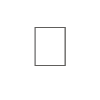
**Transcript**

November 25, 2024, 12:07AM

 **Blackford, Bret B.** started transcription

 **Walker** 0:04  
I.  
I.  
I don't know if it was him trying to.  
Say or him really feel like he had to control the narrative most of the time, but it it looked it, it just looked awkward.  
You know how they were.  
I was grabbing the microphone.  
I was speaking and interjecting and not really giving her a chance to have a voice a lot of times and so.  
And then.  
When I met them on Friday.  
I was having a conversation with Evan and Logan and just let them know that, hey, Dad, they're kind of forewarning.  
You guys love cheese pizza, so we have plenty of cheese pizza for you there on Friday.  
And then I said, what kind of soft drinks y'all like? And Logan says Sprite.  
I said, oh, don't have that, but we'll make sure we have Sprite.  
And.  
John he he told the story a little differently and I'm not sure if it was he got confused with something, but he said, hey, Steven and Logan became great friends.  
Steve came over and he bought them an apple fritter.  
I I never bought them an apple fritter, you know.  
And he told this story a couple of times, and maybe he just, you know.  
You know the details of all the events.  
Maybe they overlapped form a couple times?  
So so to my my impression of John, I'd like him a lot.  
And I thought he had some strengths, you know? But I I just have those things out there that I just mentioned to you guys. And so I guess I'll just open up floor up to see Dave. I'll get if you don't mind going next just in case you.  
Have to break away and give your thoughts on.

 **David W. Weiler** 1:44  
Yeah, I I felt like John did a fine job.  
Seemed very comfortable teaching and preaching.  
Lots of folks talked to him.  
I enjoyed the QA sessions.  
I did not have any red flags or anything.  
And so I'm I think we have two good candidates and which one is the best for our path forward, you know, assuming relatively equal input from the congregation, that's kind of where I'm at.  
One is going to chart the path and a little bit like when we were looking at youth ministers. I feel like John is maintenance.  
He could come in and do the job, hold things together, is more ready.  
But Jason has kind of the IT factor upside.  
Will grow into the job.  
Has lots of positives and I think when we were looking at our two youth ministry candidates, Nathan was the one with less direct experience.  
But the right heart and all of that upside and versus the other candidate who was also solid.  
So I kind of feel like we're in the same boat.  
I'm. I'm. I'll describe my feelings as the same way.  
I did have.  
Positive feedback from a few people you know Betty Vaughn.  
Really liked John a lot.  
And she really liked Jason a lot, too, so got positive there.  
I I didn't get any negative from anybody.  
Other than, well, I guess I did from Brian Hill, not really negative. He just felt like.  
John can keep it in the ruts and keep it going.  
He knows the Church of Christ Old School routine, and I thought that was an interesting word.  
Picture where you know he's gonna maintain. But getting outside of that rut might not be his Forte.  
So anyway, I I could see where he was coming from with that and.  
Certainly my thoughts at this stage.  
Definitely want to keep praying about it because I could see, you know, either one might end up being our conclusion at this point.

 **Walker** 4:04  
Who? Who else have some thoughts?

 **Bradford L. Stevens** 4:11  
Names down that there were several people that came to me and said, oh, I really like what we saw today. And they said, you know, we think that's our favorite between the two.  
And I think I emailed that stuff out.  
I hope it got to everybody.  
I I kinda agree with Dave that you know there's pluses and minuses and you know I'm kind of hoping that the Holy Spirit will point out to us what we should do here. And I think prayer and.  
It's definitely needed.  
I'm open.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 5:03  
Hey, Steve, can you hear us?

 **Steve** 5:04  
I can.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 5:05  
We can hear you great.

 **Walker** 5:06  
Hey, Steve.

 **Steve** 5:07  
And you can see me this time. Boy, it took a while that I couldn't.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 5:08  
Yes.

 **Walker** 5:09  
Hey.

 **Steve** 5:13  
I couldn't get it on my computer because it's too old.  
It wouldn't work and had to use Susan's. And I don't know all her passwords. So she had to come help.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 5:22  
Well, Steve, we're kind of going around the horn giving our feedbacks on on John, but before we get too far, I wanted to ask, you had said you were gonna try to call Jason and see if he was still open, if he was still a possibility.

 **Steve** 5:35  
Yes, and he does, he said.  
They're still interested.  
And I asked a little more.  
I went so and so is your wife. You know she up for coming and he said.  
We haven't gotten totally there yet.  
They're not talking seriously about it until they know that they would be offered a job.  
But, but they're still, you know, they're still a little hesitation on her part.  
But they're still moving forward.  
With the idea that she'd be up for.  
We're moving here.

 **David W. Weiler** 6:12  
Thank you for contacting them.  
I was thinking, you know, kinda just a weekly touch base, even if it's a. Hey, still praying for you e-mail, you know, but something weekly for both of these guys going forward seems healthy to me.

 **Steve** 6:20  
Yeah, yeah.

 **David W. Weiler** 6:24  
So thank you for doing that.

 **Steve** 6:26  
Yeah. Yeah, so.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 6:30  
I guess Steve, while we got you on, you got your feedback for John.

 **Walker** 6:31  
They see why you have the mic.

 **Steve** 6:34  
OK.  
So yeah, I wouldn't.  
I didn't have time to get on.  
I was out of my son's country doing honeysuckle today and got stuck on Manchester traffic. Oh why?  
And.  
I think for me, I think we have two good candidates.  
John is a more polished speaker, more traditional.  
I don't. I think his his thinking has been traditional 'cause. That's all he's been exposed to, but he wants to get out of that.  
System of legalism.  
So he's more polished and and he is, you know.  
More of what you would expect in a Church of Christ gathering.  
Very social, very engaging.  
And so and then I I you know, his teaching was great.  
So we're not comparing it, I'm just telling about him. Correct. Yeah. And.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 7:43  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 7:47  
So you know he's he fits a role of a preacher.  
And he's got experience as a a minister.  
One of my concerns is he the last two years he's worked from home and so being having a team.  
And and this is kind of the way it's been in ministry.  
I've seen this in youth ministry when.  
We've never had the spouse working.  
Actually, I don't think we've ever had it in at McKnight or mid county and.

