

9.8.26 ELDER MEETING — SUMMARY

Date: [not recorded in source minutes]

Attendance

Present: Eric Vande Zande, Tim Franklin, Matt McCartney, John Anderson, Micheal Simmerman

Absent: Aaron Will (traveling home from Kentucky; prayed over for safety)

Meeting opened in prayer.

Votes & Decisions

Item	Decision	Vote	Follow-Up
Travel Reimbursement	Up to \$100/month for ministry-related travel for full-time staff, at the current federal mileage rate; excludes home-to-office commuting.	Unanimous	Micheal Simmerman to inform Dave Allard & Jane; flag possible taxability.
Counseling Reimbursement	Up to \$125/month for full-time staff, Sept 1–Dec; receipt required. Policy formally effective Dec 1.	Unanimous	Simmerman/David Allard to set up budget line; Jane to document policy.
Membership	Approved Kristina Kierksek for membership.	Unanimous	Packets placed in John Anderson's box.

Discussion Items

- Missions team came in and discussed:
 - Future relationship/structure with light of the gospel church in Ukraine. Biggest issues currently were lack of financial transparency, lack of connection with church leaders and updates of activities, and having such a large percentage of the missions budget taken up on 1 partner.
 - Next steps: missions team will put a proposal together for resolving/changing partnership relationship moving forward and get back to the elders by budget submission deadline.
 - Also discussed new budget items for 2027 budget, and Oak Forest Center director coming for a lunch visit on 9/20/26.
- Church Discipline Situation: Elders discussed current status of strained marriage, plan to split up and meet with each spouse to determine what they see as best plan and steps moving forward.
 - Spent time in prayer for this afterwards.
- Welcome Team/Assimilation:
 - Security cameras discussed: Tim will talk to team member about passing on camera info to staff for use in building and possible training as well.
 - Welcome desk help: elders will reach out to Julie Rethemeier (coordinator) individually if they can jump in
 - Membership applications approved (see above)
- Master Plan of Evangelism was not discussed – tabled for next time.
- EST update: Update given
 - Two applications have been submitted
 - Two are still thinking of submitting.