonite church that later connected to the Hope network. They contacted LEFC with a discussion on the possibility of becoming a Free church. There is a second church that currently is a Church of the Brethren. There were some conversations at this church on what it would look like to join the Free church. The next step is to follow up with this church about a potential lunch meeting to discuss partnership. Another church has encountered leadership changes that led to a vision conflict with the new pastor and elders. There is a sense of the need for new elders. One of the new elders reached out to LEFC with a discussion about the need for revitalization. Next step is for us to wait until this church reaches back out to LEFC for additional discussion. <p>The group explored potential church revitalization opportunities and planting locations across various communities, with particular attention to areas showing population growth and spiritual needs. Tony led a devotion related to the spies that were sent into promised land. He challenged the elders to consider what the spies were asked to do? They were asked to do an evaluation of the land, not asked the question if the Israelites should go forward. This applies to the prayer drives in which Tony had previously requested the elders to conduct.</p> <p>The elders shared observations from recent prayer drives through various local communities, noting population trends, opportunities for church planting or revitalization, spiritual needs, and facility possibilities. Adamstown was highlighted by multiple elders as presenting a sense for need and growth. East Petersburg was mentioned by several elders as a location in which the group sensed possibility for revitalization or church plant. Similarly, the location of Schaefferstown was mentioned several times. The Ephrata</p>

		<p>Mennonite School facility was noted as a very nice facility in which there are currently no churches meeting there with low rental costs as a potential for a church plant.</p> <p>The elders entered a time of corporate prayer asking for Gods discernment and guidance on any next steps.</p> <p>The elders were asked to continue to pray and discern in the weeks/ months to come regarding potential church planting/revitalization locations.</p>
Multiplication Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plumblines Clarification 	Discussion	<p>The overview of the discussion was summarized as an enthusiasm to partner with an individual for multiplication. The question for discernment is to identify what ministry would the elders advise for next steps with this person. It is important that the opportunities are within close proximity to LEFC to allow alignment, evaluation, and discernment.</p>
Executive Pastor Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock Database Update and Budget Construction Update 		<p>The elder board had previously approved \$25,000 to initiate the Rock Database assessment and onboarding. At the Feb 3rd meeting, Joel made a request for an additional \$27,000. The mobile app is key for us to allow people to check into areas (for example kid min) on their phone. There was a motion to provide \$27k to continue and finalize. There is also an ongoing fee to use Rock that is based on the number of church users. The motion was passed with no objections.</p> <p>The construction progress on building and parking expansion was reviewed. Framing has started on the building. The parking lot was noted as full in previous weeks in January and February. Joel expects to coordinate with B.R. Kreider about building parking lot over the soccer field this summer.</p>
Summary of Actions	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joel: Proceed with \$27,000 expenditure to complete Rock database transition Elders: Attend Tom's installation service on the 22nd (both services if possible)
Misc. Business Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 22 - Tom Daly Installation Dinner Hosts Sign Up Rising Leader Attendance Sign Up 	Discussion	<p>Plans for Tom's formal installation as pastor were confirmed for February 22, with elders participating in prayer and laying on of hands during both services. Tyler will lead the time along with elders to pray.</p>
Meeting Adjourned		

Next Elders' Meeting: Feb 17, 2026 Mitchell residence.