

MX Elder Mtg

April 3, 2023 mtg notes

Attendees:

Brad Stevens, Keaton Jones, Steve Awtrey, Dave Weiler, Don Fitzgerald, Bret Blackford, Steve Walker, Jeff Kryder, Jeremy Picker, Nathan Strickland, Jeremiah Haywood

Next Meeting: **April 17** – Dave Weiler chair

1) **Update on members** (all)

Brian Hill – concerns about LGBTQ+ community. MX should be about love and acceptance but the Bible defines sin, not us.

Joyce Holt – cancer and blood clots

Peggy Hope with backpain

Mariah Holmes – would like a ramp for husband Tom.

2) **Children's ministry update** (Jeremiah)

Easter Sunday – class time at Tilles Park with Easter themed games and egg hunt. Jeff Kryder will make sure to bring up Jesus during sermon.

VBS coming soon and volunteers still needed.

Can kids lead prayer during Sunday worship?

3) **Teen ministry update** (Nathan)

Jayden Seibert may move to California

4) **Worship/Transition update** (Jeremy)

See **Exhibit A** for plans.

Jeremy met with AV/Tech Team – team seems to be doing well.

Jeremy in talks with Bryant and Chris Fuller about leading Sunday Worship

5) **Easter Sunday plans** (Jeff)

Banner/Sign in front of MX building was torn due to winds. Replacement expected to be out prior to Easter Sunday.

Jeff plans to talk about Jesus during sermon.

6) **Room at the Inn request** (Dave)

The Room at the Inn facility will have construction soon and needs to find space for clients. Are asking local congregations to assist. See detail at **Exhibit G**.

(Jeremiah, Nathan, and Jeremy excused)

7) **Main points from Carson Reed meeting**

Link to Carson Reed annotated audio [here](#).

Link to Dale Robinson recommendations [here](#).

8) **Decision or next steps on clothing bank request**

We need more information. Considering having Audrey Dolan fill clothing requests when needed. That is, not stock enough items to address any and all needs (all sizes, genders, color and style options, etc.). Audrey will work with individual clients to determine their specific needs and then work to fill those needs based on existing clothing on hand or to obtain (via purchasing or contacts with other clothing pantries). See **Exhibit E**.

9) **Decision or next steps on women preaching and woman worship leader** (Jeff's handout from last meeting)

a) **Women Worship Leader** – this was agreed at the 04.03.2023 meeting. See **Exhibit H**.

b) **Women Preaching** – item still undecided. Tabled for future meeting.

10) **Handout from last meeting on worship minister gaps and how best to fill** (Jeff)

See **Exhibit A** and **Exhibit B**

11) **Handout from last meeting on Jeremy's duties for remainder of time** (Jeff)

See **Exhibit A** and **Exhibit B**

12) **Handout from last meeting on Pastoral Team concept** (Jeff)

See **Exhibit C**

13) **Consider hiring PT office/communications staff**

Kaylynn Myers accepted the part-time job. She will begin next Monday. Her role will center on Church Communications and Worship Planning. However, she will also have some tasks that will directly offer some help to Elizabeth. We will keep all of this a bit in the background until we get some distance from Dolores' role. The timing is good to immediately support Elizabeth and get some cross-training from Jeremy.

Expected to work 20 hours/week with work-from-home part of that time.

14) Plan for April 17th elders/ministry leaders meeting (Jeff)

15) Other

- Jeff Kryder follow-up email on mtg items – **Exhibit I**
- Winter Wonderland parking request – See **Exhibit J**.
- decided **QR codes** on backs of pews great idea. See **Exhibit L**.

Jeremy Items (March - May)

- 1. Worship Planning through June**
- 2. Church Center App**
 - a. Log-in using QR Code
 - b. New Here? (Guest information and form)
 - c. Bulletin
 - d. Order of Worship
 - e. Giving
 - f. Prayer Requests
- 3. Visitor Welcome Desk Materials**
- 4. New Member Packets & Process**
- 5. Planning Center Training for *Staff***
- 6. Jeremy's Computer**
- 7. Tech Training (Pro-presenter, Streaming, etc.)**
- 8. New Members - Shelly**

WORSHIP MINISTER

(Part-time March 2023)

Worship Planning, Coordination, and Leadership - *Delight in God*

- **Regularly Meet** with Senior Minister to help plan the direction and details of each Sunday worship assembly and other occasional times of worship.
- **Lead Worshipper** on Sunday mornings, and other occasions, as needed. Able to lead both acapella and instrumental worship.
 - o Able to passionately lead the Praise Team and the congregation into the throne room of the Holy God
- **Develop Worship Team** - Recruit and develop those participating on the Worship Team through rehearsals, teaching music, teaching new songs, blending voices, and instruments, to enable an encounter with God and Christ in corporate worship.
- **Planning and Administration of Order of Worship**
 - o Actively manage coordination, planning, and schedules of worship leaders, praise team singers, and instrumentalists, for each worship time.
 - o Coordinate worship participants for all aspects of worship (Announcements, Prayers, Communion Thoughts, Scripture Readers, etc.)
 - o Responsible for readiness of all details and personnel for practices and times of worship, including ProPresenter preparation, sound and mic set-up, and live-stream readiness.

