

Attendees: Don Fitzgerald (chair), Dave Weiler, Steve Awtrey, Keaton Jones, Bret Blackford, Steve Walker

Pastoral Team (see [Exhibit A](#)):

The meeting started by encouraging the new Pastoral Team. The development of this group has been discussed for a while and Jeff Kryder has assembled and prepared the team to start making visitations.

The Pastoral Team will report back to the elders and Jeff Kryder on June 19.

People:

- Various-

Michael & Whitney Cannon – car broke down. Looking to move. Steve Walker and Dave Weiler will try and get periodic time with Michael/Whitney as well as Bryant.

Maria Holmes – No longer expects Tom to return home except for occasional visit. Tom unable to walk and looked into ramp for house. Decided expense and effort not worth the occasional visit, and Maria gets help from police when Tom comes home. Maria has recently asked about help updating the single bathroom in the home. She has, we believe, some type of grant that will cover plumbing. No other construction costs (materials or labor) covered under grant. Keaton is trying to sort this out. Appears job may be more than a group of guys from church could handle, mostly due to this being only bathroom in home.

Audrey Dolan – life continues to be busy. Medical test came back negative for cancer, so that is a relief.

Patty and Jason Lacost-Arnold – back for several weeks but need to make more contacts within the congregation

Neil Jordan – Steve Awtrey getting with Neil 5/19

Kaylynn – doing great at the office

Dolores – volunteering and helping

Elizabeth – continues to be overwhelmed. Has difficulty prioritizing work. Seems all work equally important to Elizabeth, so unable to put low priority items aside for later.

New Member Class:

On Sunday June 11, 18 & 25 Jeff Kryder will hold sessions for those interested in MX membership. Mathew Bardwell and Kaylynn will continue to teach the Baptism class during these dates.

Jeff Kryder Retirement:

Discussed in a separate email [here](#).

Elders in attendance agreed to continue to pay Jeff's full salary even when he goes part-time (20+ hours week) from May 31, 2024 to November 2024. We will discuss plans during June 5, 2023 video conference with Carson Reed. After this meeting we will communicate plan to Jeff Kryder and also express to him our appreciation for all his love, work, and dedication to MX, and that we want to gift him the full-time salary while working part-time (approximately \$30,000 gift).

Jeff Kryder Replacement:

Discussed in a separate email [here](#).

Again, all the elders need to weigh in on what they consider qualifications for the positions; the must-haves and the nice-to-haves.

June 5 we will have video conference with Carson Reed to plan next steps. We need to decide (no particular order):

1. When to communicate to congregation
2. When to start looking for candidates
 - a. Warm network of people we know
 - b. Advertising, other venues (headhunters)
3. Will consultants be used to assist
 - a. If so, to what degree
4. How early would we be ready to hire a new minister (I say immediately)
 - a. How long should we expect search to take

Pastoral Team Guidelines

"And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

- *Matthew 25:39*

Here are some guidelines for visiting other members of your congregation:

1. Make contact before you visit someone.

The visit begins with your first contact either by phone or email. Even if someone else sets up the visit, you should have some interaction with the person you are going to see. It's also important to confirm the visit either the night before or the day of the visit.

2. Do a little research on the person you visit.

When possible, if you do not know the person, try to talk to someone who does or who at least knows something of the person's story. Not only does this give you some ideas about what to talk about, but it also prepares you for issues you may encounter, and expectations for follow-up.

Consider the purpose of your visit - encouragement, offering Communion, giving rides, prayers, and opening the door for further service and care.

3. Go visit!

- Greet the person warmly. Your presence as Christ's ambassador is so valuable.
- While you're there, encourage conversation by asking open-ended questions and listening actively. Please do more listening than talking. Allow for some awkward silences.
- Be patient with obstacles to communication; the person may find it hard to hear or concentrate, and you may encounter lulls in the conversation.
- Accept gestures of hospitality, like offers of coffee or tea.
- Prepare a Scripture that has recently been important to you.
- Be flexible about the length of the visit-but don't stay too long.
- When it's time to go, close with prayer.

4. Follow up.

Take notes after the meeting and be prepared to share them. Consider plans for any possible follow-up or a next visit. If there are any concerns (prayer requests, health, living conditions, change in behavior, inability or reluctance to attend church, signs of neglect, expectation of a visit from staff / elder, need for MX Office communication, etc.), it's important to make appropriate contact with Jeff or church office. Please update visit details in Church Center App. Additionally, elders will be updated periodically. Consider confidentiality.

Pastoral visits are an important part of pastoral care. They are an opportunity to deepen the bonds of our life together with those who cannot always gather together with the rest of the congregation. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to show hospitality because we may be "*entertaining angels unawares*" (Hebrews 13:2, KJV). The presence of Christ will be there waiting in the one you visit.

Pastoral Team - Visitation List {May 2023}

1. Velma Buie
2. Nancy Byers
3. WC and Virginia Conley
4. Bob and Mary Jo Connally – (A)
5. Glenn and Janice Davania
6. Arstine Dickerson
7. Opal Dixon
8. Audrie Dolan
9. Alice Ferry – (A)
10. Ernestine Gathing
11. Chuck and Joyce Helt
12. Sara Henagean – (A)
13. Tom and Maria Holmes
14. Norma Janes – (A)
15. Dru Knotts
16. Bea Moon – (A)
17. ~~Mary Ellen Reed~~
18. Jan Patrick
19. ~~Mary Ellen Reed~~
20. Larica lucker
21. Mary Spavalie

(A) – offer to take communion