Elder Meeting Public Summary

October 1–3, 2026

Over the retreat, the elders discussed church multiplication, leadership and governance, and preparations for the upcoming congregational meeting. The sessions combined prayer and relationship-building with strategic planning and practical next steps.

Session 1 | Sharing and Prayer

Elders shared personal updates and prayed together, making space to strengthen relationships and support one another in ministry.

Session 2 | Multiplication

- The board reviewed its multiplication framework and discussed how to prepare leaders to be sent through several pathways, including church planting and ministry residency. The group affirmed a flexible discernment sequence: explore a location, identify a planter, and develop an elder team, while recognizing that potential leaders may emerge early in the process.
- Prayer groups are active in several communities. Elders emphasized listening to local people, building relationships, and discerning where a church presence could serve. The board also discussed seeking guidance from the EFCA district on the roadmap, documents, and steps a future church plant will need.
- Staff will lead the formal planter hiring process, with elders contributing to early discernment and the selection process. The board also discussed clarifying staff and elder responsibilities, strengthening staff and congregational communication, and updating church position papers so expectations for future plants are clear while allowing appropriate local flexibility.

Session 3 | Pastor, Elder, and Non-Sitting Elder

The elders agreed that current terminology for sitting/non-sitting elder roles are more unclear as the church grows and discussed how current position titles need to be reviewed. A task force will consider clearer definitions and possible terminology changes within the broader bylaws review.

Session 4 | Congregational Meeting

The board approved the general agenda for the upcoming congregational meeting. Planned topics include a Project 2:42 financial wrap-up, updates on prayer, teaching, multiplication, and Southeast Asia, and an initial introduction to the residency program. Preparation will continue, including finalizing the meeting flow and sharing a video update on the new space.