

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

Oct. 6, 2025

6pm – 8pm

Attendees: Steve Walker, Don Fitzgerald, Brad Stevens (chair), Bret Blackford, Dave Weiler, ~~Steve Awtry~~, Jeff McGlawn (visit), Andrew Owens (minister), Nathan Strckland (minister), Patrick Proger (visit)

Next meeting: October 20, 2025

1. Devotional

2. Devin Daniel

- Unanimous decision to hire for part-time Family & Children’s Minister (F&CM)
- Email announcement on-line [here](#).

3. MX Shepherding Model

- Updated the 2013 version
- Unanimously agreed on 2025 update - available here – [link](#).

4. Small Group Ministry

Bret Blackford shared updates:

- Preliminary list of small groups, leaders, and participants distributed (initial list here – [link](#)).
- Goal: A *Small Group Reset* is planned later this year to encourage participation, strengthen leadership support, and emphasize small groups as a key tool for spiritual growth
- Emphasis: Small groups are key to spiritual growth and congregational care
- Oct. 9, 2025 Email to Small Group Leader - [link](#)

5. MX Building – Physical Security

- Vehicle Attack Mitigation - decided to accept risk – see [link](#).
- Rock Hill Police Safety Inquiry – email [link here](#)

6. New Member – Patrick Proger

Elders met with Patrick to get to know him and his hopes for MX as his new spiritual home

Misc. Documents:

1. 2024 Member Info: Births, Baptisms, etc. – [link](#)
 2. **Sr. Minister Search Summary document** – [here](#)
 3. 2014 MX Gender Study: Women's Role – [here](#)
 4. **2025 MX Gender Study: Women's Role** – [here](#)
 5. Communion Guidelines – [here](#)
 6. **What Do We Believe?** – [here](#)
 7. Betheline Outreach Center – [link](#)
 8. **Qualification of an Elder:** Study Documents – [here](#)
 9. What Are Elders supposed to Do? - [link](#)
 10. MX Shepherding Covenant – [link](#)
 11. MX Shepherding Model – [link](#)
 12. MX Core Beliefs – [link](#)
 13. MX Core Values – [link](#)
 14. Instrumental Music in Worship – [link](#)
 15. MX Welcome Packet (for new members) – [link](#)
 16. Elder Hospitality: draft document – [link](#)
 17. Mauritius – Camden Subarayadu March 2025 newsletter - [link](#)
 18. **2025 Church Calendar** - [link](#)
 19. **For The Bible Tells Me So**, by Dr. Katie Hays – [link](#)
 20. Steve Walker's draft MX Organization Chart – [link](#)
 21. MX Leadership Development Model (draft) - [link](#)
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22. Elder Growth and Training:

- a. **Often Overlooked Values of High-Functioning Elder Teams** – [link](#)
- b. **Creating a Mentorship Program for Emerging Elders** – [link](#)
- c. **6 Best Practices for Shepherding People in the Congregation** – [link](#)

“One of the most fundamental problems in the spiritual order is that we sense within ourselves the hunger for God, but we attempt to satisfy it with some created good that is less than God. Thomas Aquinas said that the four typical substitutes for God are wealth, pleasure, power, and honor. Sensing the void within, we attempt to fill it up with some combination of these four things, but only by emptying out the self in love can we make the space for God to fill us. The classical tradition referred to this errant desire as "concupiscence," but I believe that we could neatly express the same idea with the more contemporary term "addiction." When we try to satisfy the hunger for God with something less than God, we will naturally be frustrated, and then in our frustration, we will convince ourselves that we need more of that finite good, so we will struggle to achieve it, only to find ourselves again, necessarily, dissatisfied. At this point, a sort of spiritual panic sets in, and we can find ourselves turning obsessively around this creaturely good that can never in principle make us happy.”

— Bishop Robert Barron