

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

January 28, 2025

6pm – 8pm

Attendees: Steve Walker (chair), Don Fitzgerald, Brad Stevens, Bret Blackford, Dave Weiler, Steve Awtry, Jeff McGlawn (visit), Ross Brown (visit)

1. People

{{ various }}

2. Lead Minister (LM) Candidates – summary document [here](#)

- **Jeremy Marshall** (completed Zoom 1/17/2025) – decided to pass on further interviews
- **John Blackmore** (completed Zoom 1/22/2025) – will move to 2nd interview. However, it was discussed that John would only be a good interim minister. John is not what MX is looking for long-term but seems to have skills that will help MX until we find a full-time long-term minister. It was also mentioned that John could also be helpful as a contracted part-time minister.
- **Chris Jackson** (upcoming Zoom 1/30/2025) – we need to understand what Chris considers foundational faith beliefs. Some of his background appears to be ecumenical and possibly not in-line with our faith tradition.
- **David Mahfood** (interviewed earlier) – we need to communicate to Matthew Bardowell why we feel David is not a good fit. Wording similar to “*David’s strengths didn’t seem to match our needs.*”

LM Website/Flyer – Jeff McGlawn and Steve Walker to work on this, using the Children’s Minister website/flyer as a template.

3. Children’s and Family Minister

Sibert has been very helpful and has passed along some candidates for review:

1. Hannah Sullivan – received her resume and scheduling a Zoom interview. [Resume](#)
2. Jenna Looney – waiting on her resume (she is a recent graduate)

4. Finances (Dave Weiler to provide final documents soon)

- 2024 Financials - [link](#)
- 2025 Budget - [link](#)

5. Collection Process

To streamline the Sunday service and minimize confusion and some awkwardness passing the collection plates, it is recommended to stop passing the collection. Instead, it is recommended that we announce during service that the children can come forward and put their contribution in the box and that anyone else who does not contribute on-line can put their contribution (and any prayer requests) in the box at the back of the auditorium. It was decided that the contribution box in the foyer should be painted in a non-subtle way to make sure it can easily be found.

After implementation we will continue to monitor the new process and adapt as needed.

I recommend we start the new collection process early in February 2025, as soon as the collection box can be made more visible.

Passing Communion – after we start the new collection process outlined above, the plan is to only pass trays for the communion once. We will pass out the bread and juice cups and will not later pass out trays to pick them up. Instead, Don Fitzgerald and Steve Awtry will drill cup holes in the pew cadies to hold the used communion items ([example template](#)). These will be picked up after service.

6. Old Business

- a. Leadership Development – Steve Walker working on some ideas in this area. Ross Brown would like to have more intentional mentorship and discipleship of those individuals who seem to have leadership potential.

As discussed in 12.02.2024 meeting, we should be encouraging and praying for those in the congregation who have leadership potential. This does not mean that they should be asked to join elder meetings or to lead out in a ministry, but that we have a vision for these men (and women) and want to encourage and mentor them in their spiritual growth as leaders. Some prior information on SALT (Serving And Leading Together) [here](#).

Here is a list (per Bret):

- Matthew Bardowell
- Cas Grimshaw
- Jason Vincent
- Greg Walton
- Leon Sewkarran
- others ???

Note that Leadership Development was something Jeff Kryder thought he would assist with post-retirement.

- b. Benevolence (follow-up from Jason Vincent's [email](#))
We need to communicate to the congregation that part of the collection is used for benevolence. That the church uses part of the contribution to help those in our church and in our community.
- c. MX Elder Retreat
Considering keeping the agenda items short, possibly the following:
- i. Gender Identity – MX position on LGBTQ
 - ii. Elder Qualifications – revisit divorce. Prior study info [here](#) and discussed at 5.4.2021 mtg [here](#).
- d. Update Document on Women's Roles
The original 2014 document ([here](#)) needs to better reflect the current culture and worship at McKnight. Someone should take the lead on updating this document to make it more applicable to the current worship at McKnight. A Word document is available [here](#) that can be used to draft an updated version.
- e. Food Pantry
With Barb Eickele stepping down in Q1 2025 Steve Walker is working on interim leadership and revisiting pantry processes. Possibly Ben Mehringer and Alan Kaelble taking on interim leadership roles.
- f. Eric McPherson Letter – on-line [here](#).
- Preaching Rotation – possibly have Eric McPherson, Jeff Kryder, Matthew Bardowell rotate each month and fill in extra weeks with other individuals.
 - Sermon Series/Topics – possibly have Jeff Kryder, Steve Awtrey, others develop sermon topics to be presented to the elders for discussion and approval.
- g. Elder Hospitality
Draft document [here](#). We do not need to wait to get a formal program developed and can begin to model hospitality now. As elders we should be welcoming people into our homes or finding ways to meet with others in restaurants, etc.