Pastoral Team

Mar 2023

The purpose of this team is to assist the Elders and staff with pastoral ministry.

Background:

- The need for a team like this in our churches has likely always existed. However, the need has become more pressing based upon several factors:
- Post-Covid people are staying home more. Their contact with the church and the Shepherds has been reduced.
- The Elders have had an abundance of challenges, not necessarily more important tasks, but often more urgent ones to attend to. For instance, staffing issues have been very demanding for more than a year.
- In lieu of additional elders, this team can do aspects of the Shepherd's role without all the other administrative meetings.

Duties:

- Visiting those who are having trouble getting out.
- Making hospital visits.
- Calling, texting, and / or visiting those who have disengaged from church life.
- Offering assistance with services like transportation, running to the drugstore, or organizing a meal.

Guidelines:

- This team will have one male and one female leader who will coordinate the pasturing and reporting to the elders.
- This team will be publicly commissioned and prayed over by the congregation.
- This commitment will be for 2- years.
- Regular (Bi-monthly) reporting at the 2nd Elder's meeting of the month.

Initial Team Members to Be Invited:

- Kay Heintz
- Collins Corder
- Marion Earnhart
- Retta Sutterfield
- Ben Mehringer
- Alec Hill
- Jim Griffith

**Elder Meeting with Ministry Leaders
(2nd Meeting of the Month)
March 2023**

Time: Elders will meet on the 2nd meeting per month with Ministry Leaders.

Organizer: Jeff K. to organize this meeting.

Ministry Reports: Each meeting will include at least two Ministry reports. The Pastoral Team will report as one of the two reports every other meeting.

1. **Pastoral Team** - tbd
2. **Food Pantry** - Barb
3. **Connect Groups** - Dale
4. **Fellowship** - Kari
5. **Sunday Tech Team**
6. **Greeters** - Fredy
7. **ACTS** - Katie
8. **Missions** -Jeff McGlawn
9. **Office** - Elizabeth
10. **College Outreach** - Jayson and Adam
11. **Young Adults** - Carrie, Nathan, and Nathaniel
12. **Seniors / Faith in Action (FIA)** – starting in April
13. **Connect Group Leaders** (Steve Jones, Cas and Matthew, Dale and Alec, etc.)
14. **Faith Formation** - Betty
15. **Safety**-Jerry Mickey
16. **Unity in Diversity**- West and Mayberry

Approach: The meeting will include a report by the Ministry Leader, feedback, Q &A, and prayer from the Shepherds

Audrie Dolan – Clothing Pantry

From: M Bret Blackford (bret_blackford@yahoo.com)

To: mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org; jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org; keaton.jones@sbcglobal.net

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 07:33 AM CST

Re: **Audrie Dolan – Clothing Pantry**

At the March 6, 2023 elder meeting Audrie presented a clothing ministry she would like to start at the McKnight building. Her vision is to be able to provide shoes and clothing, and eventually bedding/linens, to individuals on the same schedule that the food pantry (<https://www.mxchurch.org/christians-who-carefood-pantry>) is open. Audrie would like room to store 12 large totes of clothes and possibly wants a clothing drop-box for the parking lot. Audrie also indicated she has discussed her plans with Barb Eickele, who is on-board with the project.

There was some discussion that this may be an overly ambitious plan, and perhaps we should start with a focus on children's clothes, or baby needs. Others mentioned we should find a way to gauge the need for a clothing pantry in our area.

Bret mentioned that other ministries are serving this need and perhaps it is best to partner with them instead of trying to build another competing ministry. MX has relationships with the Webster-Rockhill Ministries (<https://www.wrhm.org/>) as well as Churches on the Street (<https://www.churchesonthestreets.com/>). There is also a Goodwill less than a mile away.

Although I do not consider this a ministry that MX should start, I very much want to honor Audrie's heart and desire to help others. My suggestion is that we channel this energy and passion into a way that MX can partner with other ministries currently working in this space.

