

Elders Meeting Agenda & Notes

July 8, 2025

6pm – 8pm

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

Next meeting: **July 21, 2025**

1. Devotional

1 Peter 5:1-4

To the Elders and the Flock

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

2. People

{{ various }}

3. Documents to Review

- a. Andrew Owens Affirmation Service – August 10
 - Affirmation Service – Order of Worship here - [.pdf](#) or [.docx](#).
- b. Andrew Owens Onboarding Plan - [.pdf](#) or [.docx](#)

4. Small Group Ministry Reset

The health of our Small Groups was discussed and it was agreed they need more attention. We need someone to take the lead with our small groups and also feel that small group leader mentoring is important.

The *Small Group Restart* document reviewed is on-line here - [.pdf](#) or [.docx](#).

5. Sermon Series – The Chosen

- July 20 Jeff Kryder
- July 28 Matthew Bardowell
- Aug 3 Eric McPherson

6. Ministry Leader Update

- a. Fellowship
 - Joyce Holmes has agreed to lead up this ministry. Additional information available on-line [here](#).
- b. Unity in Diversity
 - Steve Walker has approached Alan and Suzanne Kaelble to restart this ministry. None of the elders but Bret had reservations about this. Bret feels it best to let this ministry go fallow (more detail on concerns noted on-line [here](#)).
 - Summary of discussion between Steve Walker and the Kaelble's [here](#).
 - Unity in Diversity Mission Statement noted here - [.pdf](#) or [.docx](#).
- c. Connect Groups
 - See #4 above

7. Children's Ministry Update

- a. Jeff McGlawn (job description for part-time role)
 - The elders want to be sensitive to Jeff McGlawn, knowing that his part-time position filling in as the Children's Minister was intended to be "temporary". Jeff McGlawn made it clear that there is no rush to find a replacement and he is still energized and engaged with the ministry.
 - The Elders want to make sure Jeff McGlawn knows his work is appreciated and that he is doing a great job.
 - We need Jeff McGlawn to help draft a job description for a part-time Children's Minister.
- b. Cameran Simmons (resume [here](#))
She is a potential candidate for the now part-time position. More info [here](#).

8. Communicate to Congregation Future of Eldership

- a. Jeff McGlawn – recommended to congregation as a new Elder
- b. Future Elders: potential list to be discussed at next elder meeting (no discussions with these individuals until discussed at next Elder meeting).
 - Jeff Kryder
 - Eric McPherson
 - Chris Fuller
 - Charles Eikle
 - Leon Sewkarran
- c. MX Draft Leadership Model noted [here](#).

9. Items for Andrew Owens Start

- a. Aug 10 Fellowship Meal
- b. Andrew's commitment with YM conference

10. LGBTQ+ Discussion Questions from Messy Grace

Discuss at August meeting. Elders to individually go through questions and answer with wives. Questions to consider from the book Messy Grace – **Attachment A** below

11. MX Parking Lot Issues

Although MX has signage noting trucks and trailers are not allowed on our parking lots we still get occasional trucks parking or turning around in our lot. This is problematic as these heavy trucks can do serious damage to our asphalt parking surface. We discussed ways to prevent trucks and trailers from using the lot.

- We have been using safety cones to block the far south exit/entrance to the parking lot since it was sealed over a year ago. This has drastically cut down on large trucks using the lot.
- Considering adding additional cones and barriers to make it even more difficult for trucks to use our lot for turning. These cones and barriers will be moved for Sunday service.
 - Elders agreed to implement the above. It is the quickest, easiest, and cheapest of the alternatives discussed.
- Video of trucks on lot: June 21 – July 3 [here](#)
- Email discussion on problem and possible solutions - [here](#)

12. Siebert Institute Analysis

Discuss at a future Elder meeting

Siebert Institute for Church Ministry – [Church Health Assessment \(CHA\)](#)

Attachment A

Messy Grace by Caleb Kaltenbach

LGBTQ+ Questions for Your Church to Consider

Would you allow a same-sex couple to attend your church?

What would the reaction be if two men were holding hands in the lobby of your building?

Could a lesbian couple who attend your church also attend a parenting class that you're putting on (because their child is in your children's ministry)?

Could an LGBT couple attend a community group or Bible study?

Could an LGBT couple serve anywhere in your church? If so, where? Why or why not?

Would an LGBT couple or person be allowed to go on a mission trip?

Would an openly gay man be allowed to attend a men's retreat if he wanted to?

What is the plan for the student ministry staff and volunteers when a teenager comes out or expresses same-sex attraction?

How do you love and support LGBT teenagers who are in your church?

Does your church have a plan to support parents whose kids have come out when the parents are unsure of how to respond?

What happens when someone involved in your church comes out and sees no contradiction between homosexuality and God's laws in Scripture?

Is your church a place where someone who has been in the LGBT community (but is currently not) can attend and be involved?

Would your church be open to having dialogue with people from the LGBT community who aren't in your church?

How does your pastor address LGBT issues in sermons?

What if a lesbian wanted to be baptized?

Could an openly gay man join your church as a member?

What would your staff do if an LGBT couple came to your church wanting to be married?

What would the reaction be if a member had a sex change and still attended your church?

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](#)
 19. ***For The Bible Tells Me So***, by Dr. Katie Hays – [link](#)
-

20. Elder Growth and Training:

- a. **Often Overlooked Values of High-Functioning Elder Teams** – [link](#)
- b. **Creating a Mentorship Program for Emerging Elders** – [link](#)
- c. **Best Practices for Shepherding People in the Congregation** – [link](#)

“I didn’t go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.”

— C. S. Lewis