

## Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

March 4, 2025

6pm – 8pm

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

### 1. Devotional

Don Fitzgerald shared scripture reminding us to not be fearful, but to be strong and courageous. God is in control, and we need to give the McKnight body over to Him.

### 2. People

{{ various }}

### 3. Hospitality Update –

Steve Awtry shared the blessing he and Susan experience being retired and having people into their home. He is working on being intentional and continuing this hospitality and has encouraged the rest of the elders to do the same. Reminder of our hospitality statement [here](#).

### 4. Children's and Family Minister

Elders agree that Steve Walker and the Search Committee should take next steps with Hannah Sullivan. Hannah Sullivan – received her [resume](#) and schedule a [Zoom interview](#).

Here are documents Steve Walker intends to send to Hannah ...

1. Updated [Statement on Gender Roles](#)
2. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
3. [“What do we Believe?”](#) document

Steve Awtry will follow-up with prior employer, Walnut Church of Christ.

### 5. Youth Group Update

Nathan Strickland provided an update on the youth group, and shared the following documents:

1. [MXYG Annual Analytics \(2023-24\)](#)
2. [March 2025 – Student Report](#)

### 6. Matheny Conversation

Philip and Sarah Matheny met with Steve Walker and Steve Awtry to discuss the possibility of Philip applying for the open Lead Minister position. A recording of this conversation is [here](#). Philip and Sarah stated they were not considering the position but would pray about the opportunity. They also mentioned that they would see this as a tag-team with both Philip and Sarah involved in filling the responsibilities of Lead Minister. This would require additional discussions with the elders as currently the Elder's position is that *“At this time, we believe that the role of **primary teaching minister** and **elder** should remain male-led.”* This is noted in the [MX-GenderRoles](#) statement.

### 7. Senior Minister Search Update (summary document [here](#))

John Blackmore – John will be on-site this weekend to preach and teach and mingle with the congregation. If all goes well and survey responses are positive we will continue to pursue John. However, if there are significant reservations we will start discussions with other candidates:

- Christopher Jackson – [latest Zoom mtg](#)
- Andrew Owens – [latest Zoom mtg](#)

## 8. Preaching Schedule

(A document considering who should preach - [here](#))

Steve Awtrey presented the following schedule for review and approval – [here](#).

List of possible sermon / class topics [here](#).

## 9. Dale Simpson & Connect Groups

Dale will be stepping down as liaison for the Connect Groups. It was also discussed that it would be a good idea for the Elders to revisit the health of the Connect Groups after a Lead Minister is brought on.

Note: Elders should reach out to Dale and express our appreciation for his work on Connect Groups over the years.

## 10. Faith in Action

This is on the [calendar](#) for April 6.

## 11. 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 (updated [here](#)). 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. Bret has attempted a revision, which is [here](#).

## 12. New Elder Candidates: Ross Brown and Jeff McGlawn

Ross and Jeff have been sitting in on Elder meetings since January 2024. The elders talked and prayed about Ross and Jeff and decided it best to reevaluate later in 2025 (possibly Q4), after a new Lead Minister has been brought on.

## 13. Finances (below from Dave Weiler) – *treat as confidential*

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

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.

The phrase "**Be strong and courageous... do not fear**" appears multiple times in the Bible, most notably in Joshua 1:9:

**Joshua 1:9 (ESV)**

**"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."**

**This verse is part of God's encouragement to Joshua as he prepares to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses' death.**

**Similar encouragements appear in other verses as well:**

- **Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV)**  
**"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."**
- **Deuteronomy 31:8 (ESV)**  
**"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."**
- **Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)**  
**"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**

**Misc. Documents:**

1. Next Steps Class: MX Orientation – [link](#)
  2. 2024 Member Info: Births, Baptisms, etc. – [link](#)
  3. 02.05.2025 MX Bulletin –
  4. 03.03.2025 MXYG Bulletin - [link](#)
  5. 03.05.2025 KYDMIN News - [link](#)
  6. Sr. Minister Search Summary document – [here](#)
  7. 2014 MX Gender Study: Women’s Role – [here](#)
  8. 2025 MX Gender Study: Women’s Role – [here](#)
  9. Communion Guidelines – [here](#)
  10. What Do We Believe? – [here](#)
  11. Betheline Outreach Center – [link](#)
  12. Qualification of an Elder: Study Documents – [here](#)
  13. What Are Elders supposed to Do? - [link](#)
  14. MX Shepherding Covenant – [link](#)
  15. MX Shepherding Model – [link](#)
  16. MX Core Beliefs – [link](#)
  17. MX Core Values – [link](#)
  18. Instrumental Music in Worship – [link](#)
  19. MX Welcome Packet (for new members) – [link](#)
  20. Elder Hospitality: draft document – [link](#)
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