---- Bret

ps

I wanted to send this out separate from the meeting notes so we can discuss independent from the other agenda items. Please, add your thoughts and comments to this discussion thread.

Fwd: Clothing Ministry update

Jeff Kryder <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>

To: MX MXElders, Keaton Jones

Tue, Apr 4 at 2:49 PM

Further feedback from Barb. This Nazarene church is on Watson Road close to my old house, technically in Webster.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Charles Eickele** <chas.babs@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 2:21 PM

Subject: Clothing Ministry update

To: Jeff Kryder <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>

Hi Jeff,

I just spoke with Sam at the Webster Groves Church of the Nazarene. It is on Watson Rd, not Big Bend, near S. Elm.

1. They do have a clothing ministry that is open weekly. Sam said that they do have a need for men's and children's clothing. Apparently they don't have enough donations of those items.

2. They also have a food pantry which serves about 20 clients/weekly, which is larger than ours.

3. They also have a fund for people who need gas, motel room, etc, but that is reserved more for people with whom they have an established relationship.

4. He said that they also have facilities for people to do laundry, and they have a hard time servicing the clients. It's open once a week during limited hours, and they have clients that come every week, and so it's hard for new people to come and do their laundry. I think he said that they set up appointments for that.

So apparently there is somewhat of a need for clothing, but is Watson a bigger distance away that would have a different clientele than Rock Hill?

I told him we were considering a clothing ministry, and he said to call anytime if we had more questions.

Barb

--

Jeff Kryder

Senior Minister

McKnight Crossings Church of Christ

Special Days – Lent, Easter, Christmas, etc.

There was some time taken at the March 6, 2023 Elder meeting to discuss the appropriateness of recognizing specific holidays during Sunday worship, holidays like - Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas, etc.

The concern seems to be that pagan holidays have been co-opted as Christian religious festivals. That our Sundays may end up with trappings of Santa Claus and trees, or Easter bunnies and chocolate, and miss the central themes of the gospel. Although this is a valid concern, and can be seen in several religious organizations, it does not appear to be a problem at McKnight Crossings (MX). Christ has always been central to our worship, especially on those Sunday's where we celebrate and remember the birth and death/resurrection of our Lord.

It was shared that the old and New Testament are filled with examples of special days and tokens of remembrances (piles of stones, festival of booths, Passover, etc. & etc.).

A couple conflicting Bible verses:

Galatians 4:9-10

But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces^a? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years!

Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore, do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Room at the Inn - request

From: M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>
To: Bret Blackford <mblackford@archrsc.com>; Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 08:24:19 AM CDT
Subject: Room at the Inn (RATI): Challenge/Assistance Needed Please

At the April 3, 2023 Elder Meeting, Dave Weiler discussed this challenge. Dave actually presented an additional option, **Option 3 - that of housing clients for an extended period of multiple days/weeks.**

If Option 3 not viable considering Option 2 and offer Thr/Fri slot at building. Will still need to confirm/approve with elders after additional conversations with RATI and MX schedule.

Unknowns that need follow-up:

Will clients be at the facility all day? Previously they would be sleep at the MX building and be vanned elsewhere during the day. Will MX expect to have 15-20 people at the building 24/7? How do we plan to shower, feed, entertain, supervise? What volunteer resources from MX will be needed?

Pros:

Helps Room at the Inn schedule
Continues God's mission of serving those in our community
Utilizes our resources (building) to help those in need

Cons:

Building will be dirty.
Use by Room at the Inn may restrict pickleball, basketball, various meetings.
Volunteers needed?
Zoning - we have gone under the radar previously with occasional sleeping at the building (Room at the Inn, church groups passing through, etc.). Extended 24/7 use of building may result in possible citations (<https://www.vice.com/en/article/z3nga3/churches-banned-from-helping-homeless>).
Struggle to shower and feed 15-20 people with MX facilities

Action:

Follow-up with Room at the Inn (RATI) to determine if clients and RATI staff will be at the building 24 hours
Follow-up with RATI to determine if staff will be on-site when clients on-site (or if MX volunteers expected to assist)
Contact Collins Corder and get his thoughts

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jeff Kryder <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>
To: MX MXElders <mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 09:53:03 AM CDT
Subject: Fwd: Challenge/Assistance Needed Please

Hi All,
I am making you aware of this request from Room at the Inn.
-- Jeff

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Weber <dweber@roomstl.org>
Date: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 11:59 AM
Subject: Challenge/Assistance Needed Please
To: McKnight Crossings Church of Christ <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>

Thanks to all for your continued support and belief in the Mission of ROOM. That is our focus every day.