 **Bradford L. Stevens** 8:24  
No, David, Bearden and Vicky were kind of a team.

 **Steve** 8:27  
Yeah, but she worked at the church.  
Is somebody working outside of the church?

 **Jeff** 8:33  
So Becky had already retired when Jeff started.

 **Steve** 8:37  
Becky has never worked.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 8:37  
Now.

 **Jeff** 8:37  
I thought she worked at a preschool.

 **Steve** 8:42  
Oh yeah, she did that.  
Yeah, a long time ago.  
Pretty long time ago.  
So. So that's kind of the reality of of when you've got both working, usually the minister has more flexibility.  
And so that's just kind of the and especially if you have younger children, that's just the way it it is more so now and and I know with four, five years ago that was the stress.  
A big stress for youth ministers because the elders were expecting them to be there and they had the the flexibility and they had to take care of their little children.  
So so so anyway.  
All that said, I think that is a reality, but it's a concern I have.  
Or just the fact he asked about it. And Dave, I think you answered it well and I think to be a team, you've got to be at the office some, especially if you're leading the team.  
And also talking with him, he looked at houses out in Baldwin, and I'm thinking, well, we have one guy that lived there.  
We wanted him to move in closer, so if if we chose him, I think we have the right to say we really want you to live closer in. But then to do that it costs more money.  
I think I think that's a reality.  
Umm.

 **Jeff** 10:05  
So one of the things about that just I'll throw out there 'cause I I had a conversation with them about that and the reason why they went out the ballroom wasn't necessarily to look at houses.  
There was a restaurant they were going out there and Ethan had told the boys about something else that was out there. So they had made their circle around town and that's where they ended up at. And it just happened to be involved when they were looking at the.  
House. But it was an intentional looking in Baldwin, it was more of intentional going to the restaurants that were out there and.

 **Steve** 10:28  
Yeah.  
OK.  
They were just these happen to be out there. OK, yeah, yeah.

 **Jeff** 10:37  
We have a lot of houses out there.

 **Steve** 10:39  
And I think if we got him, I think we would have.  
Him.  
Long term, I think they would like to be here long term. I think they would fit in well and it'd be a breath of fresh air for them being the system that we have.  
They're they're very likable.  
She's more introverted.  
We knew that.  
And she asked some good questions.  
What do you expect of me? And I think as as a church, I don't think we have those traditional expectations.  
At least that's been my experience at mid county, personally.  
That's it.  
Is my sound off?  
I haven't heard anybody.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 11:35  
We we hear you.

 **Walker** 11:37  
You're good.  
You good?

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 11:39  
Steve Walker, we can't hear you though.

 **Walker** 11:42  
Oh, OK. Can you hear me now? Gotcha.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 11:42  
There we go.  
We got you now, yeah.

 **Walker** 11:47  
Alright, Don, do you have some comments?

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 11:54  
I can't hear you.

 **Steve** 11:56  
I can hear you, Don.

 **Bradford L. Stevens** 11:58  
Your microphone's off.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 11:59  
There we go.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 12:02  
My comments are very similar.  
You know, I I really like John.  
I I think he he's a very good preacher teacher. I think he did a great job of I think holding interest and.  
Very relevant.  
Very. I mean, it wasn't.  
I don't.  
It wasn't just textbook, it was.  
I think it was him.  
I think he was.  
There's some sincerity and some personal.  
Revelations and just his life that that you know, he you could see.  
So I really like that I liked.  
His mannerisms. I think he would be.  
I think both candidates are very good. I think one's very.  
Little more pastoral, I think.  
Jason's a little more pastoral.  
I think John is a better is a better preacher.  
You know, I think he did a better job of that.  
I mean, I think both of them are going to have different gifts and different abilities. And but like I think somebody said earlier.  
I actually I feel very comfortable with either one of them, you know, moving forward, it's gonna be a hard decision. I think to to really parse that out and see.  
Like Brad said, I think it's good that we've got this time dedicated to some prayer and just listening and trusting that that God will guide us the right way. I think there's some differences in their particular family scenarios that, you know, will impact how it plays out.  
But.  
I really liked him.  
I didn't any real negative feedback although.  
I I similar what you said.  
Steve Walker. I talked to Gwen and I think she had sort of the same things that you mentioned about I I didn't.  
I didn't feel like he dismissed Katie or anything like that at all.  
I didn't.  
I didn't sense that.  
Actually, it felt pretty good about how they interacted and how they treated each other and and so I I I didn't see that red flag but.  
The and then the only other thing that was raised was what somebody said earlier about maybe.  
Still sort of entrenched in CFC things, but and that kind of struck me funny too, because I think he admitted early on that, you know, he struggled with the legalism early on, but then realized that that was not the where he needed to be and has worked, really.  
Out of that since then, and I think.  
You know, said he welcomed the changes he saw here and.  
So I I think somebody put in the emails today that maybe Greg.  
Had Gregory had said something about, you know, comfortable on the CFC pillow or something?  
I, but I mean I I didn't feel that at all.

 **Walker** 14:56  
Mm hmm.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 14:59  
I mean, he made some references to the CFC that probably not many people in our congregation would even recognize or understand.  
You know, since we have so many that don't really have a.  
Much of Christ's background, but.  
But no, I I I didn't see any red flags and I feel like both are very, very strong candidates for us.

 **Steve** 15:24  
Yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 15:30  
A lot of the people that last week told me you gotta hire Jason.  
You gotta hire Jason.  
Those same people came to me this week and said you gotta hire John, you gotta hire John so.

 **Steve** 15:38  
Yeah, right.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 15:39  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 15:39  
Yeah, and it seems like and you guys may have talked about this before, I got on.  
The older people, and I'm not surprised with this, the older people.  
Like John the younger, people liked Jason.  
And so then I'm thinking.  
Does does one carry more weight than the other?

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 16:01  
Now here's a piece of information. I was with Mary Jo today, and she loved John and she loved Jason and she at some point she said something about, well, you know, Jason's just so much younger. I said, well, Jason's actually not so much younger, I said.  
There to say she could not believe it, you know? And I'm sure there's a lot of people that feel that same way that.

 **Steve** 16:19  
Hi.

 **Walker** 16:22  
Hmm.

 **Steve** 16:22  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 16:26  
It was just, I guess, the it's just funny.  
I I have a feeling a lot of people think he's a lot younger.

 **Steve** 16:32  
No. Yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 16:33  
Then he is.

 **David W. Weiler** 16:35  
A pony, Dale will do that for you.

 **Walker** 16:37  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 16:37  
Yeah. And with and younger children starting late in life, does it too.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 16:37  
I guess so, yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 16:37  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 16:40  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 16:41  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Steve** 16:42  
And also being a campus minister versus being.

 **Walker** 16:44  
Yes. Yeah.

 **Steve** 16:46  
A preaching minister.  
Being bald, verses having hair, don't know.

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 16:53  
Yeah, it's the hair.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 16:53  
Marty, Marty.  
I told Debbie that she was quite surprised too.  
She thought Jason was much younger.

 **Steve** 17:02  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Walker** 17:07  
Yeah, if you have comments, brother.

 **Jeff** 17:09  
Yeah, I mean, so I had a pretty good connection with both of the two different candidates.  
So I mean I I spent a lot of time with them both Friday, Saturday and then Sunday as well.  
So I I think that I would pretty much agree with most of the comments made about him being a very like his preaching ability is a little bit better than Jason's.  
So just.  
In a comparing kind of thing, just because of, I mean he just has so much more experience in preaching.

