Steve,

I understand you are upset about the decision to go with Nathan as Youth Minister. My guess is that you are more disappointed with the selection process than the result, but you will need to correct me on that.

As a parent I have a vested interest in the Youth Group and can understand your concern for the direction and leadership of this ministry. Cora benefitted from the guidance of Michael Parks and Neva was blessed with Michalie. My prayer, my hope, is that David can connect with Nathan and others in the Youth Group to help guide him during these critical adolescent years.

My preference was Wesley (but I was 60-Wesley/40-Nathan) but I believe Nathan has many qualities that can be developed. I was comfortable with the selection of Nathan with the understanding that he would be under the guidance of Jeremy Picker for the next 6 to 12 months and will continue to be mentored by Jeremy and Steve Awtrey thereafter.

The selection of a youth minister may have been done out of ignorance (although I don’t believe this to be the case), but it was certainly not done for expediency or lack of concern.

Your family has been a blessing. I value your thoughts and input and appreciate the positive influence your children have been to mine. My prayer is that you can find a future with the McKnight family.

Perhaps this letter comes too late but know that I welcome your thoughts. Peace to you, Steve, in whatever you decide.

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