

A Summary of Our “Where should we go from here” Thoughts

For the past couple of years up through these last few months the McKnight Crossings church of Christ has experienced a number of unprecedented events and the resulting challenges have been formidable. The pandemic came upon us quickly and changed the very core of the life of MCCC. Shutdowns, quarantines, masking, social distancing became issues of primary concern and drastically changed how we function as a church and a community of faith.

Since the very beginning of these “interrupters” the leadership has prayed for God’s guidance as we navigated through these trying times. We realized very quickly that one of the major challenges would be maintaining a sense of community and the corresponding engagement of each member. We all know the challenges that came with Worship services, Sunday School, Small Groups, Food Pantry, congregational events and many other activities. More importantly, it was extremely difficult to know and respond to specific needs of the membership. Thank you to so many who worked hard to stay connected and stay in touch with each other. God has been with us and has blessed us. We are grateful...but we have a lot of work to do!

As we seem to be emerging from the worst of the pandemic many have returned to the building. Many have still chosen not to at this point. Things are still very challenging and we may never be back to what was before the pandemic. Leadership has again prayed that as we return to be together again we take this opportunity to reaffirm our purpose as God’s church in this place at 2515 McKnight Road. How do we best live out the Key Values we have set before us: Spirit-Led, Nex Gen, Family, Diversity, Adaptable, Generosity and Missional. We want these values to drive all we do at MCCC.

Moving forward we certainly want to be a place of worship. We must be a place where believers can come and worship the Creator in Spirit and in truth, bringing our best to Him and giving the glory due Him, avoiding the temptation to seek our own satisfaction from the Sunday service.

We also want MCCC to be a place of spiritual formation for our families and visitors where they can grow spiritually from being in the Word, seeking His will. We continue to evaluate the best ways to grow in the knowledge and application of God’s Word for our children as well as the adults. May we hunger and thirst after His will.

In addition to loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We want MCCC to excel in loving and serving our community...both our MCCC community and the external community that extends outward from 2515 McKnight Road. Jesus showed us what this means by ministering to the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the broken. We want to be a church that is known as a church that truly cares for these people who are among us and live around us in our community.

The Leadership has identified Small Groups, Leadership/Ministry Leader Development and NexGen/Family as priorities for this church to focus on and leverage in developing ministries addressing the MCCC and external communities. We want to develop men and women to lead ministries that serve, use Small Groups to energize those ministries, involve our families, young and old (NexGen), to impact our communities and help make MCCC known as a place to belong and serve. Our desire is that MCCC would become known in our community as the place that truly reaches out and serves. All will know that if you are hungry we will help, if you are poor we will help, if you are oppressed MCCC will lift you up, if your relationships are broken we will walk with you through your healing. It has already begun. There is no telling how God will open doors after our “Pray & Go” event Sunday!

A quote from Carson Reed who is on faculty at ACU...and the son of our Mary Ellen Reed...from one of his recent articles:

.. early Christian communities were committed to discipleship. Forming people in the content of the Christian faith mattered. Yet the formation of disciples was less about doctrine and more about practices. Early Christians were taught to pray, to take care of the poor, to live moral lives, to avoid political scandal, and to refuse to participate in violence toward others.

What the public saw of Christians was not worship services or preaching. Rather, what ordinary citizens of the Roman world experienced from Christians were their character and disposition. Christians simply fed the poor, cared for abandoned children, and provided protection and community for widows and the elderly. Christians acted justly in the marketplace and refused to be litigious. Christians were recognized by their habits and character.

There is great wisdom and truth in these words. Again, we visualize MCCC as a church where these things can happen and will happen when as a Body, we engage and apply our gifts toward these ministries that will build a strong church internally and externally. We want to ask you to join us in prayer, asking the Lord to direct our path. We also welcome your feedback and comments along with signaling your willingness to join us in seeking how to be a church that truly honors God.