 **Steve** 17:39  
Mm hmm.

 **Jeff** 17:39  
I think it all comes down to if we're looking for just a preacher, then there's no question at that point because we would get a sort of somebody an up and coming somebody that's starting to preach versus somebody that that's sort of already honed. But the the thing.  
Is that he is very much Church of Christ preacher.  
So the church that we currently have is not very church apprised. And so it sort of makes a bit of a different picture, at least in my mind.  
It doesn't.  
And I know I know the.  
The problems of being a preacher, you're preaching to your audience that you think that you have.  
So he's been doing that for now five years.  
See you, Dave. So.  
So about or three years, I guess 3-4 years that he's been doing it, that he's preaching to his audience.  
So he comes here and he comes to a completely different place.  
It's I think it's hard to really.  
Break out of your mold.

 **Steve** 18:38  
Yeah.

 **Jeff** 18:39  
Matthew has mentioned she's like, maybe if you've heard to preach on our style in his church were to see that they would get upset and fire him or something like that, that because they're, they're so at least the way he talks about it. They're very judgmental of his.  
The way he like if he uses extra curricular people from the as opposed to the Bible itself.  
The one thing that's interesting about the family, I think I agree a lot that it's Steve.  
I think that.  
The idea of being in the office versus not being in the office, that I I think that that was something that was.  
I call it.  
He caught my ear.  
So him saying that he prefer to work at home? I'm like, well, that's I'd prefer to work at home and get everything done and not worry about staff meetings and whatever else and probably done faster. But staff meetings are essential and being around each other is just sort.  
Of key, especially if we're paying full a full time person.  
Wants to be part time Preacher maybe be different but.  
And the other part.  
Just as a compare is that Jason has even smaller kids, so how that will like if we were to hire him, how would that would happen in the future?  
And it's not COVID anymore.  
So I think that's COVID is what caused the scenario.

 **Steve** 20:03  
Yeah.

 **Jeff** 20:04  
But I yeah, I I want.  
It's really hard with young kids and whether they be 10 years old or they be four years old. It's gonna be a one of the things that we haven't had to deal with with Jeff so much.

 **Steve** 20:15  
Yeah.

 **Jeff** 20:19  
As his kids have been gone for, I think even when he started full time, his kids were all out of or out of high school and he's been here.  
Graduate was already in college by that point, so.  
But yeah, I think they're both very qualified candidates for the roles we're looking for.  
So we just have to, I think, just determine what role we're really wanting to fill the preacher role or a more open role.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 20:44  
Was it a coin toss for you, Jeff?

 **Jeff** 20:49  
I am pretty much almost at that thing and that's why I told Steve yesterday that Steve Walker, that it's almost we have two candidates that it's like you just have to flip the coin and and just decide.  
That there may be more of determining what are actual need is.  
What would would help to determine that?  
Because if we're looking, because I know we had the conversations about.

 **Steve** 21:12  
Mm hmm.

 **Jeff** 21:16  
Originally with Ethan, the idea of admin being the one of the the issues, but the other problem we have with Ethan is that.  
He wasn't an evangelist.  
He wasn't somebody that had that young picture to him.  
And he he called himself an old soul. So. So. And as we look at these two candidates, it's pretty clear Don's comment about one of them being much older than the other, even though the one even I I think Jason's actually no, Jason will turn 40.  
This year and John is 41, I think so.  
I mean, they're right there, right on on top of each other to a point, but.  
They're, they're.  
And that's just the problem that you sort of start to work towards an older crowd versus working towards a younger crowd. And I think that's a bit hard.

 **Steve** 22:06  
Mm hmm.

 **Walker** 22:11  
Thanks Jeff.

 **Jeff** 22:11  
And he did make a comment.  
John did during our interview about.  
Evangelizing and that it was.  
I don't know if you guys remember that. So he said something.  
It was sort of in passing, he said.  
That about churches that they try to get people to come to, do the evangelism for them.  
And which is sort of an interesting thing. It was almost like what Ethan had said about it.  
That and so.  
And I don't know if he meant it, that he wasn't really an evangelist kind of person or something about getting evangelizing, but it almost felt like that.  
But he does say he stalkers.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 22:52  
The way I interpreted it was he was saying a lot of churches feel like they need evangelism.  
So they're gonna hire a minister and they say that's his job. And I think he was saying that's not how it should be, that the church, when the church is ready to start evangelizing, you know, they need somebody to help them do that. I think it was what?  
The gist of what he was saying is.

 **Jeff** 23:15  
I.  
I would hope, but yeah. But he didn't play those pieces.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 23:17  
Yeah, 'cause, that's the way. And I asked him a little bit afterwards and he kind of just said, yeah, it's, you know, he his shoulders aren't big enough and that's not the right role.

 **Walker** 23:28  
Yeah, he I think just to elaborate a little bit, he said that it would be very awkward for someone to come into a community that wasn't familiar with that community, and the church would expect that person to evangelize that community like day one.  
So I got the impression that he said that.  
Hey, this is something I'll be willing to do, but I'll have to work my way up to that.  
Get more familiar with your community before.  
I can commit to doing that.  
Ross Brown.

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 24:05  
So I think that John was a a much better speaker and not in a he's got a few more years of experience, but in that he he is gifted and I I hope that that Jason becomes that good someday.  
But I it's.  
I don't think it's a guarantee.  
I also think that one of the reasons Jason seems younger is because of how awkward.  
And inconfident he is makes him seem like someone fresh out of college.  
I don't think it's just 'cause. He's got nice hair and and and looks younger, but so I I I clearly like. For me John is the much stronger candidate.  
I I think that like when Bible class started and people weren't weren't wrangling in properly and his his he like, you know, you better come in and we're gonna lock the doors and no one responded and they were still talking and so he let a song.  
I think he demonstrated some leadership and he's got a confidence to him that.  
It is definitely the kind of thing you would want, I think from a from a preacher.  
I think the the I I'm not sure what Jason's it factor is.  
Other than his, his wife is very outspoken and that if she did, if they did join us, we would have a strong female voice.  
Like how Becky is.  
I.  
I I think that is a factor.  
I just don't think it's as nearly as strong a factor as being able to be that solid teacher, that solid preacher, and that very charismatic, personable person.  
Now I do feel like there is like the what we talked about the catalyst for change. We do want to do the same thing or do something different and I I guess I want to understand what about Jason is going to be different.  
Is it because he comes from a non touch Christ background?  
We think that'll or maybe someone can can put some.  
Like define that a little bit 'cause. I'm having a little hard time with that one.

 **Steve** 26:21  
Well, he comes from a Church of Christ background.  
His dad was a Church of Christ minister up at West Point for a long time.

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 26:28  
Oh, OK so, So what?  
What is his it factor? I guess I'm I'm trying to understand it.

