

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

Dec. 15, 2025

6pm – 8pm

Attendees: ~~Steve Walker, Don Fitzgerald~~, Brad Stevens, Bret Blackford (chair), Dave Weiler, Steve Awtry, Jeff McGlawn (visit), Andrew Owens, Eric McPherson (visit)

Next meeting: Dec 5, 2026 (Dave Weiler chair)

1. **People.** All (20-min) Andrew Owens to pray

Mentoring and Discipleship

- Discussion emphasized intentional mentoring of emerging leaders, recognizing that growth may involve imperfections and learning opportunities.
- The group agreed that spiritual development requires both patience and structure for discipleship.
- Example: Bryant Taylor has assumed more leadership in Sunday worship since Jeremy Picker's departure. While showing growth and maturity, Bryant would benefit from consistent mentoring.
 - *Action:* Steve Awtry will meet with Bryant regularly to provide guidance and mentoring in his worship leadership role.

Responding to Troubled Individuals

A visitor at the Pancake Breakfast was noted as experiencing mental health challenges — non-threatening but visibly distressed.

Here are some Safety Team documents:

- 2025 Procedure Update - [here](#)
- 2018 Safety Manual - [here](#)

Other

Reminder: Information not provided directly by a family must be treated as confidential and should **not** be included in midweek bulletins or Sunday announcements.

- Reference: email reminder ([link](#)).

[Bret reminded the group](#) to be intentional keeping people in our thoughts and prayers ([link](#))

2. **Eric McPherson visit**

Email discussing next steps [here](#). Basic next steps ...

- Elders facilitate meeting with Eric and Steve Haupt
- Elders facilitate meeting with Eric and Keaton Jones
- Determine next steps based on feedback from these meetings
 - Possibly need additional teaching on [Qualifications of an Elder](#)

Dave Weiler noted that if Eric begins sitting in with the elders, it would represent a new precedent for our faith tradition (Churches of Christ). He compared it to Jackie Robinson's grace and courage in breaking new ground—encouraging Eric to respond to possible criticism with peace and dignity.

Bret added that as elders, we must discern not only what is *scripturally permissible* but also what is *spiritually beneficial*.

- "As with science, just because we can do something doesn't mean we should. We must weigh congregational impact and prayerfully decide which issues are worth pressing forward on (is this a hill we are willing to die on)."

3. **Elder Commissioning of Jeff McGlawn – Dec. 21.** Dave Weiler & Andrew Owens

- Andrew Owens will lead the commissioning.
- Dave Weiler will lead the commissioning prayer

4. **Building Use** – review Request. Bret
 - [West Hills Church](#) Young Adults have requested use of the McKnight building on **Thursday evenings throughout 2026**.
 - Prior email detail [here](#)
 - No concerns noted from any of the elders so Bret will move forward with this (see [email](#))
5. **Youth in Building.**
 - Ensure appropriate supervision and limit area used and monitor running etc.
 - It has been noticed that unsupervised youth can wander the building, often running, and not always supervised. Someone other than Nathan should be the “*Bad Cop*” on this and remind the Youth Group of some basic expectations. ([email](#) from Bret to Steve W)
 - Follow-up email [here](#).
6. **2026 MX Calendar.** Andrew Owens provided the updated calendar – [here](#).
7. **Elder Chair** – Bret proposes we move to monthly. Other than Bret, the group did not have any preference either way so will consider for discussion at next meeting.

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*