June 20, 2022 **MX Elder Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Jeff Kryder, Lane Hamm, Keaton Jones, Dave Weiler, Don Fitzgerald, Brad Stevens, Bret Blackford

1. **People Updates/Shout-outs/Concerns**

* Betty Vaughn with her husband Richard’s passing
* Rick Salley back past couple of weeks
* Brenda (Quain’s mother, Jerry Mickey fiancé) would like to place membership. Jeff Kryder to meet with her.
* Keaton talked with Tom, guy dating Jeannie Britzmann. He will play with the MX music group on Wednesdays.
* Cindy Munoz – not happy with current church. Sergio indicates they may come back to MX.
* **Q**: Do we need an updated directory?
* Merci and Daryl (new in town living in Clayton) have been missing from church past few weeks.
* Spencer R. is on fire and really doing great things and trying to get things started.
* Jeremiah and Jeff Kryder visited Whitney, whose daughter needed several teeth pulled etc. Also visited a couple other families. (Jamie Wehrung)

1. **YM Search Update**
   * No movement at present. No new candidates.
   * Jamey Grimsley not given a hard no
   * Jeremy Picker filling in but has not shown interest in being a candidate.
   * Committee meeting this Sunday – June 26.
   * MX is outside the Bible belt (North/South divide) – can we look at some of the Christian churches? Do we have a warm network with any of these local congregations? Does S Awtrey have contacts?
2. **Finance Committee Update** - (nothing specific in my mind, just an opportunity to share the thoughts and priorities for this group)
   * We are approaching mid-year and we have shortfall from budget. Looking for a mid-year update from Dave Weiler.
   * Also, direct deposit for members
   * Food Pantry tax credits
   * Cover giving as part of the gospel of Luke
   * Jeremiah and new Youth Minister to understand budget and what is appropriate
   * Bret to follow-up with Jeannie Britzmann about having Elite look at fuze panels while her on Thursday.
3. **Vision Elders** - Present & Discuss a way forward on Priorities and Results from Elder/Staff retreat

Jeff Kryder handout – see ***Attachment A***

**Q**: **How do we get more involvement, engagement, and conversation on Kingdom things?**

**Don Fitz** – take dedicated and consistent time to weekly have a class to ask questions.

**Lane Hamm** – How do we express to the congregation the importance of the Vison: Small Groups, Leadership Development, NextGen/Family, Community Service. Explain why these are **big rocks** we need in our jar first and then develop resources to help people having trouble with these big rock issues (reference from this video Dave Weiler mentioned - <https://youtu.be/6_N_uvq41Pg> .Also similar thoughts expressed by Richard Foster in his book “[Celebration of Disciplines](https://www.amazon.com/Celebration-Discipline-path-Spiritual-Growth/dp/0060628391/ref=asc_df_0060628391/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=317002713299&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=5806406643373128617&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9022896&hvtargid=pla-487617394453&psc=1)”)

* + When should these conversations happen? Bible class?
  + Timing – sooner than later. Aug/Sept time frame? (L.H.)
  + Do we consider this new class a foundational path forward post-covid? (D.W.)
    1. As this is foundational Jeff Kryder can spend some pulpit time setting the stage and giving some background to the class.
  + Bret cautioned against allowing open discussion with congregation as this often results in more harm than good. Specific targeted questions might be ok but a general discussion or open mic type forum is risky. Ref. article[[1]](#footnote-1)
  + Dale Robinson report and recommendations [***here***](https://www.shepherd.mx.mxcoc.xyz/docs-2022/MX%20Interview%20Report-Elders.pdf).

1. **Other Business**
   * Jeremy Picker not sure what his role will be in 3+ months (after fill-in for Youth Minister).
   * MX roof is no longer insurable. Need to investigate replacement cost and start a sinking fund.
   * Jeremiah H provided slips of kids/families for elders to take home and pray over.

**Attachment A**

Presented to the elders on June 20, 2022

**2022 MX Priorities**

***Recommendation by Vision Elders and Senior Minister for discussion at Monday Elders’ meeting, June 20th.***

1. **Current Status**
2. We have a good Mission Statement, 7 Values, and structure of Delight in God, Encourage One Another, Serve Eagerly as our broad desire for every member.
3. Have secured Elder and staff agreement on key priorities: **Small Groups, Leadership/Ministry Leader Development and NexGen/Family, and Community Service.**
4. Have working document and summary outline of communication (Don’s letter).
5. **Challenges**
6. Could feel a lot like business as usual.
7. We need a memorable message – a story to live by – a hook to hang our hat on.
8. Need to attract and get buy-in and ownership from a much wider swath of the church.
9. Consider reframing as most people, even our members, do not think in terms of what is best for the church. Their questions:
   1. “Why has Jesus called me to service?”
   2. “What’s in it for me?”
   3. “Do I belong at MX?”
   4. “How do I succeed in life and take my family with me?”
   5. “What is God’s calling on my life?”
   6. “I have as much or more going on as I want and need.”

Our framing should be more kingdom and mission focused than church focused.

1. **Next Steps**
2. Give a brief summary of our progress to the congregation on June 26th.
3. **Conversations** - Hold a series of weekly sessions during Bible Class in the near future to discuss our selected priorities, listen to one another, and create engagement.
   1. Timing - July 10 through August, or September 11-October.
   2. Meet in gym, at tables, similar to inter-generational class.
   3. Leadership provides the structure, reinforces the values, and lays out the priorities.
   4. Prayer for the Holy Spirit to work in this open congregational setting.
   5. Invite representation from young and old, new and old, and male and female.
   6. From this conversation ministry ideas are generated and further defined.
   7. Volunteers and Ministry Leaders are surfaced.
   8. See engagement process as a “win” for the kingdom.
4. Extend invitations for members to join elders on Sundays at 8:30.
5. Have 1-1 or small group sessions to listen and broaden feedback.

1. From … <https://opentextbc.ca/socialpsychology/chapter/group-decision-making/>

    [↑](#footnote-ref-1)