 **Steve** 26:35  
Is what factor?

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 26:39  
What we said in he's got it factor and I'm I'm just trying to figure out what that is Jason's.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 26:39  
That sets him apart.  
What set?

 **Steve** 26:44  
Mm hmm.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 26:44  
What sets him apart?

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 26:46  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
'Cause I there's there's probably something missing.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 26:54  
I think it to me it may be a difference.  
I see between the two is again this what I would just refer to as maybe their pastoral.  
Inclination I I see more of a pastoral inclination with Jason.  
And just the ability to to be vulnerable, to be open, to be maybe sincere.  
Not that John doesn't have that, but it doesn't come through as much.  
I see his strength is the teaching and the preaching and.  
And I'm sure he he can Pastor Shepherd people as well, but it just doesn't. It doesn't come as cross as quickly and clearly in my mind, as it did with Jason, you know and and you know then balance that against maybe you know he's not as good a.  
Speaker.  
But again, like is that just experience or what?  
So again, I think they're both strong.  
In in all the categories it's. It's like we said, you know, what is it we need and what is it that?  
Would be the best for where we are and where we're headed and.  
No.  
I think it's gonna be a a challenge.

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 28:05  
I I think I understand that too.  
Definitely the vulnerability thing.  
That's a good point.  
I think that he did, like, make himself vulnerable and I think that that will help people connect to him more quickly for sure.  
I do think that like if someone's visiting.  
The sermon in the class is going to have a a big impact, but for people staying long term, you know feeling that close connection to preacher would be a powerful factor.  
So I can see that.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 28:43  
Yeah, I'll give my two cents.  
And you know, kind of, you know, to address your question, Ross is is I think the IT factor is different for everybody.  
You know, it's a it's preference and so it's going to be different for different people. And I I like everybody thought we have two good candidates and they both got their strengths. I think with John, we've got a better sense of what we're going to get, I think.  
In five years, John's going to be what he is.  
The same today now with Jason, I think maybe some of us see a hint of what he could be in five years.  
You know, given his heart and his desire and his what we see in him, you know, here's what he could be.  
And I think that he could still add value immediately.  
You know, year one, I think he could. But like we've said, he's just going to need a lot more work in mentoring and and, you know, I think John does a great job.  
In his preaching and his teaching.  
But John talks to a crowd where Jason talks to a person.  
That's kind of the way I felt.  
So I think we've said, you know, you talked to John.  
And you learn about John.  
He doesn't really learn about you or, you know, really empathize. And you know, it was a contrived weekend.  
You've got a couple days.  
Everything's crammed in.  
You really don't know the man, but with Jason, you know he was listening and that lot of the comments were this.  
People were just saying, yeah, he really was interested.  
You know, he was really empathetic. I think people connected with his.  
Desire and involvement in foster care and you know, just not.  
Seems like he's willing to roll up his sleeves and and and do a lot of work.  
Now again, I think John, he's gonna be good at putting his finger in the \*\*\*\* and.  
Blocking up the holes that are leaking us right now, I think you know initially he'll he'll be very helpful in that providing some consistency and and maybe putting some rigor and boundaries on that.  
We need where you know, Jason, I think the elders are in the.  
Steve Walker's and the Jeff Mclaughs are going to just have to, you know, continue doing a lot of work, you know, helping them with that.  
So again, I think they're both good candidates. I'm kind of leaning towards Jason myself.

 **Bradford L. Stevens** 31:08  
I have a suggestion.  
We can do what the apostles did.  
Yeah, slots. Yeah.

 **Walker** 31:15  
For a lot.

 **Steve** 31:18  
That I thought about that.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 31:20  
Got those lots.

 **Steve** 31:22  
Yeah.

 **Bradford L. Stevens** 31:24  
No. If we were Jewish, we'd have Urim and the Thummim. But.

 **Jeff** 31:30  
That's exactly why so Walker yesterday. So.

 **Walker** 31:33  
Yes you did.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 31:35  
Yeah, but I I I heard a sermon on that.  
Brad is is that's not faith because the erman and the Thurman gave clarity.  
And it seems that God rarely does that.  
I mean, there's times when he does, but.  
It's the the God seems to work in the vagaries of life.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 31:56  
I think, too, we gotta remember.  
We've got a good couple weeks now to really pray and listen, and I think the assumption there is that we're gonna hear, you know, we're gonna hear some things.

 **Walker** 32:02  
Mm hmm.  
Mm hmm.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 32:10  
And I think, you know, maybe our conversations will be different when we get together.

 **Walker** 32:16  
Mm hmm.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 32:16  
Sort of towards the end of this and and I think the good, good, good news is we don't have to make a decision right now. You know that we've got a we got 2 great candidates and and.

 **Walker** 32:18  
Mm hmm.  
Hey man.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 32:28  
You know things are gonna evolve over the next two weeks, so.

 **Walker** 32:31  
Mm hmm.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 32:33  
Well, I guess the other consideration is administratively.

 **Steve** 32:33  
Yeah, you know what?

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 32:37  
Logistically, it would be easier with John.  
You know, Jason comes with a lot more hair and uncertainties about when, where and if, where.  
I think, John, we would know sooner and have more clarity and and be more definitive that he's actually gonna show up if he says he's gonna show up.

 **Steve** 33:00  
Yes and no.  
I I think the quick he would get here quicker, but you know when we asked Jason that same question, he said no. When we make a commitment, we were very committed to keeping that commitment.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 33:13  
True.

 **Steve** 33:14  
And I, you know, I'm. I'm kind of vacillating and and one thing I think about is I think Jason.  
And his wife would be.  
A unique fit.  
For our unique church.  
I wonder how much that weighs into the whole thing.  
I don't know.  
And then John, it say a mold.  
We are well. The older people are are very more comfortable with probably.  
But I keep coming back to that unique fit with the diversity and and kind of with our church. And I don't again, I don't know how to weigh that.  
And and again the the preaching.  
Yeah, John was better.  
But Jason?  
Hasn't been proven with that yet.  
That's something we would have to see him develop, so it's a risk.  
So hiring Jason is more of a risk.  
With who he is.  
Probably hiring John is a risk of him continuing down the traditional line, but but I don't even know if that would happen once he got to this system.  
If he would just totally be a transformation for him.  
So I don't know.

 **Jeff** 34:36  
Yeah, and that may be one of those things that both of them need a mentor that would help them get to the place where they need to be at because in reality, just because he can preach well doesn't mean that he can reach our audience as well.

 **Steve** 34:50  
Yeah, right.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 34:57  
Lots to pray about.  
So I'll I'll send out some notes after this and we'll keep collecting feedback as it comes in. And I think Steve Walker, it's going to be in the Wednesday Bulletin again, that there's be a link to the form in a or to contact an elder with their feed.  
Correct.

 **Walker** 35:14  
Correct.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 35:15  
OK.  
And Steve?  
I think you know we need to talk about this Sunday class prayer time. If you got a few minutes, if you want to kind of walk through that.

