Stephen Walker

To:  me, and 1 other · Mon, Jun 9 at 2:29 PM

**Message Body**

Hello All

Since there has been an invitation extended to the Kaelble’s and a meeting scheduled for 6/25 to discuss Unity in Diversity, rather than canceling the meeting, can the Elders on hand this evening set a basic framework for the ministry? That would allow me to continue the conversation with them.

Here is a basic framework I recommended earlier. **The Framework: Identifying the circumstances that caused division and how do we build bridges** **to have meaningful conversations.**There may be a better way to construct the framework, but conceptually we should strongly consider giving freedom to ministry leaders that may be better equipped to lead a particular ministry than the Elders. Although we may elect to extend a certain level of freedom, we can still monitor the approach and impact on the congregation.

Since the Kaelble’s are ready to discuss the ministry, it would seem like a missed opportunity to stall the conversation now and restart it in two months or whenever we get around to discussing ministries. It may also send an unintended message that we are not committed to that particular ministry which may or may not be the case.

Obviously, if a decision was made not to continue the Unity In Diversity ministry, that would be unfortunate because Diversity is one of our values. Betty said something yesterday during bible study. I may unintentionally misquote her. I’ll do my best to paraphrase what I heard,  **Words that at one time were not politically lighting rods that have become that way, we tend to stay clear of them. Even though the word and its meaning, is conceptually a good thing.”**

If tonight’s agenda is too packed, we can wait until our 6/16 meeting if necessary. Please let me know so that I can communicate with the Kaelble’s.

Thanks

Steve Walker

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 8, 2025, at 6:58 AM, M Bret Blackford <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com> wrote:

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Dave,

Thanks for putting together the draft agenda.

I’d like to request about **five minutes** to discuss our approach to MX ministries. Specifically, I want to recommend that we **pause the launch or re-launch of any ministries**—including *Unity in Diversity*—until we’ve had a chance to:

1. Clearly define the **goal and purpose** of the ministry, and
2. Confirm it aligns with our **current priorities and vision**.

In short, I believe we should prioritize clarity and intentionality over simply moving forward because something was previously in motion.

I’d also like **one minute** to briefly review the lineup of **upcoming MX Sunday classes**:

* **Summer**: Multi-generational class (teens and up)
* **Fall**:
  + *Romans* – Don Fitz
  + *Finance* – Dave Weiler
* **Winter/Spring**:
  + *Becoming the Gospel* – Jeff Fogarty
  + *Personality Types (Enneagram)* – Eric McPherson

Lastly, I’d like to suggest the following items for a **future agenda**—not necessarily for this week, but worth discussing soon:

1. **Jeff McGlawn** – Are we ready to consider his potential as an elder? If so, when and how should we approach him? (Note: I have not included Jeff McGlawn on this email.)
2. **Elder Candidates** – Should we consider inviting *Jeff Kryder* and *Eric McPherson* to sit in on upcoming meetings as potential elder candidates?
3. **Pastoral Ministry Interim Lead** – I believe *Jeff Kryder* could be a strong candidate to lead the Pastoral Ministry on an interim basis. Worth some discussion.

Thanks for considering these additions.

— Bret

On Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 08:56:51 PM CDT, dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com <dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com> wrote:

Hello All:

I thought I would send out a recap of the sequence of events that has formed for us and provide a draft agenda for Monday night.

Sat 6/7 from 6-8pm Ministry Leaders are meeting with Andrew and Lydia Owens.

Sun 6/8 Andrew preaches Sermon, teaches class, and attends reception with his family after church.

(Note that Devin and Carly Daniel will be in attendance, as they are helping at Neotez this week.)

Sun 6/8 at 2:30 we have a second Zoom interview with Devin Daniel.  The link was sent in a previous email by Steve Walker.

(I will participate early but will be en route to the Battlehawks game around 3 - Go Hawks!.  At that point I will just stay on to listen.)

Monday 6/9 at 6pm we will have our elders meeting at MX.  Steve Walker won't be available (Go Cards!).  Steve Awtrey probably won't be either (Go Grandpa!).

Please email/share any thoughts you have about the agenda items below if you won't make it.

(Nathan will be on a middle school mission trip, so he won't be available either.)