I'm writing today to share with you several important developments at ROOM that present a significant challenge to us, and to ask for some special assistance. You may recall that on July 20, 2022, the City of Bridgeton granted the necessary zoning and special use permit required to serve women and families in distress overnight at our location. This has

been the Board's vision for many years. To achieve this vision, we know we must continue our very strong partnerships with our congregations, supporters and volunteers.

In support of this vision, we hired an architect to prepare plans for a complete interior renovation of our building. We will be starting a Capital Campaign early this summer after construction starts. The renovation will allow the building to function more efficiently for our women and families as well as our staff. The most exciting result will be that it will allow us to increase the number of clients we serve each night. This will be the answer to many of our prayers!

To address this challenge, we have two options available to us:

- **Option 1 (requires 9-12 months):** ROOM will remain in our current building and do the renovation in two phases. This will be very disruptive to staff and clients and increase the project cost. It also opens the possibility of unplanned interruptions (no water or electric for hours) which would be inconvenient to our operations. To accommodate this option, we would rent an office trailer or available office space close by to house staff and serve as our primary office.
- **Option 2 (requires 6-9 months):** ROOM will do the renovation in a single phase, which requires vacating the building and turning it over to the contractor. This will save time and money and is the preferred option. However – it will require finding another building or church space that we could rent or use as a temporary location for staff and clients. The space would need to have bathrooms, showers, cooking ability, space for staff, space for clients to sleep, and a large gathering area for clients. **If we could get 15 or so inter faith congregations to take our clients two nights a month, we could solve the client issue.**

The assistance we ask from you is to ***provide any ideas you have about available buildings, churches, or other spaces we may be able to use as a temporary location.*** We would also consider housing clients and staff in multiple locations if necessary. We have a short time frame to make this decision.

Your questions and thoughts are appreciated. Please contact me directly at 314 209 9181 or via email at dweber@roomstl.org **As always, we thank you for your generous support!**

Our Contact Information

Room At The Inn
3415 Bridgeland Dr.
Bridgeton, MO 63044
314-209-9181
<http://www.roomstl.org>

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Jeff Kryder
Senior Minister
McKnight Crossings Church of Christ

From: M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>
To: MX MXElders <mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org>; Jeff Kryder <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>; Keaton Jones <keaton.jones@sbcglobal.net>; Louis West <louiswest920@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 06:52:09 AM CDT
Subject: **MX: Agreement on Female Worship Leader**

All,

At the April 3, 2023 Elder meeting it was determined that scripture does not restrict a woman from serving as a worship leader.

As McKnight Church of Christ considers new worship leaders to replace Jeremy Picker we will not limit the pool of possible individuals by gender, nor will we put preference on gender. It was also determined that even though the Elders feel scripture allows a female worship leader we need to be sensitive to the congregation. There is a difference between recognizing a practice as being allowable and implementing that practice.

The following elders and ministers attended the April 3, 2023 meeting and voted affirmatively on scripture allowing women to lead the congregational worship: Brad Stevens, Keaton Jones, Steve Awtrey, Dave Weiler, Don Fitzgerald, Jeff Kryder (minister), Bret Blackford. Also present was Steve Walker who abstained from voting on the issue.

It should not be inferred from this decision that we have come to an agreement or understanding on the scriptural appropriateness of women preachers or shepherds.

Thanks to everyone for their thoughtful consideration of these topics and your prayer and study in coming to a decision.

--- Bret

On Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 11:39:11 AM CST, M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com> wrote:

Fellow Elders;

We should weigh in on how we feel about a female worship leader. As we discussed at our March 6 meeting, **a Worship Leader is increasingly important and we should understand now if we plan to limit our candidates to a man.** We will need to start planning for worship post Jeremy Picker and we need to know if we are in agreement on who would be acceptable.

Personally, I am fine with either a male or female worship leader.

Please respond if you have any concerns or reservations about a female worship leader.

---- Bret

Elder Meeting Follow-up - 5 Items

Jeff Kryder <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>

To:MX MXElders,Keaton Jones

Tue, Apr 4 at 1:46 PM

Dear Elders,

Wow! We covered a lot of ground last night and still much to cover.

I am following up on a few things:

1. Kaylynn accepted the part-time job. She will begin next Monday. Her role will center on Church Communications and Worship Planning. However, she will also have some tasks that will directly offer some help to Elizabeth. We will keep all of this a bit in the background until we get some distance from Dolores' role. The timing is good to immediately support Elizabeth and get some cross-training from Jeremy.

