

MX Elders meeting 7/6/2022

Attendees: Jeff Kryder, Keaton Jones, Don Fitzgerald, Bret Blackford (secretary), Steve Awtrey (Chair), Dave Weiler, Brad Stevens, Jeremiah Haywood, Steve Walker

1. Personal check on Elders

Lane Hamm not sure about employment future.

Roundtable with how all the elders/staff are doing. Good discussions

- Don Fitzgerald and Keaton Jones may want to step down in a few years.

2. People Update

- BrendaTull – Quain’s mom, Jerry Mickey’s fiancé – Jeff Kryder met with her. She is enjoying worship at MX and is serious about her faith. – came from a conservative Baptist background. She lives in Valley Park by the Pickers. Speaks Spanish.
- Munoz family – elder and younger – have been coming recently. Don Fitz to follow-up.
- Whitney Cannon – Michael positive for covid so out of work for a week (no pay).
- Ryley Cruz re Ryley – Jeff Kryder talked with the family but Ryley doing ok.
- Marcei and Darrell – looking at other churches
- Jamie Wehrung – Jeremiah talked with Jamie and trying to get together. She has 4 grandkids in her care.
- Maria Holmes – Keaton talked with them. Tom doing better with day care etc. Maria not ready to return to church. Worried about covid?
- Grady Goff baptized !

3. Update on Bradley Briggs – Dave Weiler

Bradley required to report quarterly in person and provide all his email accts, etc. He failed to report an old (2 years ago) email that Bradley hasn’t used. Because Bradley did not disclose it is a class-E felony. Delayed for various reason and was settled last month. He pled guilty and has a 5-year sentence with 4-year parole. He is now on probation. Weekly parole officer meetings. Until parole office comfortable Bradley cannot come to church.

4. Youth Ministry search update – Lane Hamm

Nathan Strickland has formally applied for the job. Resume [here](#). He has been working as a volunteer fat MX or a while.

Another applicant interview tomorrow night – Wesley.

Lane Hamm plans to bring Nathan Strickland in on Sat. July 16

- Brett’s observations from [email](#)
- Steve Haupt’s “Youth Ministry Thoughts” from letter in [email](#)

5. Discussion about decommissioning the Covid Committee

From Bret:

Proposal: decommission the Return to the Building (RttB) group and replace with a simple decision tree. Possible Decision Tree:

MX will continue meeting at the building unless it becomes unlawful. If St. Louis requires a mask then MX will require a mask. If St. Louis issues a mask recommendation we note (in email bulletin) that MX continues to provide socially distanced areas in auditorium. or something similar.

Many reasons I propose the above, a few:

- > currently it sends a mixed message if bulletin recommends a mask yet on Sunday very few, including elders and staff, wear a mask.
- > I think we are at a place in the pandemic where the RttB is no longer needed for the safety of the congregation.
- > The RttB group has been given extensive authority - the ability to close the building and require mask, distancing, and the holding of classes. I think this level of authority was needed but that time has passed.

Wording is important – “request” or “encourage” versus “required”, but the majority of the eldership feel the BttB committee still has value. “encourage” (“consider”) seems to be the favored language. If elders/leaders do not wear a mask when it is “requested” what message does that send the congregation?

6. Davania Farewell

This Sunday, July 10. Brad Stevens to make a statement to honor Glenn and Janice. Was considering a video (from Jan Patrick) but might not work as Jan is sick. About 10 min talk (shoot for 8). This recognition in lieu of Shepherd's prayer that Sunday.

Mike Runce will add something to the memory book.

7. Monthly Prayer leader in Wole's absence

Dave Weiler will step in during the interim. Jeannie Britzmann will also help in this. There is an agenda for the rest of the year. Dave open to different time or style.

Jeff Kryder mentioned that changing things up may be a good thing and bring awareness to others in the congregation. Possibly end prayer time on Sunday mornings at 8:00 am? Can we tie it into Pray-n-Go?

Wed. July 20 @ 5:30 pm – next **Pray-n-Go**. Eat together then out by 6:00 pm

8. Additional unresolved old business from 6/20 meeting

a. Vision retreat/next steps

Start a class in December 2022. Elders discuss vision with congregation. How can MX bring about the kingdom of God? Also, invite 20 to 25 people who we would like to be on this journey with us. Steve Beachum, Cass Grimshaw, etc. It would be good to have a cross-section of our congregation get involved in carrying out this vision. We need ambassadors for this vision.

9. Discussion about adding elders

Brad Stevens mentioned discussing eldership with Collins Corder

Elders agreed we should avoid inviting MX members to join eldership without first discussing with full eldership.

Don Fitz.: Can we identify a list of men who would be good candidates to invite and walk beside us for a time? Can we then allow the older Elders an opportunity to step down (if they want).

[Next Meeting: Bring list of potential elders for consideration and prayer.](#)

From Bret:

Q: Why add more elders? What is the goal?

- We have 10 elders with Wole and Glenn gone – how many elders do we need?
- Do we need more elders (how many) or different (younger) elders? If younger, then Collins does not fit.
- Do we need more elders because there is work that is not getting done with current elders? If so what work?
- I would think 5-8 elders is a good number. More than 8 and you get into diseconomies of scale. It is harder to make decisions, etc.

10. VBS – Jeremiah Haywood

About 29 kids at [VBS](#) today. 15 not part of MX community.

Lots of excitement both from the kids visiting/attending as well as those teaching and helping VBS.

Gwen Walker and Jeremiah filled in with some work Spencer R couldn't finish due to Covid, and Alana H was out of town.

Miscellaneous links:

- Wole Okunade [letter](#)
- Glenn Devania [letter](#)
- 06.21.2022 MX Safety Team email [here](#) – general info on team members and strategy
- 07.01.2022 MX Safety Team minutes [here](#) – re-start team with
- 06.23.2022 MX Gas Theft email [here](#) – damage to car and MX van
- 06.13.2022 Draft Communication – [“Where should we go from here?”](#)
- 04.03.2022 Dale Robinson [recommendations](#)
- [MX Logic Model](#)