

## Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

April 21, 2025

6pm – 8pm

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

Next meeting: **May 5, 2025**

1. **People** – various but focused mainly on Jayson and Wilka Vincent communicating they are looking to worship elsewhere. Email thread from Jason [here](#). This news has hit the shepherds hard. As shepherds are we listening to the sheep and understand their needs and concerns? While we may not be able to validate every concern, we must strive to be aware of them and respond with care.

### 2. Jeff Kryder Assisting with Sermon Development (and delivery)

Jeff Kryder has offered to assist with sermon development and preaching while we continue our search for a new Lead Minister. His proposal:

*Do you think it would be helpful for the church for me to preach and coordinate and mentor the preaching part-time while you continue to do administration? I might be willing to do 2 sermons a month, design the series and coordinate 2 others each month. Of course, for reasonable pay. Just a thought.*

- *Only if it will be helpful*
- *The church's feedback in response to my message has been quite high. Though there may be some less than enthused.*
- *I don't see it as permanent.*
- *I think pay is appropriate in light of the commitment.*
- *I would still be able to travel.*
- *I will still continue to work with Betty on Christian Formation.*
- *No additional pastoral or funerals or weddings expected.*

Elder response was mixed. Some were enthusiastic; others expressed caution, referencing the Siburt Institute's advice about the value of a liminal (transitional) period. It was decided to pass on the offer and revisit in June, when we start planning a new sermon series. Much of the decision was based on the need to keep some distance between Jeff Kryder, our former minister, and his replacement (when found). We all feel Jeff Kryder has many strengths, skills, and seasoning in the area of preaching, but want to insulate any new candidate from feeling overly influenced.

Steve Walker will get with Jeff Kryder to communicate our thanks for his offer but our desire is to wait and revisit in June.

### 3. Lead Minister Candidate Andrew Owens weekend:

We agreed to meet with [Andrew Owens](#) on April 26 for further consideration.

Depending on that meeting, **Steve Awtry will reconnect with [Josh Nix](#)** to gauge his interest in revisiting the Lead Minister role (see prior correspondence on this topic - [here](#)).

- Elders will meet with **Andrew Owens and his wife Lydia** on **Saturday, April 26, 2:00 PM** at the MX Building.
- Meeting will be informal to allow both parties to get to know each other.
- One elder will present McKnight's vision, followed by questions to explore alignment.
- Challenges (e.g., generational imbalance) and opportunities (youth, children's ministry, committed families, facility, location) will be shared honestly.
- Follow-up: Elder feedback to be gathered after the weekend.

4. **Painting Bids-** will discuss at a later meeting. One bid in from [SmithPro](#) (bid [here](#)) but expect others from [Rhino Shield](#) and [SASV Construction](#) (the group that did the auditorium refresh).

5. **Elder Retreat – May 10:**

Topics for Discussion:

a. **Homosexuality & LGBTQ+ Issues**

- Recognized as a complex and sensitive topic requiring deeper study.
- Dave Weiler will summarize his research and distribute a booklet in advance for background on differing biblical perspectives.

b. **Divorce and Eldership**

- Revisiting the current prohibition on divorced men serving as elders.
- Last reviewed May 4, 2021; prior materials available for review [here](#)..

6. **Next Preaching Series.** The following was presented by Steve Awtrey, however, is subject to change:

Date	Series	Topic	Preacher
April 27	Small Things Wise and Wonderful	Galatians 6:10	Jeff Kryder
May 4	Small Things Wise and Wonderful	Mathew 25	Susie Burge
May 11 <small>Mother’s Day</small>	Small Things Wise and Wonderful	Feeding the 5,000	Eric McPherson
May 18	Senior Day		Nathan Strickland
May 25 <small>Memorial Day</small>	Small Things Wise and Wonderful	1 Corinthians 12 “The Least”	Matthew Bardowell
June 1	Start work on next preaching series (May engage Jeff Kryder to assist )		
June 1	Small Things Wise and Wonderful		Melanie Sewkarron
June 8	Small Things Wise and Wonderful		Katie Holloway
June 15 <small>Father’s Day</small>	Small Things Wise and Wonderful	Matthew 18:20 “Where 2 or 3 are gathered”	Chris Fuller
June 22	Small Things Wise and Wonderful	Luke 2:36-38 The Prophetess Anna	Jason Vincent
June 28	Next Gen		Nathan Strickland

7. **Leadership Development**

Again, we recognize the need to identify men in the congregation who have the potential to be Shepherds. We need to start taking more active steps to meet with these men and start inviting them to sit along side the Elders.

We should also commit to being intentional in ...

- Meeting with potential candidates.
- Inviting them to observe elder meetings.
- Investing in individual discipleship and mentoring.

Here is a tentative list of men identified previously (per Bret). Note, we plan to discuss the restriction of divorce as a criterion, so the list may increase after that discussion.

- Matthew Bardowell
  - Cas Grimshaw
  - Jason Vincent
- Greg Walton
  - Leon Sewkarran
  - Others ???

### 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](#)
- 

***“We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be.”***

***— C.S. Lewis***