

## McKnight Crossings Church of Christ

### Proposal: **Clothing Pantry**

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**dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com** <dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com>

**To:** bret\_blackford@yahoo.com

**Cc:** brad1125@swbell.net, steve.awtrey@gmail.com, mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org, jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org, keaton.jones@sbcglobal.net

Fri, Mar 10 at 3:41 PM

Hello Bret and All:

More prayer is needed.

I want to encourage Audrie and to help her use her desire to serve. I'm reluctant to encourage the start of a new ministry. I wanted to direct her to join in on the work of another local clothing bank, but I am not aware of one. I thought Webster/Rock Hill Ministries had a clothing bank, but they apparently do not.

My perspective is not really about Audrie specifically. I want to embrace Dale Robinson's advice to screen all of our activities and ministries through a filter of what fits with our primary mission (i.e. Next Gen). Synergy of effort where our various ministries involve multiple generations, foster more relationships with children/families, provide opportunities for youth to serve and to know more members is what I'm looking for.

God is certainly able to do all those things in lots of ways. I would be more supportive of this opportunity if I could see those elements as strong possibilities for a new clothing bank.

More prayer is needed,

Dave

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**Donald Fitzgerald** <donaldfitzgerald@att.net>

**To:** Brad Stevens, Steve Awtrey, M Bret Blackford

**Cc:** MX MXElders, Jeff Kryder, Keaton Jones

Fri, Mar 10 at 11:02 AM

I am sorry I missed the meeting Monday and the discussion about Audrie's proposal. From what I have gleaned from the emails, notes from Bret and discussions since then I feel very supportive of this idea. I feel like this is a great opportunity to reach out to a population that we should reach out to every chance we have. It also ties very closely to the efforts of the pantry and could easily coordinate with that wonderful ministry. It is also another area where our members can be easily involved and support in a variety of ways...we all always have a supply of clothes we need to clean out!

Audrie sounds especially passionate about it and very capable of spearheading and managing the ministry. I think there is certainly a population in Rock Hill, Webster Groves, Shrewsbury, et. that could benefit from this ministry and I think we could also partner with other churches in the area to provide a really valuable resource to our community.

I'm for it!

Don

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**Stephen Walker** <srainey6@yahoo.com>

To: M Bret Blackford

Cc: Brad Stevens, Steve Awtrey, MX MXElders, Jeff Kryder, Keaton Jones

Fri, Mar 10 at 12:19 PM

I like Audrie's idea from a little more narrow perspective than she proposed. It seems like logistics will be challenging especially if clothing will be made available to both children and adults.

I would pare it down to test the idea and put some processes in place before rolling out multigenerational clothing.

Ideally it would be nice to tie it to an area where the church could support the ministry with existing resources. For instance, test it first with children clothing and connect the families to our CM and YM (Jeremiah and Nathan). I'm not sure how we would make the connection but there appears to be an opportunity to build a relationship.

Providing culturally relevant avenues for people to hear the gospel is the mission of Christ church. If I think about from the standpoint, it has the potential to become a fruitful ministry.

I don't want to recast her vision for the ministry but those are my thoughts.

Walker

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**Steve Awtrey** <steve.awtrey@gmail.com>

To: Brad Stevens

Cc: M Bret Blackford, MX MXElders, Jeff Kryder, Keaton Jones

Wed, Mar 8 at 9:34 PM

I really appreciate Audrie's passion for this project and her own life experiences that put this in her heart. I disagree with Bret and Brad. She has put a lot of thought and prayer into this and it would have to be a very strong reason for us to say no. We have never been through an experience where we needed to go to buy used clothes. Many of us have probably bought used clothes from Goodwill or Savers but were not in a situation where it was our only option. She has talked with Barb and Barb thinks it would be a great addition to what is offered in our food pantry.

Competing with other ministries? I think not. No more than our food pantry is.

Overly ambitious? We need more overly ambitious members leading from their hearts like Audrie is.

A long-term sustainable plan? Let her figure it out. It looks like she has thought this out. If it runs its course in 1, 2, or more years, we can feel good for the service we were able to provide for the poor.

Competing for space? I think we can figure that out pretty easily if this is a service to the poor that God is calling us to.

It seems like this is a ministry that doesn't take a lot of investment financially. 12 tubs to start? We can get that money in one Sunday, or even from one shepherd's meeting.

If we say no are we saying no to the spirit? If we say no to something like this, what will that do to Audrie's spirit?

As a church, we need ministries for the poor, the oppressed, and the needy. I strongly believe we should say yes to Audrie and let her move forward with this. I don't think we should wait for our meeting in April to decide.

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**Brad Stevens** <brad1125@swbell.net>

**To:**'M Bret Blackford','MX MXElders','Jeff Kryder','Keaton Jones'

Tue, Mar 7 at 8:41 PM

I concur with your analysis Bret. We need the energy that Audrey has shown, but there needs to be a long-term sustainable plan. I do fear some competition for space with this new ministry. What happens when Audrey cannot be there?

Bradford L. Stevens  
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**M Bret Blackford** <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com>

**To:**MX MXElders,Jeff Kryder,Keaton Jones

Tue, Mar 7 at 7:33 AM

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-care-food-pantry) (<https://www.mxchurch.org/christians-who-care-food-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.