Elder Meeting Summary- June 9, 2026

Quick recap

The elder board meeting focused on discussing the recent congregational Q&A session, approving the AI policy, and making administrative decisions for the upcoming term. The board approved officers for the 2026-27 term with Tyler as chair, DJ as vice chair, Eric as treasurer, and Chip as secretary, with plans to transition chair responsibilities to DJ and secretary responsibilities to Darryl mid-year. They reviewed the results of the Sunday Q&A session where about 50 people attended, discussing questions about church planting and multiplication efforts in various communities. The board approved the final draft of the AI policy to guide responsible use of artificial intelligence tools within the church. They also addressed staffing pairings between elders and staff members, discussed the need for volunteers at upcoming events including a baptism and Imago Dei class send-off, and approved continuing to allow designated giving to support Aurora Primary School in South Africa through June 2027 as they transition from closed to sold status.

Summary

Elder Meeting Discussion Summary

The meeting began with a time of prayer led by Tyler, where participants shared personal and community prayer requests, including updates on health, funeral arrangements, and ongoing projects. The group approved the minutes from May 5th and May 19th elder meetings and affirmed the minutes on the recent congregational meeting. The group reviewed the questions received from the recent Q&A session. Key topics included reflections on the Q&A event's positive energy and questions about the church planting approach, clarifying that new locations would not be an "LEFC location", but rather have local autonomy. The conversation ended with discussions about prayer movements and the importance of involving elders in the process.

Prayer Gatherings Planning Discussion

They discussed the next steps for prayer gatherings, including creating an FAQ document that could be distributed to those who expressed interest. He emphasized that prayer would be the initial focus, with hosts simply praying and asking what God would have them do in the area. Dan mentioned potential collaboration with Keith and Sarah Evans on their discipleship model and discussed the need to equip people interested in church planting.

2026-27 Officer Selection Meeting

Tyler proposed new officers for the 2026-27 term, with Tyler Ranck as chair for another 6 months before transitioning to DJ Weaver, DJ as vice chair, Eric Wenger as treasurer, and Chip Mershon as secretary. The group discussed using AI and Matt's notes to make the secretary role more manageable, with Chip expressing willingness to cover the position with support from others and the potential of Darryl taking over mid-year. The board approved the proposed officers with a motion carried by the group.

Elder-Staff Pairing Initiative

Tyler outlined the purpose of the elder-staff pairing initiative, emphasizing that elders should focus on caring for staff members as individuals rather than trying to improve their leadership skills or imply supervision of their ministry. He clarified that any issues that are surfaced should be pointed to the staff conflict resolution process and handled directly. Tyler mentioned he would confirm the pairings in writing and seek input from Gary Hoover before finalizing the arrangements.

AI Policy Draft Approval

Tyler presented the third draft of the AI policy for approval, emphasizing the need for principle-based guidelines to ensure responsible AI use within the church. He highlighted concerns about relying on AI for theological interpretations and shared examples of how AI responses can vary based on user biases. The group discussed the importance of balancing AI utilization with caution, particularly for those less familiar with technology. The conversation ended with the motion to approve the AI policy final draft, which was unanimously supported.

Board Approval and Support Decisions

Tyler sought volunteers for two upcoming events: attending Sandy Morris's Imago Dei class send-off on June 21st and participating in baptisms on June 14th. The board discussed allowing financial support for Aurora Primary School in South Africa following its closure. In recognition of their years of service, LEFC will allow designated giving to continue during this transitional period of ministry in support of Aurora Primary School and/or Neville & Veronica Walker through June 30, 2027.

Decisions Made

- **Officer Elections:** Tyler Ranck as chair (6-month term), DJ as vice chair, Eric as treasurer, and Chip as secretary (with transition plan to Darryl mid-year)
- **AI Policy:** Approved third draft establishing principles that AI cannot replace Holy Spirit-led interpretation of Scripture and setting guardrails for church technology use
- **Aurora Primary School:** Authorized receiving designated gifts through June 30, 2027 for Neville and Veronica Walker in recognition of their years of service
- **Staff-Elder Pairings:** Affirmed pairings and discussed purpose
- **Meeting Minutes Process:** Approved using AI transcription combined with Matt's notes, with secretary role focused on review and affirmation rather than live note-taking.

Multiplication Initiative Progress

- **Q&A Session Attendance:** Approximately 50 people attended Sunday's session (27 non-staff/elder participants), showing strong interest with questions focused on "how" rather than "whether" to proceed
- **Geographic Interest:** Sign-ups showed Landisville (8), Cornwall (6), and Adamstown (8) with notable interest from new attendees specifically because their town was mentioned
- **Key Clarification Needed:** A question to Eric revealed there is some confusion about multi-site model, gave opportunity to clarify we are planting independent congregations, not LEFC satellite campuses
- **Prayer Gatherings:** Tony and Ross securing home locations and dates for July launch in all three target areas; these will be primary prayer-focused gatherings
- **Next Steps:** FAQ document combining Plumblines content and common questions to be developed mid-summer; another Q&A session could be an option when we have additional information to share and to give opportunity to those who couldn't come

Action Items

- **Tony/Ross:** Finalize prayer gathering locations and dates for July launch; communicate schedule to interested participants
- **Tyler/Kurt:** Develop FAQ document combining plumblines content and common questions from Q&A session for mid-summer distribution
- **Tyler:** Confirm staff-elder pairings in writing after checking with Gary Hoover; send final list to board

- **Tyler:** As we plan for the future, we are open for suggestions from the group on who could serve as elder chair in the future.
- **Phil:** Handle baptism this Sunday (two candidates); pray with them beforehand and present certificates after service
- **Darryl/Gary?:** Attend Imago Dei summer send-off June 21st at 11am second service; pray with families and class
- **Tyler/Chip/Darryl/Matt:** Implement AI transcription for meeting minutes; test three AI services simultaneously to determine best option