

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

March 17, 2025

6pm – 8pm

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

Next meeting: **April 7, 2025**

1. Devotional

Don Fitzgerald shared Romans 11:34 & 12.

2. People

{{ various }}

3. Lead Minister Search

- a. **John Blackmore** – The group reviewed feedback (see detail [here](#)). Although John had many strong skills and talents that could immediately be beneficial to McKnight (MX), he did not seem to be a good fit with our congregation. Based on concerns about alignment with MX culture the elders decided to pass on John Blackmore. Dave Weiler will contact John this week to let John know.
- b. **Next Steps:**
 - **Christopher Jackson** – Elders decided to not pursue. Although Chris has great qualities, he did not come across as having the energy we are seeking. Steve Awtry will contact Chris to let him know our decision.
 - **Andrew Owens** – Elders have decided to have a second zoom with Andrew. Steve Walker to contact and try to schedule something soon.

4. **Prison Walk** – Suzanne Kaelble will be doing a [Prison Fellowship](#) Second Chance Prayer Walk on April 12 and requested this be put in the Sunday bulletin. Some concerns from Bret noted [here](#), however some of the elders had knowledge of [Prison Fellowship](#) and it was agreed to allow the bulletin announcement.

5. **Building Leaks** – The McKnight building is a wonderful facility but is starting to age. An issue that we continue to monitor is the roof leaks. Last year there was significant leakage during large storms. Tom Hunsaker and Bret Blackford found some areas of water infiltration and patched those areas in the fall of 2024. During the large storm this past week some water was noticed on one of the roof tiles in room 112a. Bret and Tom will investigate.

6. **Faith in Action** – This congregational workday is scheduled for Sunday April 6. Don Fitzgerald and Steve Awtry will get the job schedule together and we will start recruiting workers. If scheduling allows, may also use that day to work on the fence and/or deck of the rental property.

7. 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

The Committee have decided to take next steps with Hannah. The plan is to bring her in for a site visit soon. Steve Awtry will follow-up with prior employer, Walnut Church of Christ. Dave Weiler to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

8. Hospitality Update –

Steve Awtrey 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](#).

9. Fellowship Meals

Jeff McGlawn is looking to have a pot luck on April 1.

10. Children's Dedication

Looking sometime this Spring. Will have lunch but no class. Jeff McGlawn to find a date and coordinate.

11. Easter/Resurrection Sunday – April 20

Jeff McGlawn still considers an egg hunt to be an effective way to reach our neighbors. Plans to have flyers for VBS to give those attending the egg hunt. Philip and Sarah Metheny will preach this Sunday.

12. 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](#).
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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](#)
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***Our greatest fear should not be of failure ... but of
succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.
--- Francis Chan***