 **Walker** 35:25  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 35:26  
Well before, before we go on, Steven, that in that Wednesday message, would it make sense to include?

 **Walker** 35:26  
So just.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 35:35  
All of the elders emails.

 **Steve** 35:40  
Oh yeah.

 **Walker** 35:40  
Yeah, absolutely. Yes, yes.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 35:41  
I mean, just just to make it a little simpler.

 **Steve** 35:42  
That's a good idea.

 **Walker** 35:45  
Yes.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 35:47  
'Cause I tried to encourage people Sunday to just jot down their thoughts, you know, quickly and then just send those thoughts to one of us and and.

 **Jeff** 35:55  
Or we could use the the e-mail group if that may be an easier as opposed to having like this big list of all all kinds of emails because it's easier to type MX elders versus the.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 36:00  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Steve** 36:02  
Hurry up. Yup.

 **Walker** 36:02  
OK, OK.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 36:07  
Yeah, yeah, that's good idea.

 **Walker** 36:07  
OK, OK.

 **Steve** 36:08  
They'll have to know that it's it's being sent to all the elders.

 **Jeff** 36:14  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 36:15  
Instead of something that would be confidential to 1 Elder, I think that would have to be stated in there also.

 **Walker** 36:21  
OK.

 **Steve** 36:22  
Transparency there.

 **Walker** 36:26  
Alright, make that happen. Gotcha.

 **Jeff** 36:29  
I'm gonna have to drop.  
I have to pick up Ethan.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 36:31  
So hi, Jeff, hi. Hi Jeff, just.

 **Walker** 36:31  
OK.

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 36:33  
Alright. Same.

 **Jeff** 36:33  
I will.  
So are we putting the?

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 36:34  
I'm gonna be here Sunday anyway, so I'm gonna hear about that.  
But yeah, I gotta go pick up Max.

 **Walker** 36:40  
OK.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 36:40  
OK.

 **Ross Brown (STL)** 36:41  
Goodnight y'all.

 **Jeff** 36:42  
So, Brett, are you gonna send out the the link to this recording? OK.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 36:42  
Goodnight.

 **Walker** 36:43  
See you. Goodnight.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 36:47  
Yeah. So, Jeff, did you say you have to drop?

 **Jeff** 36:48  
Because I want.  
Yeah, I have to drop to.  
Yeah, because I I'm yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 36:51  
Real quick, if you've got a minute at the end of this, my last agenda item was just for us again to be aware of announcements and some of the sensitive information.  
So Jeff, if you want to kind of speak on that.

 **Jeff** 37:03  
Yeah. So once again this week we had an announcement that included a missionary as well as their location and so which meant that we had to delete the service as soon as church was over.  
So we we, we cannot say Logan's name and or Phillip's name, especially with their full names as well as the location where they're at.  
They're very it's very dangerous.  
So one is that for Logan, he could lose his visa.  
He could be kicked out of the country, never to be come back again.  
He could most likely wouldn't end up in jail, but Phillip, of course, is one that could end up dead.  
So it's very important that we're talking about people that we talk first names only be more general.

 **Steve** 37:51  
My fault, sorry.

 **Jeff** 37:54  
Yeah, but yeah, yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 37:54  
I think all of us need to hear it 'cause I'll do it.

 **Walker** 37:57  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Steve** 37:57  
That's.

 **Jeff** 37:57  
And so The thing is, is Brett mentioned to me, maybe something had had been said, if I wasn't in there.  
And then another member came and talked to me. And like, oh, yeah, about Logan. And then, like, he's going, he's in Vietnam. And like, Oh my goodness, no.  
Can't be so I had to go tell Brian just to go ahead and delete it. 'cause. He hadn't listened to to everything to make sure 'cause class was running at the same time. So we just have to be extra cautious and maybe even trying to have everything written.  
Down that we're saying when we're up there.  
Because that would.  
And then keeping the script, I mean our president is in a good follower of that rule. But, but I mean we we can at least try to do that. And I know that like for the and I struggled in the morning announcements too.  
So we just have to make sure that we stick the script and say what's on there.

 **Steve** 38:50  
Yeah.

 **Jeff** 38:50  
Thanks.

 **Walker** 38:54  
So Sunday.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 38:55  
Mr. Walker, if you wanna talk about the Sunday class prayer time, which is December 1st, right?  
So we've got the prayer service and immediately after that we've got the praying up in the classroom, OK.

 **Walker** 39:06  
Yes, yes, so.

 **Steve** 39:07  
Apprais service than the prayer service.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 39:10  
Right, yeah.

 **Walker** 39:10  
Play me a song.

 **Steve** 39:11  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 39:11  
So the Wyler's are prayer ministers. Dave and Amy will open up things up on Sunday.  
And we'll be in groups six groups or probably six to seven to eight people per group, and each one of the elders will lead the group.  
And so there's a list of things to pray about that's been put out there.  
And so if you guys want to modify that list in any way, let me know 'cause. I'm gonna have those things printed off.  
For everyone there to take home and continue to pray about them, and then if when you guys are really solid on the prayer list, we can put it in the bulletin in the week or so, you know 'cause, these are things that will be praying about continually I.  
Just kind of go through the list real quick here, you know, prays to and thankful for our Lord and Savior the next.  
MX lead and children's minister at night Cross his mission next generation.  
Send unity the MX community becoming a spiritual influence in our neighborhoods, family, friends and members who have experienced loss and then any personal prayers that someone may have.  
So those are the things that each group will be praying about those things and and then at some point, once we're comfortable with whatever we want the congregation to focus on will make that public.  
In several different ways, and so and then once we close out.  
Once you finish up, then Dave and Amy will close us out on Sunday.  
So that's that's set up.

 **Steve** 40:54  
I'm I'm not sure if I'll be there.  
All my kids are coming to town and usually right after church they want to get home and get on the road.

 **Walker** 41:03  
Mm hmm.

 **Steve** 41:04  
But probably Adam will leave at 6:00 in the morning just to get to Abilene. And so I.

 **Walker** 41:08  
So the Fisher Formation team will will substitute like either Betty or or Jeff MC Glan or Tim will will substitute for that, you know so.

 **Steve** 41:13  
OK.  
OK, OK, alright.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 41:21  
I think that's a good list.  
One thing I would add so the following week is a week of prayer and fasting, and if we just put in there, you know, somewhere hey. And you know, these are things to continue, fasting to pray about and fast about.  
And so we want to call people to do that. And so just put a reminder in there.

 **Walker** 41:37  
OK.  
OK. Did you guys see the e-mail I sent about barbieco?

 **Steve** 41:44  
Yes.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 41:45  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 41:45  
K OK.  
Alright, I don't.  
I don't know what to do with that.  
So good news is tomorrow, Wednesday we got 900 lbs of food coming in and and David Blackford's gonna be there. Gonna load something. I was hoping we get some help, but I would hate that would be his first experience.  
900 lbs of meat and it looked like we got a couple of guys helping out, so that's gonna be nice so.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 42:06  
Well, that's good.

