

September 26, 2022

MX Elder Meeting

Attendees: Steve Walker (chair), Louis West, Keaton Jones, Steve Awtrey, Bret Blackford, Brad Stevens, Don Fitzgerald, Jeff Kryder

Philippians 4:6 – “Do not be anxious ... “

We have big decisions and need to trust in God.

1. People

- a. Lacoss-Arnold family – Patty broke ankle and still waiting on courts with the girls
- b. Norma Janes – she was happy to hear from Jeff Kryder. She does not go out except for groceries and does not want anyone to the house. Jeff not sure if Norma is following services on-line or in any medium. She talks with Barb Dolan and Nel.
- c. Jan Patrick – Cathy Jones talked with her. Vicki Roberts and Barb will try and have lunch with her this week. Steve Haupt played piano for her.
- d. Alice Ferry – wanted to join a small group via Zoom. Keaton unable to help with this. Not sure how we should deal with these types of situations.
- e. Audrey Dolan – Marty’s ex-wife – had a hard young life. Her 12-year-old granddaughter has been coming on Wednesdays and Sundays. She is part of a grandparents raising grandchildren group – would like MX to get involved with this.
- f. Judy Miller & Linda – Linda put sister in nursing home. An answered prayer and a bog list for Linda. They are looking into taking over the senior ministry (Special Sisters II).
- g. Care Ministry? – can we have members taking communion to others?
 - i. Are we taking care of widows?
- h. John Waters – Steve Awtrey talked with him. Called to talk. He plans to come back but has been in Amarillo TX.

2. Youth Minister – Nathan

- a. Steve Awtrey thought class went well
 - i. Nathan’s Youth Ministry Vision – not so much vision as activities.
 - ii. What we are looking for is a personality and the rest we can train
 - b. Keaton – Nathan is a positive kid and he want to do this. Keaton thought he did well with the class. Feels Nathan is able to plan things out.
 - i. Jeremiah will bring out the best in either candidate.
 - c. Steve Walker – Nathan knows the kids and was able to engage the kids in the class. Nathan was ready for interview and had some things he wanted to talk about.
 - i. Wesley may be good at first but Nathan may be a better long-term candidate.
 - ii. **Q: Which candidate will better help MX reach our goals?**
 - d. Don Fitzgerald – Nathan desires to do this.
 - e. Jeff Kryder – really likes Nathan and has seen a great deal of growth.
 - f. All elders present agreed that both candidates would be good candidates.
- Should Steve Awtrey get with Youth Group to discuss if they would/could back each candidate? We should call the parents and students together to get their commitment to back the decision.

Saturday October 3

- 8:00-9:00 Prayer
- 9:00–10:00 get with Search Committee individually
- **Make a decision – pick a candidate** (see **Attachment B**)
 - Contact chosen candidate
 - If offer accepted – plan announcement

3. Clarity on 4 Ps

- a. How do we better engage the community?
- b. How do Strengthen our Relationships with one another and Connect Groups as a focal point
- c. How do we continue our focus on NextGen?
- d. How do we develop Ministries and Leaders?

4. **Class:** October 2 – “Where do we go from here?” see **Attachment A**

5. Staffing Updates – Steve Walker and Steve Awtrey

- a. Jeff Kryder outlined duties of all staff roles
- b. Steve A and Steve W are attempting to re-align duties for future vision of staff
- c. Elizabeth McPherson currently has too many duties
- d. Don Fitzgerald and Bret Blackford – Admin Elders with building focus.

Summary from Jeff Kryder of new class starting October 2, 2022

Where Do We Go from Here?

Class on 4th Level

Begins Oct 2

Recently, the elders and staff spent a day together to talk about the future of MX Church in a post-COVID, post-Christian world. We recommitted to our values, identified many strengths, recognized many challenges, and could see lots of opportunities!

Related to the priorities we identified, we want to broaden our input and invite you to be in conversation with us.

- How do we strengthen our relationships with one another?
- How do we focus even better on the next generation?
- How do we develop our ministries and leaders?
- How do we better reach out to our community?

We would like to see a broad intergenerational range of men and women working on these questions together. We will be offering a time during Bible Class, beginning Oct 2, called - Where Do We Go from Here? My prayer is that it will be full of lively dialogue, be upbeat, and be led by the Holy Spirit. We will meet during Bible Class at tables on the 4th floor. Led by Jeff and the Elders.

October 2 and 9 – 7 Values at MX

- Spirit-Led (prayerfully following the direction of God)
- Next Gen (investing in the next generation)
- Family (having a common Father to deeply love one another)
- Diversity (sharing in our oneness; appreciating our differences)
- Adaptable (changing to better honor God)
- Generosity (eagerly giving time, talent, and treasure)
- Missional (purposefully sharing the good news as we go)

Our 7 Values describe our vision of ourselves - who we aspire to be as the body of Christ at MX. Our desire is that our priorities, then our ministries, and finally all of our words and actions derive from these values. The values provide a useful lens through which we can evaluate all that we say and do.

- A newcomer to MX asks for your help. Explain to them the meaning of your the value assigned to you using both Scripture and practical examples.
- In what ways can you see the importance of this value to MX?

- In what ways do the 7 Values help us carry out our mission to “welcome others into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ”?
- Give examples of how we might embed these values into everything we say and do at MX?
- Consider how a ministry (Greeters, Worship, Children’s Ministry, Food Pantry, etc.) might be informed and strengthened through the 7 Values.

October 16 - How do we strengthen our relationships with one another?

One key priority the Elders identified is our sense of community and connections to one another.

Some churches see the main task of the leadership as “creating contagious” environments.

Brainstorm how we might strengthen our relationships. Identify two categories of ministries:

1. Ad Hoc Efforts and Events
2. Sustainable Ongoing Ministries

Some Ministries that have traditionally fallen under this priority:

1. New Members
2. Connect Groups and Huddle Groups
3. Fellowship Ministry
4. Men’s Ministry
5. Women’s Ministry

October 23 - How do we focus even better on the next generation (and their families)?

Below is a sanitized generalization of responses from parents and teens (from Steve Awtrey confidential handout). It is a crude heatmap but gives an indication of how individuals responded to the Youth Minister candidates.

	wait	Nathan		Wesley		both
		pro	con	pro	con	OK
TEENS	5	4	4	3	2	
Teen 1	x	x				x
Teen 2	x		x		x	
Teen 3	x	X	X	X	X	
Teen 4	x					
Teen 5		x				
Teen 6			x	x		
Teen 7		x				
Teen 8	x					
Teen 9			x	x		
PARENTS	1	0	1	3	0	
Parent 1				X		
Parent 2	x			x		
Parent 3				x		
Parent 4			x			