

Attendees:

Brad Stevens, Steve Awtrey, Don Fitzgerald (chair), Bret Blackford, Jeff Kryder

1. Update on members

various

2. Follow-ups from last meeting

a. Room-at-the-Inn

Steve Walker to follow-up with Collins Corder. See **Exhibit A**

Also, additional detail of ask in the April 3, 2023 meeting notes – [here](#).

b. Clothing Bank Request

From [04.03.2023 meeting](#) the following was decided ...

*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 B**.*

c. Pastoral Team – Input

Here is the proposal laid out in the [02.06.2023 meeting](#) notes ...

Proposal

There seems to be a critical gap that exists in our leadership model. I recommend that we chose a couple individuals to act as deacons in this area. Possible individuals: Ben Mehringer, Dolores Miller, Collins Corder, Marion Earnhart, Kay Heintz (others?) I think this is important enough that we commission deacons to oversee, possibly for a 2-year term (make it more sustainable). I suggest we identify 2 candidates for deacons in this area who would help oversee a larger group of individuals (let's list some names) to make sure our elderly and sick are being visited and are available for calls as needed. We will need to put more consideration into how this should be developed. Note: ministers such as Jeff Kryder will still be point for serious life issues like end-of-life, terminal illness discussions, marriage issues, etc.

Jeff Kryder formalized the above as noted in **Exhibit C**. In the 04.17.2023 meeting we agree with creating and commissioning a “Pastoral Team”. It was decided to start with a smaller group which can grow later. This group needs to have a clear leader (1 or 2 people that the elders commission to lead the team and to report 2x month to elders on visits, etc.)

3. Exit Interview – Jeremy

Don Fitzgerald and Steve Awtrey will get with Jeremy to perform an exit interview.

4. Proposal on Jeff's Retirement Schedule

Don Fitzgerald shared **Exhibit D** which he and Dave Weiler drafted

- a. May 31, 2024 - Jeff Kryder to retire from full-time ministry
- b. August/September 2024 – hire replacement Senior Minister
- c. November 2024 – Jeff Kryder off any salary and insurance

Follow-up: Steve Awtrey to contact [Carson Reid](#) about the possibility of a couple hours of consulting (via video) to discuss next steps. Before we make any announcement to the congregation or start looking for candidates we need to have a general idea of plan.

The elders in attendance discussed (no particular order):

- Looking for a married male (preferably with children)
- Desire to avoid or minimize a search committee. Elders should take responsibility for the hiring of a new minister (with input from congregation)
- MX Should be ready to hire if a suitable candidate is found. We realize we do not have the luxury of waiting and assessing multiple candidates.
- It is good to get input from those with experience in hiring ministers, but we realize no one is an expert and input should be taken “under consideration” and not as a winning strategy for moving forward.
- We feel Jeff Kryder can be an asset in the ministry transition but are open to limiting Jeff's involvement.

5. Winter Wonderland Request

Bret sent response to St. Louis County Parks – see **Exhibit E**.

6. Filling Gap for Worship Leader-Update

Originally it was discussed hiring an individual part-time to help with Sunday worship (as outlined in **Exhibit F**). The elders even agreed that a female worship leader would be an appropriate candidate (not that we are looking for a female but would not turn down a female candidate). In this meeting it was thought to try and fill the worship vacancy internally. Chris Fuller might be able to lead a couple Sunday's a month. Kaylynn Myers will help coordinate the service. We will need to monitor this as the worship service, for right or wrong, is very important to many members and visitors.

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 of 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 launch our Capital Campaign early this summer after construction starts. The renovation will allow the building to function more effectively for 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 served 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

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

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

**Jeff's Retirement Discussion (Apr 12, 2023)
with Dave Weiler and Don Fitzgerald)**

Proposal

1. Jeff to retire from full-time service at MX on May 31, 2024.
 - a. This 1 year+ allows for Jeff's to focus his ministry for his last year.
 - b. This 1 year+ allows for Jeff to prepare certain people and ministries for this transition.
 - i. Worship.
 - ii. Spiritual Formation.
 - iii. Fellowship Ministry.
 - iv. Outreach Ministry.
 - v. Staff Management (Job Descriptions, Reviews, Staff Development, File Management).
 - vi. Guest / New Member Ministry.
 - vii. Pastoral Team.
 - viii. Leadership Development.
 - ix. Next Gen milestone development.
 - x. Young Adult / Young Couples Ministry.
 - xi. 2nd Elder Meeting of Month - creating process for praying, reporting, and feedback with Elders at 2nd meeting per month.
 - xii. Building Beautification Ministry.
 - c. This 1 year+ allows for the church (leadership) to prepare for and secure a new Senior Minister. Start date in August or September of 2024.
 - d. Regular (monthly) meetings with Elders (Don, Dave) will be helpful.
2. The church will "carry" Jeff's insurance and salary through Jeff's birthday in November of 2024 when Jeff will be 65.
 - a. Jeff may serve in a partial service and / or leadership capacity during this time or in-line with Carson's recommendation can be gone completely.
 - b. This will allow Jeff some "runway" for transitioning to new and different work for a few years. Examples:
 - i. Start tutoring business.
 - ii. Non-profit Church / Ministry consulting and / or consulting.
 - iii. Fund Raising work for L'Arche, for instance.
3. Regular Meetings (monthly) with Don and Dave.
 - a. Jeff to prepare and present ministry plans and updates at these meetings.
 - b. Jeff to help with transition process in finding new Senior Minister.
 - c. Jeff to have outlet for conversations in order to "finish well."

MX Elder Mtg

April 17, 2023 mtg notes

Exhibit E

Sys Admin <bblackford@mcknightcrossings.org>

to Margaret, me, mBret

Maggie Martin
Recreation Events Coordinator
St. Louis County Parks
<http://www.STLCountyParks.com>
314-615-8371
mkmartin@stlouiscountymo.gov

Maggie;

Follow-up of 03.29.2023 meeting with ...
Eric Johnson, Recreation Manager
Brian Schaffer, Parks Director
Maggie Martin, Recreation Events Coordinator

The McKnight Church (MX) staff have reviewed the requested dates. It was determined that MX can accommodate seven (7) Winter Wonderland (WWL) events on our lot but that Mondays are not good. You are free to choose seven (7) days from those not crossed-out below.

MX also expects the following:

1. Parking lot be picked up after WWL events
2. As in prior years, we would like the free use of a Tilles Park pavilion for our annual Worship in the Park service
3. \$2,600.00 to cover snow removal and maintenance for the seven (7) WWL events
4. A Certificate of Insurance or reimbursement if MX needs to purchase this insurance
5. If a digital sign will be used again this year on MX lot we would like a screen to advertise for our church. How many characters are available?

Let us know which dates work for you and we can get these on our calendar.

1. FRI November 17
2. SAT November 18
3. SUN November 19
4. ~~MON November 20~~
5. SAT November 25
6. ~~MON November 27~~
7. SAT December 2
8. ~~MON December 4~~
9. SAT December 9
10. ~~MON December 11~~
11. SAT December 16
12. ~~MON December 18~~
13. SAT December 23
14. SAT December 30

M Bret Blackford
McKnight Crossings Church of Christ
2515 S McKnight Road
St. Louis, MO 63124
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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.