 **Walker** 42:10  
But she is very kind of very emotional place right now.

 **Steve** 42:17  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 42:18  
And in response to some things that were posted, maybe she even posted.  
I don't really know all the facts are surrounding it, but the response has been, you know, something that she felt has been hurtful, so much so that she's considering maybe looking for another church home. So.  
I don't know what to do with that.  
Be honest with you, but I just told her that we're going to get together tonight and that you know I'll, you know, share it with you guys, so that maybe we can carry this burden. You know, maybe this maybe just something.  
Make some other things may be going on.  
Not necessarily.  
Barb with you know, Steve, I appreciate your prayer on Sunday because I think you know, it was an acknowledgement that there's people are hurting.  
And and Barb said she felt that and she appreciate the prayers. Well, when she heard you pray so.  
So anyway, just wanted to put that out there guys and.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 43:13  
Steve, can you provide some background about who's involved?

 **Walker** 43:17  
I don't.  
Who's all involved? I.  
I I kind of kept an arm.

 **Steve** 43:20  
I I can I I saw the post.  
It was a post that Barb had put on, just kind of given a description of of David King David and then at the end.  
Put and it sounds like it was Trump and it's it's been on a lot of Facebook stuff and so that she did that. And then Joyce put up a quick post saying, but it's not the same.  
And then.  
Betty Vaughn and Beth both got on there and made some comments, and then Betty made a comment and Barb that it was thought like it was being condescending.  
And just it was.  
I just kind of just think, why do things like that need to get on social media and and I guess it was insensitive to those that were hurting.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 44:23  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 44:23  
But then as a white person.  
Sometimes we don't understand the insensitivity.  
And so and then we get, we get defensive when somebody tells us we're.  
We're being insensitive, so that's kind of what it what it was.

 **Walker** 44:48  
So I think another ripling effect is is that I was having a conversation with someone yesterday.  
And Beth Maber was part of that conversation that was going on online and and and they are looking somewhere else now.

 **Steve** 45:04  
And I can give you a little more, Don.  
Talk to Todd.

 **Walker** 45:08  
I'm good.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 45:11  
Yeah, they.  
And I don't think it stemmed totally from that.  
It was that probably was a, you know, another stick on the back of the camel. But they said that they just have struggled for a long time feeling like.  
They were being called to be a part of a a church that.  
Was more.  
Practicing their.  
Beliefs in the community. You know, they've always been big about, you know, living in the city.  
You know, really working to work with the the poor and the oppressed and and and they said they just felt like it was time to take a step back and try to look around for something that maybe would fit.  
Their their desires.  
More about that so, but I think maybe the.  
The Facebook book thing probably didn't help, and it was probably one of the the sticks that broke the camel's back, I think.  
So he's gonna continue to meet on Fridays with us. And you know he.

 **Walker** 46:26  
That's good.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 46:29  
But.  
I just think that's, that's where they are and what they feel like they've gotta do right now, so.

 **Walker** 46:36  
OK, alright.  
OK.  
So what?

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 46:42  
And maybe a pivot on that one is.  
I I saw that Joyce W is doing communion in a couple weeks, so I'm doing the elders prayer and I looked at who's on there and I saw Joyce is doing. And so it brought a couple questions to my mind is is one who should be doing commun.  
And you know, Joyce is a good, good woman, but I haven't seen her at church in forever and and.  
You know, how do we?  
You know, pick who should be up there and and and it just seems like.  
You know there, there should be a bit more clarity on that. It just seems like, you know, Joyce has just come in, you know, once a year for communion, you know, you know or whomever you know that that just seems odd to me.  
And then the other is, you know, kind of like what what we're talking about is I know that Steve Autry, you gave instructions to ministers about.  
Topics you know, hey, hot button issues and you know, I think it be wise to do the same with communion where the the focus of communion is finding what brings us together and and we should try to avoid any divisive subjects, you know politics or whatever and so.  
I just had those two questions is who should be doing communion?  
And in my mind, it would be somebody that you know, regularly communes with the body.  
And then what should we talk about?  
Should we avoid certain topics and you know, similar to what we do with sermons and so.  
You know, again, I like Joyce, but it just really surprised me that I saw her on that list.

 **Walker** 48:32  
I think she attends a little bit more regularly than you're aware.  
She's. She's there once or twice a month.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 48:39  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 48:40  
But she's she doesn't usually stay for Bible study. Like a lot of people.  
And she's online quite a bit so.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 48:44  
OK.

 **Walker** 48:48  
She's she has a really. You know, she's keeping a real low profile right now.  
You know? But, but she's she's not there every Sunday, for sure, but yeah, yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 48:57  
That's good.  
I didn't realize she'd been coming. That's good. OK.

 **Walker** 48:59  
Yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 48:59  
He was there this Sunday, yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 49:01  
Great. OK, good.

 **Steve** 49:06  
But the piggyback on that just a little different is it seems like people doing communion.  
Or have I'm having a hard time connecting that.  
To what we typically do with community, connecting it to the cross.  
So I've wondered about that sometimes if we need to give them a little more direction with what they speak on.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 49:38  
It it would be good to say, you know, keep it to 5 minutes.  
Here are some good topics and try not to straight of these topics. You know you don't want to hedge them in too much, but you don't want.  
People up at the pulpit poking other people, which is easy to do.

 **Steve** 50:02  
That would be kaylynn when she gets people she. I guess she gives instructions to them. And maybe talking with her about.  
What you said, maybe keeping it 4-5 minutes and staying with?  
Well, my opinion is something to cross.

 **jeff** 50:19  
But.  
And I would say that we don't rely on Caitlin. I think it is an eldership.  
The eldership would be the one that would be giving the directing message for that.  
Jeff was the one that did it historically.  
So he he would give it to Jeremy and had Jeremy send it out with the direction that this is what I'm preaching on.  
You can talk about this.  
Or Jesus pretty much, and. And so that was the historic version.  
So I mean, and now that we don't.  
Leave lead minister.  
I think that that's probably something that would come from us pushing that direction. And I mean, I can work with her or Don. I know you've been working with Caitlin on worship things. And then Steve's also in the office, I mean.  
We can, then, that's something that I I don't think we should rely on her to have to come up with the wording for it.

 **Steve** 51:10  
Mm hmm.

 **jeff** 51:11  
We can but it, but it's more of a different perspective.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 51:12  
I agree.  
I agree.

 **Walker** 51:17  
One of my roles is to work with her.  
You know, and so we, we do collaborate quite a bit.  
So we can we can work through this. So we'll we'll work on it.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 51:30  
And again, I'm throwing it out there. To me it seems like something to be done about saying we have to do it, but I would think that it would be benefited by doing it.

