

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Lancaster Evangelical Free Church

Sunday, November 11, 2018, at 6:00pm

Meeting Location: LEFC

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The meeting was preceded by a fund-raising meal provided by Crossover for the benefit of the youth ministry's camp scholarship fund, which has been renamed the Skip Axe Memorial Fund. Also, Jeff Travis announced that Sports World will not be hosted at LEFC in the summer of 2019, but a group from senior high will be traveling to Costa Rica to help lead a sports camp there.

Corey Mitchell, Elder Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened in prayer.

**Minutes** – The minutes from the May 20, 2018 Congregational meeting were approved as submitted without objection.

**Confirmation of New Members** – presented by elder Scott Galen

The following people were approved into membership:

Aimee Bohner, Maggie Estes, Todd & Natasha Himes, Kathleen Keeney-Fethkenher, Brent & Jen Minder, Doug & Leslie Morrissey, Moon & Kara Phongxaysanith, Amanda Sauder, Becky White, Lee & Janice Witmer, and Bob Zook  
*All candidates were approved by a voice vote.*

**Financial Update** - presented by elder/treasurer Eric Wenger

- The General Fund giving for the 12-month fiscal year ending on June 30, 2018, showed an increase in giving of 10.2% versus the prior 12-month period.
- For that fiscal year, the total giving to LEFC exceeded expenses by \$203,532, which has helped to create a healthy cash reserve of approximately 15% of our annual budget.
- LEFC has no debt at this time!
- Our current fiscal year budget is \$2,500,000. This budget includes \$115,000 toward "capital reserve" which can be used for capital improvements and to save for future mortgage payments.
- All of this is good news for LEFC as we are headed into a building project!

**Congregational Resolution for Loan** – presented by Eric Wenger and Corey Mitchell

-Christian Investors Financial (CIF) is the financial services arm of the Evangelical Free Church of America. They have been our consultants for the Creating Space/Expecting Harvest capital campaign, and they will also be our lender for the project's financing. We chose CIF because they offered to lock us in with an unbeatable starting interest rate and no loan closing fees, plus we appreciate that the interest we pay will end up being invested into other churches in our denomination.

CIF requires the membership of LEFC to approve a resolution authorizing LEFC to borrow from CIF. The terms of the resolution include the debt limit and the purpose of the loan, both of which were already approved (95.4% ballot vote) in our special congregational meeting held on January 7, 2018. This resolution is merely a formality for the official paperwork for CIF, but it is not changing any terms from what was already approved by membership in January.

*The language of the January 7 proposal was: The LEFC Board of Elders recommends the membership approve building an auditorium, welcome center and classroom addition, an office addition, and renovations to the existing building with an overall project budget of \$12,500,000. The project will be in keeping with the revised master plan affirmed by the membership at the May 2017 congregational meeting while meeting the project budget constraint. Further, the Elders recommend the membership approve a minimum of \$3,000,000 be received as cash in hand towards the project before plans are made to break ground on construction. Finally, the Elders recommend the membership approve borrowing of up to \$8,500,000 to complete construction of the project and cover loan payments prior to the completion of the capital campaign at the end of 2020.*

**Proposal: The LEFC Board of Elders recommends the membership approve the resolution authorizing LEFC to borrow up to \$8,500,000 from Christian Investors Financial at a starting interest rate not to exceed 4.25% for the project approved at the January 7, 2018, special meeting.**

*The resolution was approved without objection by a voice vote.*

Corey commented how God has positioned us for what is ahead and has blessed us with minimal leadership transition during this season of preparation.

Without objection, the business portion of the agenda was closed.

**Missions Strategic Direction** – presented by Nicholas Todd and Tony Hunt

- Nick rearticulated the vision and strategic direction for the region of the world that LEFC's mission efforts will be focused on; It is our primary, but not exclusive priority, and an area where many of our current missionaries are already currently placed or supporting domestically
- There will be a 3-day missionary summit in Singapore in October 2019, where all our missionaries from that region will meet with some of our staff for a time of spiritual investment and worship, along with a time of collaborating on how we can strategically reach that area of the world with the gospel
- Tony shared how God helped us arrive at this conclusion through much prayer and he believes that this is an exciting opportunity to be involved in the "final frontier" of unreached people

**Vision Update** – presented by Tony Hunt

- Tony rearticulated the mission of LEFC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ; to Love God, Love People, Live Truth, and Proclaim Jesus. "Oikos" refers to our relational worlds where we pour into the lives of others, and sow seeds of the gospel even though we don't know if we will see the harvest ourselves. Tony shared from his experience of coaching baseball for years, where it wasn't until recently that he began to see some fruit from the time he invested in his players.

**Creating Space, Expecting Harvest Update** – presented by Tony Hunt and Joel Lingenfelter

- We have received new/additional pledges of \$181,000
- The new total amount committed for the project is \$5,200,000 (Cash Received + Unreceived Pledges)
- We are anticipating the final Township approvals sometime in December
- We anticipate receiving the \$3M cash around the end of this year, and breaking ground early in 2019
- We hope to move one of the ABF modulars across the parking lot to be utilized during construction
- We anticipate moving the LEFC offices to the missions house in January
- The last two years have been an exciting journey and we are excited for what God has in store for LEFC

The meeting was closed in prayer by Corey Mitchell. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tyler Ranck, Elder Secretary