2. Here is my current list of potentials for the Pastoral Team. Would you help with two things?

a.) Would you suggest any changes to the Pastoral Team approach? I outlined the approach in a 1 page summary in March. I have attached that doc if you would like to review (**Exhibit C**)

b.) Is there anyone on this list you would hesitate in asking to be a part of this team? Is there anyone else you would recommend?

3. I am scheduling a "Going-Away Picnic" for the Pickers for May 7th after Bible Class. It will be an informal gathering in the south concourse with some hamburgers and hotdogs. This seems to be the only Sunday available with Mother's Day and Graduation.

4. Staff will review the Winter Wonderland dates next Tuesday, April 11th in our Staff Meeting. (See **Exhibit J**)

5. WC and Virginal Conley's son, Corey, went into ICU today at SLU Hospital with breathing problems.

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Jeff Kryder

Senior Minister

McKnight Crossings Church of Christ

MX Elder Mtg

April 3, 2023 mtg notes

Exhibit J

04.04.2023 : Winter Wonderland 2023

M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>

To: Jeff Kryder, Elizabeth McPherson, Bret Blackford, Bret Blackford

Tue, Apr 4 at 1:25 PM

Jeff,

Last night the Elders decided it would be OK to allow 7 nights for the St. Louis County Parks Department to use the McKnight Crossings (MX) parking lot for Winter Wonderland in 2023. When time allows (no rush) will you go through the requested dates noted below and decide which 7 dates work best with MX.

After decision is made I will contact Maggie Martin and let her know which dates might be available, and that MX will still require \$2,600 and the liability insurance.

Let me know if I have missed anything.

--- Bret

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Blackford, Bret B. <mblackford@archrsc.com>

To: Amy J Weiler (dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com) <dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com>; donaldFitzgerald@att.net <donaldfitzgerald@att.net>; Bradford L. Stevens (BStevens@shandselbert.com) <bstevens@shandselbert.com>; brad1125@swbell.net <brad1125@swbell.net>

Cc: 'jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org' <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>; Blackford, Bret B. <mblackford@archrsc.com>; 'bret_Blackford@Yahoo.com' <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 06:50:42 AM CDT

Subject: 03.29.2023 : Winter Wonderland 2023\

MX Admin Elders

I had a teleconference with the St. Louis County Park Department yesterday to discuss the use of the McKnight parking lot for Winter Wonderland. I've summarized that conversation and their request in the attached memo. No immediate need to respond but a good idea to read and start considering request and what is best for McKnight.

--- Bret

From: Blackford, Bret B.

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:59 PM

To: Blackford, Bret B. <mblackford@archrsc.com>; bret_Blackford@Yahoo.com

Subject: 03.29.2023 : Winter Wonderland 2023 - with audio

Info on 3/29/2023 meeting re McKnight parking lot use by Winter Wonderland (WWL)

Met with ...

Eric Johnson, Recreation Manager

Brian Schaffer, Parks Director

Maggie Martin, Recreation Events Coordinator

Dates requested:

FRI November 17

SAT November 18

SUN November 19

MON November 20

SAT November 25

MON November 27

SAT December 2

MON December 4

SAT December 9

MON December 11

SAT December 16

MON December 18

SAT December 23

SAT December 30

MX Elder Mtg

April 3, 2023 mtg notes

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Martin, Margaret" <MKMartin@stlouiscountymo.gov>

Date: March 29, 2023 at 2:48:35 PM CDT

To: Sys Admin <bblackford@mcknightcrossings.org>

Subject: Winter Wonderland 2023

Bret,

Thanks for meeting with us regarding parking for Winter Wonderland's Walks in 2023. The dates we are planning to host walks and would need access to the church's large parking lot and the parking lot lights are: November 17-20, November 25, November 27, December 2, December 4, December 9, December 11, December 16, December 18, December 23 and December 30. For this we would compensate the McKnight Crossings with a payment of \$2,600. We are looking into the *Certificate of Insurance* and should have more details soon. We will not be able to offer the complimentary tickets like we have in past years, though. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,

Maggie Martin

Recreation Events Coordinator

St. Louis County Parks

<http://www.STLCountyParks.com>

314-615-8371

mkmartin@stlouiscountymo.gov



03.29.2023 MX
WinterWonderland.

Exhibit K

Attached below is the latest weekly email bulletin.



Exhibit L

It was decided that **QR codes** on backs of pews with MX website, giving page, and prayer request page is something to move forward with. Below are examples of some possible QR codes.

Below is QR code for giving:	Below is QR code for Prayer Requests:	Below is QR code to MX website (https://www.mxchurch.org/)
		