

LEFC Elder Meeting

August 20, 2024 Summary

Location: Scheuerman's Home

Time: 7:00 PM

Elders Present: Ed Scheuerman, DJ Weaver, Tony Hunt, Joel Lingenfelter, Gary Hoover, Dave Cox, Chip Mershon, Tyler Ranck, Matt Sowada, Corey Mitchell, Eric Wenger, Tom Daly, Phil True

Guest: Don Graham, Bruce Miller, Gary Christman, Jeff Travis

Elders Absent:

Scripture Reading- Matt Sowada read from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Prayer- Elders spent time in prayer for one another and the body. (Public)

Approval of Minutes

- 7/22 Elder Minutes
 - o **Approval** without objection

Immanuel Update

- Update on leadership transition and 8/25 service plans
- Many Immanuel congregants shared they deeply appreciated the ministry of Tyler Morris
- Elder installation – Went well and Immanuel elders made comment how the Lord provided even though they didn't know what it would look like, but trusted God to provide, and now that time has come. They were grateful for the Lord's provision.
- Elders discussed details of installing Gary Christman at Immanuel Evangelical Free Church. Tyler Ranck will lead the installation of Gary Christman, Ed Scheuerman, Joel Lingenfelter, and Tom Daly will represent LEFC and Elders
 - o Prayer commissioning by Bruce Miller and Don Graham
- Immanuel is still in need of an associate pastor. We are trusting the Lord will provide. The search continues and candidates will go through Gary Christman.
- Elders spent time laying on of hands in a prayer of blessing for our sent leaders – Bruce Miller, Don Graham, and Gary Christman.

Discussion on Membership

- Jeff Travis – observations as Connections Pastor shared observations from his past few years as Connections Pastor, specifically in regards to Membership at LEFC. In his observation, research, and study Jeff recommended the elders consider the joy of membership by reviewing the membership commitment, membership class, new member interviews by the elders, and the requirements for roles of leadership/serving at LEFC in regards to membership.
- How do we encourage membership and place more value on it? Why is membership important?
 - o What we could aspire to: Membership holds significant weight for Eldering. How do we know who is in our flock and under our care? Those who submit themselves to our care.
 1. 1 Peter 5:1-4

2. Couched in the value and joy of being under the care and authority God has ordained through his elders.
 3. To our members - "You need the church and the church also needs you"
- Membership is encouraged horizontal relationship with a commitment to one another
 - Elders being responsible for, not that we have to care for everyone but to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Therefore, those who have hands on care may be staff, LifeGroup leaders, ABF leaders, and other leaders.
 - Teacher pathways (teach in an ABF) following suit with Rising Leader program. This is where shepherding and guarding the gates with membership is pivotal.
 1. We want to hold a firm stand of our Statement of Faith and Matters of Faith and Practice.
- What areas of the membership commitment and class and visits may need updated to be aligned with our current terminology and approach to ministry?
 - Forming a Membership Task Force to consider the following:
 - Membership Commitment to Membership Covenant
 - Re-write of the Membership Commitment and include LEFC language of intentionality reflecting our mission and deeper marks.
 - Membership Class
 - Elder Interview for Membership
 - Discussed responsibility on presentation on how Membership is presented at the Congregational Gatherings.
 - Need to consider what is the broader question of what is Membership and why?
 - Desire to make membership more inviting but show it's meaningfulness
 - Our language shouldn't outpace our intentionality and the words we are actually saying. Meaning, we (in leadership) must know the depth of this engagement.
 1. Specifically it was mentioned, younger generation needs to have authenticity. No matter where the bar is set, it must be true.
 - Are there more intentional things we can do as elders?
 - Membership isn't in scripture, what's our answer? We must have the answer to why we do this biblically?
 - Create a matrix for the staff to help direct and care for the flock by identifying leaders (i.e who is able to teach)
 - **Tony Hunt:** Motion to commission a task force co-led by Jeff Travis and Tom Daly to review existing membership processes at LEFC and bring a proposal of any recommended changes to the board.
 1. **Chip Mershon:** second
 2. **Approved without objection**
 3. Discussion on the definitions of commitment and covenant and the connotation of each.

Project updates

- FTV Team Update – Tony Hunt
 - Well led by the Kellers and Eric and Kristin Wenger. Elders and staff meeting with individuals as we seek as a church for the leaders to go first in discerning where God is leading them to give. No ask of a specific dollar amount will be put on any individual, simply to ask God how He desires individuals to give financially and in prayer for this project.

- BAC Team Update and Parking – Joel Lingenfelter
 - o Conservation district will sign off once BR Kreider can begin and Warwick Township waiting for a credit performance letter of approval.
 - o **Joel Lingenfelter:** Motioned an approval to proceed with phase 1 of the parking project, and to secure a letter of credit/performance bond from CIF as required by Warwick Township.
 1. **DJ Weaver:** second
 2. **Approved without objection**

Misc. Items

- Volunteer for 2 baptisms on September 8th:
 - o Ed Scheuerman volunteered
- Approve Gary Christman housing allowance
 - o **Dave Cox:** Motioned for LEFC to license Gary Christman as a minister of the Gospel and claim a portion of his housing.
 1. **Tom Daly:** Second
 2. **Approved without objection**
 - o **Eric Wenger:** Motioned to designate a portion Gary's salary as housing allowance for remainder of 2024 from August 4 – December 31.
 1. **Chip Mershon:** Second
 2. **Approved without objection**
 - o **DJ Weaver:** Motioned to update signers on Immanuel's main bank account.
 1. **Chip Mershon:** Second
 2. **Approved without objection**
- Reminder: Elder retreat Oct. 3-5

Prayer - Meeting ended in prayer.