

LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

Feb 17, 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, DJ Weaver, Corey Mitchell, Dan Heller

Guests: N/A

Elders Absent: Matt Sowada, Eric Wenger

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
Approval of Feb 3 meeting Minutes-Blake	Decision	The elder meeting minutes from the Feb 3 meeting were approved with no objections.
Update on Elder Vetting/Asks	Discussion/ Decision	Tyler provided an update on the elder nomination process, including vetting steps and feedback from ministry teams. The discussion focused on the status of selection of elders for the three spots that will be open in the next cycle.
Prayer & Fasting Feedback- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From your time in prayer, anything to share with the group? Phil/ Kurt 	Discussion	<p>A significant number of individuals participated, sharing numerous accounts of promptings that indicated the spirit was actively working within them. A notable increase in fellowship and unity of purpose was observed during the fasting period. Participation ranged from 20 to 25 individuals, and it was particularly encouraging to witness substantial involvement from younger members.</p> <p>As the church continues to focus on the foundational element of prayer, consideration is being given to ways in which this subject can be further emphasized and developed. The discussion highlighted the impact of corporate spiritual disciplines on community bonds and mission focus, with an emphasis on ongoing rhythms of prayer and fasting.</p> <p>Phil and Kurt are initiating a consistent prayer schedule, meeting every Wednesday at 3:00 PM at the church. Additionally, another session will be held each Thursday morning at 6:00 AM. Attendance and participation are welcomed.</p> <p>Kurt facilitated a period of prayer for the group.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiplication: Update on Potential Options/ Tony 	Discussion	A scheduled call involving a potential future multiplication partner is planned to take place this week to discuss potential next steps. The group considered the most effective way to communicate necessary information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiplication: Plumblines Discussion How would autonomy differ between a revitalization and a plant? When would we anticipate spiritual headship of a church plant transitioning away from the LEFC elder board? 		<p>The topic of headship during revitalization has been previously addressed, with the understanding that the revitalized church would transition to autonomy after a period of oversight. The question arises as to how this process compares to or differs from that of a church plant.</p> <p>Some principles for a church plant were discussed include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to achieve a critical mass capable of sustaining financial independence is a key milestone in this process. Elder support may be structured as a two-year commitment, after which the church plant would be expected to establish its own elder leadership. In revitalization efforts, it is necessary to address and overcome resistance until trust is established with existing leadership. This dynamic does not typically apply in the context of a church plant. It is advisable not to reinvent established processes, but rather to research and adopt best practices from other organizations. For instance, an opening ceremony may serve as a formal commencement of the church plant. The question of whether the pastor is initially employed by LEFC is significant, particularly when financial support is provided, as this employment status may influence leverage and oversight during the early stages. The likelihood of success increases when robust support and organizational structure are in place at the outset. This support should be delivered with an empowering approach rather than one rooted in authority.

		There exists a pathway within the EFCA whereby an applicant may become a free church, beginning as a candidate EFCA congregation. It is possible to structure the oversight period so that it concludes when candidate churches achieve EFCA status. Further investigation into this process is warranted and will be undertaken when the relevant presentation is delivered to LEFC.
	Prayer	The elders entered into a time of prayer for discernment on multiplication, partnerships and significant needs within the body.
Summary of Actions	Actions	Clarification of the EFCA assessment and church planting process, including the use of standardized evaluation tools and the transition from candidate to full autonomy status.
Misc. Business Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it suit you to switch from March 3 to March 2? • February 22 - Tom Daly Installation • Dinner Hosts Sign Up (need March & April hosts!) • Rising Leader Attendance Sign Up 	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony provided a summary of his message to the congregation regarding a routine time of prayer during the Lenten season. The congregation was encouraged to participate in a season of focused prayer and fasting, structured around the Acts 1:8 model. Weekly email communications will provide prayer points, progressing from personal spiritual growth outward to community engagement. • The next meeting will be held on March 3. • The elders will be asked to come up front during the Tom Daly installation.
Meeting Adjourned		

Next Elders' Meeting: March 3, 2026

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