

# LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

April 7, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Church Office

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

Guests: Drew Huber

Elders Absent: Tyler Ranck, Dan Heller

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
<b>Prayer for the Body</b>	Prayer	The elders spent time praying for requests associated to the church body. A series of prayer requests were raised and the elder entered into a time of prayer.
<b>Approval of Mar 17 meeting Minutes- Blake</b>	Decision	The elder meeting minutes from the Mar 17 meeting were approved with no objections.
<b>Budget Proposal</b>	Decision	<p>The church budget proposal for the upcoming year was discussed. DJ and Joel presented the budget, highlighting key changes including the addition of custodial hours for the new building, and accounting for change is staff. They noted that while there was a period of flat giving growth, attendance and giving have now increased by 9% and 14% respectively over the past period. The budget maintains employee and benefits costs at around 57% of total budget, which aligns with the desired range of 50-60%. The team also discussed the role of the Finance Advisory Council in reviewing the budget and providing recommendations. Joel indicated there will be a 10-11% increase in health insurance costs and efforts to negotiate better rates through Creative Benefits brokerage. He explained changes to budget allocation, including removing chargeback systems for items like copiers and vehicles, which made some department budgets appear flat or decreased when they were actually reallocated. Joel also mentioned contributions to EFCA (1% to national office, 2% to district).</p> <p>Joel explained that AI analysis helped identify spending patterns over the past five years. The discussion covered property tax implications for different properties, with confirmation that 401 Pearson and Mission House pay property taxes while the main property does not. Joel explained that the elders could approve budget increases up to 5% without requiring church approval. The meeting also addressed the implementation of Rock system, with Joel noting that while it would require ongoing spending, it would likely save time and reduce internal workarounds, though specific cost savings were difficult to quantify. Additional giving toward Project 2:42 was not included in the numbers used as the basis for the budget proposal.</p> <p>Specific elements of the budget discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compensation and benefits +11%- Mainly due to Insurance cost increase</li> <li>• Finance / Debt service +7.9%</li> <li>• Information Technology +35.8 %- copier chargeback was eliminated from ministry areas and charged to IT (essentially flat because it is mainly a transfer from ministry line to IT)</li> <li>• Property Management +6.6%</li> <li>• US and Local Mobilization +17.8%</li> <li>• EFCA Contribution +7.1%- intentional move toward 1-2% denominational giving guideline</li> </ul> <p>There was a motion to affirm the 2026 -2027 fiscal year budget proposal to go to the congregation for approval. The motion was second. The motion carries with no objections.</p>
<b>Proposed Congregational Meeting Agenda</b>	Discussion/ Decision	<p>The planning for the congregational meeting agenda was discussed including the need to publish proposals two weeks in advance and new member testimonies three weeks ahead. The board briefly discussed plans for a ministry spotlight and Tony's report in upcoming meetings. The meeting agenda includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Members and Leadership Affirmation</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Approval</li> <li>• Ministry Spotlight</li> <li>• Construction Update (see note below regarding this agenda topic)</li> <li>• Tony Report</li> </ul> <p>Note: A decision was taken that the agenda item for the Construction Update should include both an update on the building and a financial update</p> <p>Tony made comments surrounding his report. Tony discussed Project 2:42's next promotional phase, which will focus on a "pledge to pray" approach rather than traditional pledges. The team plans to conduct promotional updates every 4-6 weeks, with the next one potentially adjusted due to Matt's ordination service on May 17th. There was also a recommendation to include a block of prayer time after the update.</p> <p>Without objection, the meeting agenda was approved.</p>
<b>Matt Sowada proposal for sabbatical</b>	Decision	<p>Matt presented his sabbatical proposal for the period May 17, 2026 through August 18, 2026. His plan focuses on three main areas: spending time with his family, particularly his son Caden before he starts a new internship, organizing finances for the future, and addressing his personal health and wellness. Matt also discussed his goal to develop better approaches to discussing and teaching about sexual discipleship within the church community. Matt continued by explaining some details of the plan, including taking an online Authentic Intimacy (AI) course, reading books, and participating in a triathlon. The proposal was well-received.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve the sabbatical plan as presented with a second. The motion was approved with no objection.</p>
<b>Update on potential multiplication partner</b>	Discussion/ Decision	Tony discussed plans for evaluating a potential multiplication partner, emphasizing the need to assess leadership. The elders continued to discuss this matter in detail.
<b>Non-Sitting Elders (time-permitting)</b>	Discussion	This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.
Summary of Actions	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joel: Ensure the congregational meeting topic for the Construction Update includes both an update on the building and a financial update.</li> <li>• Corey: Reach out to non-sitting elders to volunteer for baptism elder responsibilities this Sunday, with Joel as backup.</li> <li>• All elders: Submit new member interview results by April 22.</li> </ul>
<b>Misc Business</b>	Update	Regarding the elder support of the baptism, no elders were available. Non-sitting elders will be asked, with Joel as backup if non-sitting elders cannot support.
<b>Feedback from Guest</b>	Feedback	<p>The church has proven the capability to give beyond the normal giving levels when asked (such as a capital campaign). Drew asked about future giving campaigns after project 2:42. Tony explained there was an intentional decision for money to be allocated to support multiplication.</p> <p>Addition feedback was provided and discussed.</p>

**Next Elders' Meeting: April 21, 2026**

**LEFC (Gary Hoover Meal)**