h. What do we Believe?

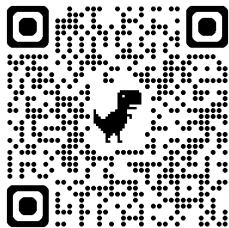
This draft document – [What Do We Believe](#) (for elders only and not to be published) - is Bret’s attempt to document key decisions made over the years in various elder meetings as well as from several key documents, such as the [MX Welcome Packet](#), [MX Core Beliefs](#), [MX 2014 Gender Study](#), and other items on the MX website (<https://www.mxchurch.org/>).

This draft document categorizes beliefs into essential and non-essential practices, and highlighted the need for clarity on these beliefs as the congregation considers hiring a new minister. The discussion included various topics such as women's roles in ministry and the interpretation of scriptural qualifications for elders.

* Note: the document on “[What do we believe](#)” is draft and only for the elders and is not intended to be shared publicly.

7. Leadership Conference

Saturday, February 8 conference at McKnight for area-wide elders, ministers, prospective leaders and spouses. Weekend will be led by [Dr. Jim Martin](#). Cost is \$15 each and registration deadline is Saturday, February 1. Flyer [here](#). Register with this [link](#) or scan the QR code below –



8. Open Discussion

Sunday Classes. Jeff McGlawn shared some thoughts on upcoming classes.

Ephesians – after we finish Galatians the thought is to role into Ephesians. This will be taught by Bret Blackord.

Relational Conflict - Eric McPherson and Steve Awtrey will continue this class.

June 1 – Donut Sunday (between graduating kids and VBS)

Summer – Multi-Generational Class. Possibly Youth Group on up or 3rd grade on up.

Fall – Jeff Kryder to teach a class. Various different offerings possible.

Late 2025 or early 2026 – Financial Peace (or similar) – Dave Weiler to provide a class on finance management.

Note: It seems to work well to have two classes, one on a bible book and one on a practical topic (like relationships or finances)

9. Next Meeting – February 10, 2025

It would be good to have Nathan Strickland in attendance.

Misc. Documents:

1. Next Steps Class: MX Orientation – [link](#)
 2. 2024 Member Info: Births, Baptisms, etc. – [link](#)
 3. Raising Up Leaders: Flyer for Feb. 8 conference – [link](#)
 4. 01.29.2025 KIDMIN NEWS – [link](#)
 5. 01.29.2025 MX Bulletin – [link](#)
 6. Sr. Minister Search Summary document – [here](#)
 7. 2014 MX Gender Study: Women’s Role – [here](#)
 8. Communion Guidelines – [here](#)
 9. What Do We Believe? – [here](#)
 10. Betheline Outreach Center – [link](#)
 11. Qualification of an Elder: Study Documents – [here](#)
 12. What Are Elders supposed to Do? - [link](#)
 13. MX Shepherding Covenant – [link](#)
 14. MX Shepherding Model – [link](#)
 15. MX Core Beliefs – [link](#)
 16. MX Core Values – [link](#)
 17. Instrumental Music in Worship – [link](#)
 18. MX Welcome Packet (for new members) – [link](#)
 19. Elder Hospitality: draft document – [link](#)
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Hospitality:

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

1 Peter 4:9 (NIV)

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

Matthew 25:35 (NIV)

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Titus 1:8 (NIV) (Speaking of church leaders)

"Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined."

Luke 14:12-14 (NIV)

"Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"

3 John 1:5 (NIV)

"Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you."