 **Walker** 51:41  
Yeah, it's it's gonna change the dynamics a little bit of communion because we left it open-ended for people to share from.  
Their personal experiences left that open-ended.  
And quite frankly, I can't remember a whole lot of offensive stuff coming out of communion.  
The you know.

 **Steve** 52:01  
Cool. Yeah, I I I'm not saying there was offensive stuff with communion and and I may be just. That's just that's just my opinion. And if things are going well, let's keep it as it is.

 **Walker** 52:13  
But no, I I I the guard rails around Chameleon. I'm wondering. We're trying to fix something that's not broken because.

 **Steve** 52:21  
Right. Yeah, I see that. Yeah.

 **Walker** 52:22  
You know it because I can't.  
I don't recall where I cringe a couple of times because someone said something that made me, you know, think that somebody's been poked or whatever.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 52:34  
Was a recent, I think when Katrina got up one Sunday morning to do the Communion and not one word about Jesus or the cross, it was all about.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 52:46  
Dental care.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 52:47  
Mental health.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 52:49  
Yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 52:49  
That we have such.  
A.  
We do have such a tragic situation around treating and helping mental health, but that's all it was and that really caught caught me off guard and I don't.  
I wouldn't say that that means we've got a problem.  
That just means there really is no guardrails that would say, you know, we want this time to be something that would help us focus on, you know, the cross or, you know, that's what it's about.  
It's about communion, about the sacrifice that Jesus made.  
And we're supposed to remember that, you know, so that would be the only time.  
But that was one very glaring one in my my mind anyway.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 53:35  
Yeah. And again, I don't think.  
But again, it's it's we're, hopefully we're going to get more people up there doing it that haven't done it and I think they would probably be happy to have some some guidance in that.  
And again, it's been a long time, but the couple that I can remember, one is Don brought out the the worst one was Kevin O'Brien got up and he talked about abortion, which I agree with him on.  
But immediately after that, Dale Lundy had to get up and say we appreciate Kevin, but this these aren't the views of the church.  
Et cetera, et cetera.  
And you know, so you never know what's going to say.  
There are people going to say and then Katie.  
Oh, about six months ago she was going through a book she read. And you know, part of it was on LGBTQ stuff. And she went through it real quick.  
So nobody caught it, but it's just, you know, one of those things.  
I don't know.  
You really can't prevent it, but if you gave some guidance, maybe it would help.

 **Walker** 54:35  
We can definitely connect it to the message each Sunday.  
And you know, look at the, you know, the core kind of message that's going to be delivered and talk to the person that's going to deliver the message to find out what Scripture. So we we can we can figure something out for something.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 54:51  
And it doesn't have to be heavy-handed at all.  
It can just be.  
Here's the guidelines we hope people who are doing the the message for the communion would would follow.

 **Steve** 54:57  
Yeah.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 55:01  
You know, they'd be centered on Jesus and the cross and the sacrifice and remembering that, you know, I think it's just a little reminder of what the purpose of it is.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 55:08  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 55:16  
OK.

 **Steve** 55:17  
And does kaylynn have anything like that when she asks somebody? I don't even know.

 **Walker** 55:22  
I don't think so.  
I don't think so, but we'll, we'll, we'll put something together. Run about you guys and make sure it's there's something that you're comfortable with and we'll make it available to people that's gonna be leading communion.

 **Steve** 55:23  
OK.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 55:33  
And Don, I guess you did it two weeks ago and I don't know if you were just on the calendar and it was just get up and do it whatever.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 55:40  
I was.  
I was there because somebody was sick.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 55:43  
Oh, OK.

 **Walker** 55:44  
Yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 55:45  
Well, good.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 55:46  
She texted me that morning and just asked if I could step in. So.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 55:50  
And I wanted to follow up on that.

 **Steve** 55:51  
Yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 55:52  
We talked about this a few months back that we should all us should be ready to step in for communion, but I think we were going to earmark one or two of us to be ready for a sermon and I can't remember who signed up for that, but.  
I think we need to make sure that we have that person 'cause. We've got a lot of.  
Designated hitters coming up and who knows what's going to happen?  
So I think we need to have, you know, a Steve Walker or Steve Autry.  
Say I got AI, got a sermon in my back pocket. I can do that.

 **Steve** 56:26  
Well, I I kind of said I would with all these other people, if somebody cancels last minute, I'd have one in my back pocket and Bradley said if I need him even last minute, he was willing.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 56:31  
OK.  
Oh, perfect. OK.

 **Walker** 56:36  
Yeah, there we go.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 56:38  
All right. Well, before we close though, I want to go through the calendar.  
Just real quick.  
So we get it on the notes.  
So December 1st, next Sunday, we've got a praise service and then after that we've got the prayer time. And then Steve's kind of laid that out.  
December 2nd we'll have a full elders meeting, so that'll be two hours up at the building and be lots to talk about.  
December 1st through 7th is the Congregational Week of Prayer and Fasting.  
And I think, Steve Walker, you're gonna remind the congregation of that.  
So I think that's gonna be an important week and hopefully all of us are gonna commit to fasting. Go ahead, Steve.

 **Steve** 57:16  
I I wonder if the week of prayer and fasting would be the 1st to the 6th, because then the 7th that morning we'll be getting together.  
Is that just because we'll be meeting that morning and so the prayer and fasting after that would be later?

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 57:30  
Yeah.  
OK. And then I've got and some of these dates. I think Steve may have changed, but December 9th was the last day to receive feedback from the congregation. And then on the 14th, we were going to try to make a decision.

 **Steve** 57:47  
OK.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 57:48  
And then the 16th, we've got another.

 **Steve** 57:48  
Yeah, I think we we moved out a week.  
We moved out a week earlier because because I was messed up on all the dates. I had an extra Sunday in there. Yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 57:52  
OK.  
OK, OK.  
So that's all a week earlier. And then at that time, we're gonna make a decision. And I think what we said last week is.  
He will call the first candidate and we won't contact the second candidate until we kind of get some feedback, kind of see where the first one's going, if if it's got legs or not.  
So we don't want to burn a bridge if we don't have to.  
Is that correct? OK.

 **Steve** 58:21  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 58:21  
And that's on the 7th December 7th.

 **Steve** 58:24  
7th is when we get together at that Saturday morning.  
And and pray and try to make a decision.  
Kinda like we did with Nathan.

 **Walker** 58:32  
Mm hmm.

 **Steve** 58:33  
The youth minister.

 **Walker** 58:35  
So do we envision ourselves making a phone call on the seven who we can come to a decision?

 **Steve** 58:41  
If we come up with a decision, I think that would be good.  
And then we talked about giving them a week.

