

Proposal: November Gathering with Small Group Leaders

From: M Bret Blackford (bret_blackford@yahoo.com)
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Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 06:11 PM CDT

Fellow Elders,

As I’ll be chairing our November and December meetings, one of the things I’d like to do is set aside about 30 minutes to meet with those who lead or co-lead small groups or mid-week gatherings.

My thought is to send the note below to these leaders, inviting them to join us—possibly the **first Monday in November**—for a brief time of encouragement and prayer. During that meeting, we can share our vision for small groups, listen to their feedback, and remind them how important these connections are to the spiritual life of our church.

I think this would be a great way to strengthen our relationship with these leaders and also set the stage for a broader **relaunch of our small group emphasis** later this fall, including announcements to the congregation.

Below is the draft email I’d plan to send (after your review and feedback):

[Proposed email to small group leaders]
Encouragement for Our MX Small Group Leaders

Hi everyone,

On behalf of the elders, I just wanted to reach out to those of you who are leading or helping with small groups—whether that’s a weekly Bible study, a discipleship group, or just getting together for lunch or coffee to talk about life and faith. What you’re doing really matters, and we want you to know how much we appreciate it.

We’d love to get together with you sometime in **November**—nothing formal, just a time to encourage you, hear how things are going, and talk about ways we can all keep building stronger connections in our church family. As you know, church isn’t just what happens on Sundays. Those midweek conversations and gatherings often make all the difference in people’s spiritual lives.

We also want to stay aware of anyone in the McKnight family who might need a little extra love or support, and you’re often the ones who see those needs first. So this meeting will also give us a chance to talk about how we can communicate better and care for each other well.

Keep up the good work—you’re making a difference! Watch for another email soon with a date and time for the November get-together.

Thanks,
---- Bret (*on behalf of the Shepherds*)