

Revisiting Prior Lead Minister Candidates

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Fellow Shepherds,

There have been some recent conversations about the potential value in revisiting a few of our previous Lead Minister candidates. The thought is that both the candidates’ circumstances—and perhaps McKnight’s perspective—may have shifted over the past year of searching.

Here are a few examples worth considering:

Josh Nix

We interviewed Josh back in February 2024. He struck us as someone with a strong zeal for ministry and evangelism, though at the time, we felt he lacked sufficient preaching experience to step into a Lead Minister role. We viewed him as a promising Associate Minister candidate.

Since then, Josh has taken a ministry position at Rooftop Church, where he is gaining valuable experience. Although he is currently employed, it’s possible he might be open to a Lead Minister position at McKnight if we were to renew those discussions.

Ethan Laster

We began interviewing Ethan in March 2024, and extended an offer in May, which he declined in June. Some of the factors influencing his decision at the time included:

- * The upcoming birth of his first child (his daughter, Miriam, was born July 10, 2024)
- * His focus on defending his doctoral dissertation, expected in June or July

With these major life events now behind him or nearing completion, Ethan might be in a different place personally and professionally, and perhaps open to reconsideration.

Jason Mundie

We interviewed Jason in September 2024 and extended an offer in November, which he ultimately declined. At the time, his reasons included:

- * His wife, Megan, was working toward completing her doctorate (with a defense anticipated in summer 2025)
- * A lack of family connections in the St. Louis area
- * Concerns related to their foster son and relocating out of Tennessee

With Megan approaching the end of her program and other potential changes, Jason’s circumstances may also have shifted.

All of this is simply food for thought. If we remain open to previous candidates, some of whom impressed us greatly, it may be worthwhile to revisit these conversations in light of changing situations.

Blessings,
— Bret