 **Walker** 58:49  
OK.

 **Steve** 58:49  
To say yes, I I think if it was John, I think he'd probably say yes immediately with Jason, he would.  
They'd have to really pray about it and.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 58:59  
And we don't have to talk about this now, but I think for Jason, would we?  
Have a requirement that if he still can't move till June or July that we would still want him here 8 consecutive days a month just like a Saturday to a Sunday kind of a thing.  
And again, we don't decide on that. But I think before we call him, we need to come to an agreement on what we want.

 **Steve** 59:25  
Well, I I think that would be good.  
But I don't think we can require that.  
Because he's got to work around his campus ministry. A schedule with that.  
And he did say he'd come up once a month.  
And he kind of mentioned just for a day or two, but you know this, we'd have to kind of talk with him about maybe he has some time where he and maybe even his wife could come up for the.  
7 to 9 days I don't.  
I don't think we can require that.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 59:59  
Require it. He may not be able to agree to it, but we have to decide what it is that we need and if he can't do the 8 days, you know, I'm just.  
I'm not saying that we have to, but we have to understand that what we need out of this also and so.  
If he says he can't do it, there's certain things we have to say.  
OK.  
This isn't gonna work.  
So let's say he can't even come up.  
He can't guarantee one Sunday a month. You know what?  
What is?  
A.  
A A deal breaker for us, you know. Are there any deal Breakers? And so we just have to talk about that.  
So I'm not saying we have to decide tonight, but I'm thinking that there probably are deal Breakers and what what are those?

 **Walker** 1:00:32  
OK.

 **Steve** 1:00:40  
OK.

 **Bradford L. Stevens** 1:00:43  
Just trying to remember who is the pancake?  
Breakfast.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:00:49  
Oh.

 **Walker** 1:00:50  
15th to 15th.

 **jeff** 1:00:50  
15th.

 **Steve** 1:00:50  
15 That's the 15th, yeah.

 **Bradford L. Stevens** 1:00:54  
I'm gonna be sure we didn't put that on the fasting day.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:00:58  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 1:01:00  
Yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:01:01  
The following week, so we got lucky on that one, Brad.

 **jeff** 1:01:03  
That's the breaking the fast that you can just fast the whole week and then eat lots of pancakes.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:01:05  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 1:01:05  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 1:01:10  
That could be the day we announce who we hire to.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:01:10  
Good.  
No. Anything else guys? I don't wanna keep us too long.  
We're gonna meet again here shortly. You know next week so.  
If not, Don Fitz, would you close us out with a prayer?

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 1:01:30  
Sure.  
Father, we are grateful for you and your love for us and just wanna acknowledge you as.  
Of everything and we just want to trust you in all things, and particularly Lord, the things that are going on right now with search for a new minister and just pray that you'll give us wisdom and insight as we really come before you over these next several days.  
Prayer and fasting to really ask for your guidance and 'cause we are so grateful you've sent us such good candidates.  
And that we've had such a good response from the congregation, it's got to be very encouraging to them as well.  
And we just pray as they ponder and pray that.  
You will bring clarity to their minds as well as to who would be a good fit for us here in midnight crossings and.  
We just pray for discontinued wisdom as we strive to lead this congregation.  
Grateful for.  
Just all the things that are going on and I just pray for.  
Special measure of peace and unity amongst the body and amongst just all people.  
Father, as we are really struggling with that right now.  
Both in a A world around us in our country and even at church, it's just sometimes we get too caught up in things and don't realize that.  
Our call and our our command from you is to love one another and to lift each other up and to want the best for each other.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:03:08  
Man.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 1:03:15  
Help us to be patient and help us to be kind.  
Help us to be forgiving and full of grace and mercy as we deal with each other and.  
I just pray again that you'll help us to as we work through all these things over the next weeks and months to give us that special measure of wisdom.  
Or you're good to us. And we're so grateful.  
We're very grateful for Jesus and it is his name, and we pray this evening. Amen.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:03:45  
Man.

 **Steve** 1:03:46  
Hey, I.

 **Walker** 1:03:46  
If you guys have trouble getting into a document that Nathan and Hannah created, let me know.

 **Steve** 1:03:51  
Oh yeah.

 **Walker** 1:03:51  
I know Jeff had some problems, but let me know if you have problems getting into that document.

 **jeff** 1:03:58  
Password wasn't working so I don't know if there's a different password or if you sent it.

 **Steve** 1:03:58  
And I.

 **Walker** 1:04:01  
I use.  
I use it right before I got on so I'll try again and see if I can get on with it, but did you?

 **jeff** 1:04:06  
OK.

 **Walker** 1:04:07  
Did you did you copy and paste the password?  
Did you type it in?

 **jeff** 1:04:11  
They copied and pasted it.

 **Walker** 1:04:12  
It won't work that way.

 **jeff** 1:04:13  
OK.

 **Steve** 1:04:16  
Hmm.  
I just got a text from Deb Schwartz and here's what she said.  
Hi watch service last night.  
Wow, you guys are going to have a hard time choosing.

 **Walker** 1:04:27  
I've I've heard that a couple times.

 **Steve** 1:04:29  
Yeah, and I have.  
And I have a hard time believing that the two candidates are only a year or two apart in age.  
The man yesterday was seasoned Church of Christ.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:04:38  
Oh.

 **Steve** 1:04:40  
Not a bad thing, but very familiar to me.

 **Walker** 1:04:41  
Yeah.

 **Steve** 1:04:43  
I really liked the guy last week too, so that's that's from Deb.

 **Walker** 1:04:46  
Oh good.  
That's good news.  
Yeah, yeah.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:04:50  
Well, Steve and Steve, real quick back to Dave Weiler's suggestion.  
Are we gonna try to get one or two touch points with these guys a week?  
So you guys gonna?

 **Walker** 1:05:00  
Yeah, I'll be sending out a thank you to John tomorrow as the first touch point and then you know, next week after they get back from Thanksgiving holiday, I'll reach out to them.  
I'll keep it.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:05:11  
Yeah.

 **Walker** 1:05:12  
Keep it rolling.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:05:13  
Great. Thank you guys.  
Alright, everybody have a good night.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 1:05:17  
Hey, one more thing, Walker.

 **Steve** 1:05:17  
Right.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:05:18  
Yes.

 **Don Fitzgerald (Guest)** 1:05:19  
I gotta tell you, I love what you're doing, man.

 **Steve** 1:05:22  
Me too.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** 1:05:22  
Yes, yes.

 **Walker** 1:05:23  
Thank you.

 **Steve** 1:05:23  
Yes, yes.

 **Walker** 1:05:23  
Thank you.

 **Steve** 1:05:25  
Good job, Walker.

 **Walker** 1:05:25  
Thank you.

 **Steve** 1:05:26  
You doing great.  
You're really making us look smart and getting you in there.

 **Walker** 1:05:27  
Thank you guys.  
Remember, we had a honeymoon period right now.

 **Steve** 1:05:32  
And we need that.

 **Blackford, Bret B.** stopped transcription