**Below are three sections that ChatGPT helped me create after I fed in all the feedback received from the congregation.  Although we need to discuss tonight, I assume we will pass on John Blackmore and continue our search.**

* **§1 – feedback summary**
* **§2 – letter to congregation**
* **§3 – letter to John Blackmore**

**§1 – feedback summary**

**McKnight Crossings Church of Christ**  
**Senior Minister Candidate Feedback Summary**  
**Candidate: John Blackmore**  
**March 2025**

**Overview**

This document summarizes the feedback received from the McKnight Crossings congregation regarding John Blackmore’s candidacy for the lead minister position. Input was collected from verbal and written responses, email feedback, and a Google Forms survey.

**Strengths Noted:**

* **Biblically Sound and Knowledgeable:** Many respondents acknowledged John’s deep understanding of scripture and his ability to communicate biblical concepts effectively.
* **Personable and Approachable:** John and his wife, Laura, were generally well received as warm, friendly, and mission-minded individuals.
* **Strong Emphasis on Missions and Evangelism:** His passion for missions and outreach was evident and appreciated.
* **Good Public Speaker:** Many found his delivery engaging and energetic.

**Concerns Raised:**

1. **Length and Structure of Sermon:**
   * Several respondents found his sermon and class overly long, unfocused, and difficult to follow.
   * Concerns were raised that he did not adhere to time constraints, which some viewed as a lack of discipline or respect for the congregation’s schedule.
2. **Cultural Fit and Theological Alignment:**
   * Some questioned whether John fully aligned with McKnight’s stance on women’s roles in the church.
   * Concerns were expressed that his comments suggested a more conservative or traditional approach than McKnight currently embraces.
   * His remarks about “three generations away from a Christian nation” raised concerns about whether he adequately understands the complexities of cultural Christianity and social justice issues.
3. **Connection with the Congregation:**
   * While many found him personable, others noted that he did not seem to engage equally with all demographic groups in the church.
   * Some felt he did not sufficiently connect with younger members, which was a key goal for the new minister.
4. **Relevance of His Teaching Approach:**
   * While his messages were biblically sound, some found them lacking in depth or disconnected from the specific needs of the McKnight congregation.
   * His humor was noted as sometimes being flippant or potentially off-putting.
5. **Age and Longevity Concerns:**
   * A few respondents questioned whether John, given his age, would be a long-term solution or if another search would be necessary in a few years.

**Overall Impression:**

The feedback was mixed, with some members strongly supporting John and others expressing serious concerns. The primary reservations centered on his sermon style, cultural fit, and ability to connect with McKnight's diverse and multi-generational congregation. While John demonstrates strong biblical knowledge and a heart for missions, questions remain regarding whether he is the best fit for McKnight Crossings at this time.

**Next Steps:**

Given the divided responses, the elders may consider further discussions with John Blackmore to address key concerns. Additional interviews, a second visit, or a review of alternative candidates may also be warranted to ensure the best decision for the future of McKnight Crossings.

**§2 – letter to congregation**

**Announcement Regarding Our Minister Search**

Dear MX Family,

We want to thank you for your prayers, input, and thoughtful engagement throughout our search for a new preaching minister. As you know, we have been prayerfully considering John Blackmore as a candidate for this role, and we greatly appreciate his willingness to engage with our congregation and leadership team.

After much discussion, reflection, and prayer, we have decided that John is not the right fit for the preaching minister role at McKnight Crossings at this time. While we recognize his gifts and passion for ministry, we believe that our congregation's needs and vision require a different approach in certain key areas. This was not an easy decision, and we made it with the best interests of our church family in mind.

We are grateful for John’s time with us and ask that you join us in praying for his continued ministry wherever God leads him next. In the meantime, our search process will continue as we seek the person who will best serve and lead MX into the future. We remain committed to finding a minister who will faithfully preach the Word, nurture our community, and help us grow in faith together.

If you have any questions or concerns, we welcome your thoughts and invite you to speak with any of the elders. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we trust in God’s guidance in this important decision.

In Christ,

**[Names of Elders]**  
McKnight Crossings Church of Christ

**§3 – letter to John Blackmore**

**Subject:** Thank You & Next Steps

Dear John,

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your time, effort, and willingness to engage with McKnight Crossings throughout this process. It has been a privilege to get to know you better, to hear you preach, and to see your passion for the Lord and His church.

After much prayer, discussion, and discernment, we have reached the difficult decision that we will not be moving forward with you as our next preaching minister. This decision was not a reflection of your abilities, character, or commitment to ministry, but rather a matter of seeking the best possible fit for our congregation’s needs and vision at this time.

Please know that we greatly respect you and the gifts God has given you. We have no doubt that He will continue to use you in powerful ways to bless and build up His Kingdom. We will be praying for you as you seek where He is leading you next, and we hope to stay connected in Christian fellowship.

~~If you would like to talk further, we are happy to have that conversation~~. Again, thank you for your heart for ministry and for the time you have invested in getting to know our congregation.

With gratitude and prayers,  
**[Names of Elders]**  
McKnight Crossings Church of Christ