

# LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

Mar 17, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Hunt Residence

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, Eric Wenger, Matt Sowada

Guests: Jeff Travis

Elders Absent: N/A

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
<b>Approval of Mar 3 meeting Minutes-Blake</b>	Decision	The elder meeting minutes from the Mar 3 meeting were approved with no objections.
<b>Update on Elder Nominations (and spouse follow-up)</b>	Discussion/ Decision	Three individuals have agreed to join the elder board for the upcoming cycle including Darryl Preziosi, Chip Mershon, and Dan Martin.  Spouse check-ins were discussed for final affirmation, and volunteers were identified for contacting spouses.
<b>Update on Potential Multiplication Partners</b>	Discussion	Some ongoing correspondence is occurring with a potential multiplication partner which is going well. Planning is underway for a face-to-face meeting in June. The group discussed clarifying expectations for aligning with EFCA values and theological positions, with plans to address these topics at future meetings.
<b>Feedback on Congregational Meeting Packet</b>	Discussion	The current practice is to provide updates for the church body at each of the two congregational meetings as a summary of the state of the church ministries. It was noted there is redundancy in the two reports and there is a level of challenge to compile this information. The question was asked if this an effective communication tool?  Considerable discussion occurred regarding the effectiveness and frequency of the congregational meeting packet. The group debated whether to maintain, reduce, or supplement the packet with alternative communication methods. - Suggestions included video updates, annual reporting, and highlighting ministry impact and answered prayers. A further idea could be to split the reports into two different patterns; one for the fall and another for the spring. There was an idea to standardize the format from each ministry area, for example requesting that they each answer the same (two) questions. For example, answering the question on ways to pray in one report and answered prayers and impact in the other.  It was noted that making the information available is important to maintain trust with the congregation. There is also value in requesting updates from ministry leaders every six months to foster achieving goals they have set. Consensus was reached to maintain the packet for the upcoming meeting, with improvements to its content and possible exploration of new forms of communication for the next congregational meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry Residency Program Proposal</b></li> <li>• What is the Residency</li> <li>• Why this Matters</li> <li>• Steps Forward</li> </ul>	Discussion	<p>Matt and Jeff presented a proposal for the Ministry Residency Program. The program is intended to provide young adults who feel called into ministry with a structured avenue for development. The primary aim of the program is to enable participants to enter ministry more efficiently and cost-effectively, addressing a recent decline in ministry job applicants. The program emphasizes practical experience and is designed to assist residents in discerning a vocational call and securing ministry employment.</p> <p>The program seeks to intentionally develop young ministry leaders in four key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character</li> <li>• Theology</li> <li>• Ability to Teach</li> <li>• Ministry Leadership</li> </ul>

		<p>The program is scheduled to begin with the new budget cycle, running from July through May each year, with four candidates selected annually. Participants will serve in existing ministries while receiving mentorship. The program requires a 40-hour per week commitment over the course of one year.</p> <p>The target demographic is individuals aged 20-25 who have completed a degree or certificate and now feel called to pursue ministry. Each candidate may select a designated track: Pastoral Ministry, Women’s Ministry, Kids Ministry, Youth Ministry, or Worship Arts. The curriculum was developed based on current ministry areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching topics connected to the teaching pathway</li> <li>• Character development through the Re-gen program</li> <li>• Theological development via the EFCA Gateway class</li> <li>• Ministry leadership through mentorship and participation in Leader Lab</li> </ul> <p>Expected outcomes include a regeneration testimony, development and teaching of curriculum, completion of the EFCA License Paper, creation of a Personal Philosophy of Ministry, and preparation of a professional résumé with a mock interview experience.</p> <p>The program is primarily intended for LEFC attenders but remains open to others. The selection of four candidates per year is based on what is considered manageable for staff support. Holding a part-time job alongside the residency is generally discouraged due to the program’s time demands, though occasional one-off jobs may be permitted.</p> <p>The program will include provisions for dismissal should a resident not meet expectations. A suggestion was made to implement a contract clarifying the possibility of termination if necessary.</p> <p>The program is intended for those pursuing vocational ministry, including roles such as elders, staff members, and pastors. Consideration was given to the potential for a secondary track for ministry in the business world.</p> <p>There is no obligation for program graduates to remain at LEFC after completion; the objective is to celebrate their transition into ministry roles wherever God takes them.</p> <p>The inclusion of mobilization as a track was discussed. While the program does not specifically train missionaries, it is designed to help individuals discern their calling, and any track could potentially lead to mobilization.</p> <p>The reach of the program was discussed, with the understanding that its impact extends beyond LEFC. Residents may also fill positions vacated by staff pursuing multiplication opportunities elsewhere.</p>
<b>Time of Prayer</b>	Prayer	The elders entered into a time of prayer focused on the previous discussion surrounding the Residency program.
Summary of Actions	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wives of existing elders that were assigned should connect with the wives of the new elders.</li> <li>• The elder leadership team will review and discuss the proposed Residency program and report back to Matt and Jeff.</li> <li>• Matt and Jeff will incorporate feedback from the discussion into revisions of the proposal document.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Misc Business</b>	Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder to complete New Member Visits</li> <li>• Dinner Hosts Sign Up</li> <li>• Rising Leader Attendance Sign Up</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>		The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude for the presenters.

**Next Elders’ Meeting: April 7, 2026**

**LEFC Office**