Here is the agenda so far:

1) Devotional thought (Dave)

2) People updates;  Prayer after (Bret)

 3) Review of Andrew Owns interview weekend.  Do we need any more info such as references?  We will give church body one week for feedback?

**>**   The feedback form can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yn7tvxsj>.

 4) Review of Devin Daniel's two Zoom interviews.  Do we invite him for interview weekend 6/14-15?

 5) Recap of VBS / Children's Ministry update / travel plans  (Jeff)

 6) Admin Elders recommend delaying hire of Children/Family minister until after Lead Minister is hired because of status of MX contributions.

 7) Pastoral Ministry leader needed.

 8) Connect Group Ministry leader needed.

 9) If time permits:  Review of LGBTQ+ situational questions distributed during elder's retreat on 5/10.

 10) Closing Prayer (Brad)

Next Elder's meeting is Monday 6/16 at 6pm at MX.

ReplyReply allForward

Hi Steve W. et al,

I agree that the elders should revisit the various ministries to determine whether they should remain active. For those ministries we believe are still needed and aligned with our priorities, we should clearly define the mission and goals — and ensure we’re prepared to support both the work and the people leading it.

I would include *Unity in Diversity* in that group. My recommendation is that we pause on launching or re-launching any ministries, including *Unity in Diversity*, until the elders have had a chance to discuss goals, desired outcomes, and how these efforts fit into our broader vision. I’m encouraged that the Kaelbles are considering involvement, but I think we should let them know that everything is pending until we've done some intentional direction setting — ideally in partnership with our new minister.

I truly believe launching or continuing any ministry without elder clarity and support could unintentionally cause more confusion than benefit. A thoughtful, unified approach will help ensure that our ministries truly add value and reflect the direction we want to lead McKnight.

Starting fresh with a new minister might also provide a natural opportunity to roll out those ministries we feel strongly about.

— Bret

On Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 12:26:15 PM CDT, Stephen Walker <srainey6@yahoo.com> wrote:

Bret

The Unity in Diversity ministry has been and will likely continue to be an organic ministry. It has been a ministry that provides opportunities to educate. Those who are interested in learning participate.

The goal: What are the circumstances that caused division and how do we build bridges.

 The strategy has been understanding the historical perspective by using educational tools. Working through the information together and sharing  experiences while trying to understand the circumstances that brought us to this point in time. There has also been an effort to try to understand are there still things that are happening to cause division. Beyond the educational component, what if anything is the role of the individual to make a difference?  That’s a very personal decision and it’s different for each person.

The leaders have some latitude on what to discuss. Their approach is based on what the group needs to take next steps.

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 5, 2025, at 11:20 AM, M Bret Blackford <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com> wrote:

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And do we have a description of what that is?

On Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 11:15:22 AM CDT, Steve Walker <swalker@mcknightcrossings.org> wrote:

The Kaelble’s are going to spend some time praying about leading the Unity in Diversity ministry.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** suzanne.kaelble@gmail.com  
**Date:** June 5, 2025 at 10:32:03 AM CDT  
**To:** Steve Walker <swalker@mcknightcrossings.org>, Alan & Suzanne Kaelble <akaelble@charter.net>  
**Subject:** **RE: Unity in Diversity**

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Hi Steve,

Thank you for thinking of Alan and me in this role. Yes, Unity in Diversity is an important part of McKnight. We are going to pray and think about it and get back to you.

Because God loves us all,

Suzanne and Alan Kaelble

**From:** Steve Walker <swalker@mcknightcrossings.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 6:37 PM  
**To:** Alan & Suzanne Kaelble <akaelble@charter.net>; Suzanne K <suzanne.kaelble@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Unity in Diversity

Hello Suzanne and Alan

We have been evaluating some of the different ministries and Unity in Diversity was one of the ministries up for discussion.

I’m reaching out to ask if you two have any interest in leading the ministry for a short time? It’s probably fair to define “short time”, about a year.

There’s a lot I can say about why it’s a worthwhile ministry; I think you two would agree about the value of the work of Unity in Diversity. However, I understand that timing and stage of life is an important determination of what new things we decide to do.

I don’t want you to feel pressured but want to ask if you feel a calling to keep this ministry active at McKnight?

Thank you two for all that you do to make McKnight a welcoming community.

Steve Walker