

Moving Forward with Andrew Owens – Minister Installation and Support

From: M Bret Blackford (bret\_blackford@yahoo.com)  
To: bret\_blackford@yahoo.com  
Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 08:48 AM CDT

MEMO to FILE

----- Forwarded Message -----  
**From:** M Bret Blackford <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com>  
**To:** MX MXElders <mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org>; Jeff McGlawn <jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, **June 24, 2025** at 02:30:30 AM CDT  
**Subject:** Moving Forward with Andrew Owens – Minister Installation and Support

Fellow Shepherds,

After months of prayer, patience, and discernment, I am deeply thankful to God that we have arrived at this moment—calling Andrew Owens to serve as our new minister. It has been over two years since Jeff Kryder shared his retirement plans, and more than a year since we formally began our search. I’m proud of how our congregation and leadership have faithfully waited on the Lord’s provision. Our shared trust in God’s timing has brought us to a place of expectation, and I truly believe Andrew has been called to serve at McKnight.

I’m also grateful for how the body stepped up during the interim season. So many from our own congregation were willing to preach, teach, and lead—evidence of the Spirit at work among us. I hope we’ll find ways to continue involving voices from within our church, perhaps even one Sunday each month.

As we begin this next chapter, I believe it’s important to mark the occasion with formal recognition. Our tradition may not have a prescribed “installation” ceremony, but it feels both appropriate and spiritually significant to publicly affirm Andrew’s role during worship. August 10 could be a fitting date for this, offering the church an opportunity to celebrate, commit, and pray.

Some elements to consider for that Sunday service:

- A brief charge or declaration affirming Andrew’s role
- A prayer of blessing and unity from the Elders
- A moment for the congregation to express their welcome and support
- Perhaps even a simple symbolic gesture (laying on of hands, a shared reading, etc.)

Beyond this symbolic beginning, it’s also critical that we shepherd well through the early months of Andrew’s ministry. Jeff Kryder brought seasoned leadership, and this transition may be both exciting and disorienting for some. Let’s be intentional in setting expectations and providing Andrew with encouragement and clarity.

I propose that we outline some shared priorities or rhythms for Andrew’s first six months—both to support him and to foster alignment among the Elders and congregation. These might include:

- Opportunities to meet with ministry leaders and families
- Listening sessions with members
- Clear communication around his role, boundaries, and ministry goals
- A timeline for feedback and check-ins

Let’s continue to pray together for Andrew, for unity among the leadership/body, and for God to use this new season to deepen our love for one another and our community.

Grateful to be on this journey with all of you.

— Bret



MinisterInstallation-AndrewOwens.pdf  
78.3 KB