

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

February 10, 2025

6pm – 8pm

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

1. Devotional

Reviewed the Leadership Training we had Feb. 8.

2. People

{{ various }} Discussed being intentional with new members and visitors.

3. Lead Minister (LM) Candidates – summary document [here](#)

- **John Blackmore** (completed 2nd Zoom 2/03/2025) – Discussed having John come in to pray with the elders and preach/teach. When John preaches, we would like feedback from the congregation but especially from Matthew Bardowell, Eric McPherson, and Jason Vincent.
 - [Dave Weiler](#) to prepare salary and benefits information for John Blackmore before any next steps to make sure financial expectations are aligned.
- **Chris Jackson** (upcoming Zoom 1/30/2025) – Majority feel Chris is worth a second Zoom interview.

LM Website/Flyer – Jeff McGlawn and Steve Walker to work on this, using the Children's Minister website/flyer as a template.

4. Children's and Family Minister

Sibert has been very helpful and has passed along some candidates for review:

1. Hannah Sullivan – received her resume and scheduling a Zoom interview. [Resume](#).
Zoom interview with Hannah scheduled for Feb. 11 (with Meanie, Ross, Jason).
2. Jenna Looney – waiting on her resume (she is a recent graduate)

5. Preaching Schedule

Waiting for Steve Awtrey to discuss at next meeting. As noted in Eric McPherson's letter (on-line [here](#)), it would be preferable to have a standing preaching rotation, possibly have Eric McPherson, Jeff Kryder, Matthew Bardowell rotate each month and fill in extra weeks with other individuals.
(May need a separate Zoom meeting to discuss a standing preaching rotation)

6. Children's Ministry Intern

Considering if Izzy Hennigan would be a good intern this summer. Before pursuing we need to understand Izzy's plans for this summer. As this is her senior year it is important that Izzy be able to attend her family reunion and Ne-O-Tez functions. If an internship does not conflict with any of these plans it would be good to have Izzy assist.

Also, Jeff McGlawn will be out of the country (in Hungary) for most of June 2025.

7. Tuition Assistance

Nathan has started classes in Practical Ministry at Abilene Christian University (course information [here](#)). Here is my understanding of what we agreed upon during our discussion:

1. This was a one-time special request for Nathan, and we are not ready to establish this as policy (as most voiced opposition to it).
2. This opportunity is considered highly beneficial for Nathan at a great price, making the decision a “no-brainer.” The Elders agreed to support his tuition reimbursement request.
3. Tuition will be reimbursed at the end of the class, provided Nathan receives a grade of “B” or higher. He must submit both his grades and the class receipt for reimbursement.
4. Tuition reimbursement is contingent on Nathan continuing to work at McKnight for three years after graduation. If he leaves before that period, the funds must be repaid.

8. Collection Process

To streamline the Sunday service and minimize confusion and some awkwardness passing the collection plates, it is recommended to stop passing the collection. Instead, [it is recommended that we announce during service that the children can come forward and put their contribution in the box and that anyone else who does not contribute on-line can put their contribution \(and any prayer requests\) in the box at the back of the auditorium.](#) It was decided that the contribution box in the foyer should be made non-subtle to make sure it can easily be found.

After implementation we will continue to monitor the new process and adapt as needed.

We will start the new collection process next Sunday, February 16, 2025. After the communion thought, during the normal time for collection prayer, an elder should make an announcement about the change with the collection.

Passing Communion – after we start the new collection process outlined above, the plan is to only pass trays for the communion once. We will pass out the bread and juice cups and will not later pass out trays to pick them up. Instead, Don Fitzgerald and Steve Awtrey will drill cup holes in the pew cadies to hold the used communion items ([example template](#)). These will be picked up after service.

9. Old Business

- a. Leadership Development – Steve Walker working on some ideas in this area. Ross Brown would like to have more intentional mentorship and discipleship of those individuals who seem to have leadership potential.

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.

- b. Benevolence (follow-up from Jason Vincent's [email](#))
We need to communicate to the congregation that part of the collection is used for benevolence. That the church uses part of the contribution to help those in our church and in our community.

- c. MX Elder Retreat

Tentative date: May 10 from 7:30 – 11:30 at the MX building.

Considering keeping the agenda items short, possibly the following:

- i. **Gender Identity** – MX position on LGBTQ
 - Dave Weiler to summarize his study on the topic and present for Elder consideration.
- ii. **Elder Qualifications** – revisit **divorce**. Prior study info [here](#) and discussed at 5.4.2021 mtg [here](#).
 - We need an elder take the pro side of this and an elder to take the con side. Case should be presented to the elders for discussion and determination on how to proceed.
- iii. **Update Document on Women's Roles**
The original 2014 document ([here](#)) needs to better reflect the current culture and worship at McKnight. Someone should take the lead on updating this document to make it more applicable to the current worship at McKnight. A Word document is available [here](#) that can be used to draft an updated version.
 - We need someone to volunteer to work on a draft re-write to present to the Elders on May 10.

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

- Preaching Rotation – possibly have Eric McPherson, Jeff Kryder, Matthew Bardowell rotate each month and fill in extra weeks with other individuals.
- Sermon Series/Topics – possibly have Jeff Kryder, Steve Awtrey, others develop sermon topics to be presented to the elders for discussion and approval.

e. 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.

10. Finances (Dave Weiler to provide final documents soon)

- 2024 Financials - [link](#)
- 2025 Budget - [link](#)

11. Next Meeting – March 3, 2025 and Don Fitzgerald to chair
It would be good to have Nathan Strickland in attendance.

Our greatest fear should not be of failure ... but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.
--- Francis Chan

Misc. Documents:

1. Next Steps Class: MX Orientation – [link](#)
 2. 2024 Member Info: Births, Baptisms, etc. – [link](#)
 3. Raising Up Leaders: Flyer for Feb. 8 conference – [link](#)
 4. 02.05.2025 MX Bulletin – [link](#)
 5. 02.10.2025 MXYG Bulletin - [link](#)
 6. Sr. Minister Search Summary document – [here](#)
 7. 2014 MX Gender Study: Women's Role – [here](#)
 8. Communion Guidelines – [here](#)
 9. What Do We Believe? – [here](#)
 10. Betheline Outreach Center – [link](#)
 11. Qualification of an Elder: Study Documents – [here](#)
 12. What Are Elders supposed to Do? - [link](#)
 13. MX Shepherding Covenant – [link](#)
 14. MX Shepherding Model – [link](#)
 15. MX Core Beliefs – [link](#)
 16. MX Core Values – [link](#)
 17. Instrumental Music in Worship – [link](#)
 18. MX Welcome Packet (for new members) – [link](#)
 19. Elder Hospitality: draft document – [link](#)
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--- Francis Chan