

LEFC Elder Meeting Summary

April 21, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Church Office (with meal)

Elders Present: Tyler Ranck, Dan Heller, 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: N/A

Elders Absent: N/A

AGENDA ITEMS	Type	Key Messages
Approval of Apr 7 meeting Minutes-Blake	Decision	The elder meeting minutes from the Apr 7 meeting were approved with no objections.
Project 2:42	Tour	The elders toured the new construction and received an overview of progress from Joel.
Multiplication: Session Debrief	Discussion/ Prayer	<p>The elders discussed some key takeaways from a meeting on the topic of multiplication that took place on April 15th at the church. This meeting was attended by elders and LEFC staff. The session was led by Tony Balsamo and Mike Sciara.</p> <p>The meeting focused on discussing multiplication and ministry strategies, building on previous sessions and prayer trips. Some key takeaways included the value of elders discussing with ministry teams bringing clarity and creating clear pathways for engagement while avoiding overspeaking about undetermined matters. The value in having the ministry team and elders together extended in other areas including affirmation received from the elders to the staff. The importance of finding leaders who want to improve the sending church rather than improving upon it was noted. There is a need for balanced energy and methodical planning in church planting efforts.</p> <p>Another key takeaway is the need for community engagement. The session highlighted a failure mode in which there is too much focus on those who are going rather than focus on the target population. It is considered a failure if the first Sunday of the new church is attended only by the sending team. There was a suggestion that value could come from sending an administrative assistant alongside a pastor since this could alleviate some pressure.</p> <p>Tyler raised a question about the balance of prioritizing multiplication against other aspects of the sending church and how this might impact the elder agenda for the coming years. The team expressed concerns about ensuring multiplication doesn't become all-consuming, potentially harming the host church or burning out volunteers and staff. The group discussed the importance of maintaining clarity on the church's overall vision while finding sustainable ways to pursue multiplication initiatives, with particular attention to avoiding the trap of focusing exclusively on church planting at the expense of other ministry areas.</p> <p>Tony communicated an observation around the similarities across the starting of LEFC, West Shore, and Hershey. Each of these began with a small group that met in a house. Through these meetings, a vision was caught for starting a church. God created the vision and it led to the movement. We have been praying over certain potential areas for multiplication, and a proposal was made to identify these areas to the congregation. This could lead to the determination of who may be interested in starting a prayer group in those areas. This places a focus on where people live and the relationships there.</p> <p>The team discussed planning an informational meeting for late May or early June, with May 31st or June 7th being potential dates. They outlined key agenda items for the upcoming congregational meeting, including Project 242 updates, construction progress, giving reports, and ministry spotlights. The topic of residency was raised, and agreed it is not the right time to present this topic in the May meeting. Kurt also shared reflections on the spiritual practice of asking "am I to go". Tony emphasized that while this question isn't meant to be asked daily, it's important to maintain a posture of being open to opportunities when they arise. The group agreed to have another elder meeting before the congregational meeting to finalize details, and Tyler mentioned the need for a debrief with incoming elders Chip, Tom, and Shawn, potentially including Dan Martin and Daryl Preziosi.</p>

		<p>There was a discussion on potential strategies for engaging the congregation in ministry pathways, emphasizing the importance of highlighting various opportunities like pastoral, leadership, and mission paths while celebrating God's work in people's lives. There was a suggestion to incorporate ministry spotlights during staff meetings and potentially inviting individuals to share their pathways on stage to praise God. There was also a proposal to organize prayer circles around the sanctuary to undergird different ministry areas, aiming to connect congregation members with specific paths and foster a deeper sense of community and purpose.</p> <p>The elders then had a time of prayer asking for guidance and discernment in these discussions</p>
Multiplication: Next Steps	Discussion/ Decision	The elders discussed the process for evaluating a potential partner as a potential church planter, deciding to delegate this responsibility to a three-person group who will serve as extensions of the board to assess and provide recommendations. The mentors are tasked to vet and bring a recommendation at the end of the discernment process. The elders are delegating the discernment to them, but need to be intentional that the final decision resides at the broader elder board. The target would be to have them come to the September meeting before the retreat.
Time of Prayer	Decision	The elders prayed for the next steps regarding the elder mentoring of the potential multiplication partner.
Annual Elder Assessment / Feedback	Discussion/ Decision	The group also addressed administrative matters including annual elder assessments. The intent is to create an open door for feedback.
Summary of Actions	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyler to circle back on the details of the next congregational meeting content in the next elder meeting. • Tyler will send out an email with the form for the annual elder assessment. Due date is before the May meeting. • Tyler to follow up with Danielle to create QR code and associated questions for the May Congregational meeting.
Misc Business	Update	ABF meetings will start in the Fall and continue into the Spring. Avoid September due to business in that timing.

Next Elders' Meeting: May 5, 2026

LEFC