

Below is an email exchange between Steve Walker and Lane Hamm in July 2024

Steve,

Hope that you and Gwen are doing well. I am making final preparations for All Teen week down at Neotez, kicking off on 7/21. Kim, Alanna and I will be representing the Hamm clan this year.

Speaking with Eric earlier this week on a few final camp items and he told me that your candidate for the ministry position declined to join McKnight. Sorry to hear that, very few things more disappointing than pursuing a candidate and having them turn you down.

The last time we spoke, you asked me when we were moving back to St. Louis. At that time, the answer was not sure if that would happen. Still not sure it will ever happen but I can say that Kim and I aren't that excited about being in Phoenix for a lot of reasons that I won't bore you with. In short though, we have decided that it is time to start thinking about what is next for the two of us.

I shared what was going on with me personally with Brianna and Alanna as they were with us last week. Brianna said something to the effect that, "yeah, neither of you are living your best lives." That hit me pretty hard and is accurate. I'm underwhelmed at work, underwhelmed at church and haven't played basketball consistently since leaving St. Louis. Kim often feels lonely as the church here is friendly but very difficult to penetrate on the personal relationship front. They both said they would like it if we moved back to St. Louis. So ideal landing spots would be there or Kansas or Dallas to be closer to either Kim's folks or my Mom.

As a result, I have shared with several people in my network that it is time to ramp up a job search. I'm in the process of collecting advice and looking for points of contacts with folks who can help me find what is next for us. One of my personal challenges is that I had told myself that this job was the last one. To gear up to do it again is exhausting mentally and I feel like I'm giving up on something which is hard for me to do.

One of the possibilities I am strongly considering is a move into ministry. While I don't have the qualifications on paper for it, I do have a heart for people and for Jesus. A big part of me thinks that I would like to spend the last 10+ years of my work life giving back and using the skills I have developed over the past 30 years to greater acts of service. (Another part of me thinks I'm crazy)

You know me fairly well, would love to get your thoughts as a trusted advisor.

Thanks,

Lane  
Sent from my iPad