

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

January 13, 2025

6pm – 8pm

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

1. People

{{ various }}

2. Old Business

a. Preaching Topics

Currently planning a series on “Stand Firm”

Jeff McGlawn and Steve Awtrey to work on possible preaching topics which will be brought to the Elders for review and approval.

b. Eric McPherson Letter – on-line [here](#).

c. 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This draft document – [What Do We Believe](#) (for elders only and not to be published) - is Bret’s attempt to document key decisions made over the years in various elder meetings as well as from several key documents, such as the [MX Welcome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.

d. Passing Communion and Collection Trays

Reviewing the process used each Sunday to pick-up communion and take collection. Considering the following:

- Communion – provide holders for cups on the backs of pews. Cups can then be picked up after service and avoid passing trays during service to collect.
- Collection – children put contribution in box at front of auditorium and everyone else put contribution and any prayer requests in collection box by door existing auditorium. Will start with the one current box and if additional boxes are needed will address later.

e. 2025 Budget

We did not have time for this agenda item. Dave Weiler will present budget proposal to the elders in a later January 2025 meeting.

f. Food Pantry

Barb Eickele stepping down as lead Q1 2025. Steve Walker is looking to get an interim plan in place which may involve several individuals, possibly Ben Mehringer and Alan Kaelble.

3. Lead Minister Next Steps

- 3 new candidates will be reviewed by Steve Walker with Elders to join next Zoom meeting (if candidate has potential).
- LM Website/Flyer – Jeff McGlawn and Steve Walker to work on this, using the Children’s Minister website/flyer as a template.

4. 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.

5. Leadership Development

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.

6. Jayson Vincent email - [here](#)

Did not have time to discuss. Will review at future meeting.

7. Elder Retreat

Planning something for early 2025. Recommend only having 2 or 3 agenda items. Possibly:

- Divorce and Eldership – prior study info [here](#) and discussed at 5.4.2021 mtg [here](#).
- LGBTQ