

Elders Meeting

August 5, 2024

6pm – 8pm

Attendees: Steve Walker, Don Fitzgerald, Brad Stevens, Bret Blackford, Dave Weiler, Steve Awtry (Chair), Jeff Kryder, Jeff McGlawn (visit), Ross Brown (visit), ~~Nathan Strickland~~

Next mtg.: Monday August 19 – Steve Awtry chair

1. Job 28

2. People

{{ various }}

3. “Money Ball” Ministry discussion

Discussed fielding a team, not just looking for position players without consideration of budget and all other needs of the church. We need to consider all the needs of McKnight, weight them, allocate FTE (full-time equivalent values), and then decide where we should spend most of our effort.

- More detail in Bret’s email [here](#)

4. Update on Prior Items

4.1. **Children’s Minister Search** – Steve Walker mentioned the committee will stop pursuing candidates until we find a Senior Minister.

4.2. **Phase 2** – Preacher Search Update

Steve Awtry and Steve Walker mentioned some new candidates they will investigate. These individuals have been added to our Sr Minister Job Search summary document [here](#).

It is worth mentioning that earlier candidate *Michael Santiago’s* name continues to come up, as we need someone young with energy and a passion for evangelism.

4.3. **Preaching Schedule Update** – see document [here](#).

The Vision Elders have selected topics for the remainder of the year and Steve Awtry is looking to fill in the batting order. This is an important period, and we need to make sure we provide the best possible lessons/sermons for the congregation, so picking the speaker is important, as well as clearly defining the topics.

Steve Awtry plans to review sermon ideas with speakers prior to their Sunday slot to better ensure it fits the series topic and is not controversial (does not address politics or other sensitive topics).

Will try to keep sermons between 15-20 minutes.

There has been talk that this might be an opportunity to do things differently for a while, perhaps different formats for the preaching, like tag-team sermons. Although I feel that a change may occasionally be good, perhaps once a month, there is value in the current Sunday routine. Remember, it is easy to break eggs without making omelets. Also, it is wise to give heed to *Chesterton’s Fence*¹.

¹“**Chesterton’s fence** is the principle that reforms should not be made until the reasoning behind the existing state of affairs is understood. The quotation is from Chesterton’s 1929 book *The Thing*, in the chapter entitled “The Drift from Domesticity”:

In the matter of reforming things, as distinct from deforming them, there is one plain and simple principle; a principle which will probably be called a paradox. There exists in such a case a certain institution or law; let us say, for the sake of simplicity, a fence or gate erected across a road. The more modern type of reformer goes gaily up to it and says, “I don’t see the use of this; let us clear it away.” To which the more intelligent type of reformer will do well to answer: “If you don’t see the use of it, I certainly won’t let you clear it away. Go away and think. Then, when you can come back and tell me that you do see the use of it, I may allow you to destroy it.”

4.4. Church Assessment – did not have time to discuss

Siburt's Shelby Coble answers some questions about Church Health Assessments in email [here](#).

The [Siburt Institute](#) offers a [Church Health Assessment](#) (CHA). Email from Shelby Cole providing some information on the CHA is noted at **Attachment F**. Elders discussed if an assessment might bring value and provide actionable next steps. Value/benefit undetermined and will discuss again at a future elder meeting.

4.5. Jeff's Retirement Reception Update

Steve Walker shared an update.

At the last elder meeting a budget of \$3,500 was approved for the reception (food, decorations, mailings). Steve Awtrey communicated the budget to Kari Furguson, who seemed fine with that budget.

Here are the notes from last meeting –

Jeff Kryder has requested his last Sunday to be somewhat of a reunion and he will invite several friends to attend, possibly: Jeremy Picker, Phil Gold, Bob Grigg, Dale Robinson, and others. There will be a luncheon after class that Sunday and the Elders have approved \$3,500 for food (main course) and decorations. Kari Ferguson will take the lead on the luncheon.

5. Jon and Angie Earnhart Leaving – various reasons; distance, kids out of youth group, etc.

6. Giving – Cas and Hannah Grimshaw

Cas and Hannah have historically been very generous in their tithe. However, with Cas looking for a new medical practice this giving will be drastically reduced. Also, it would be healthy and appropriate for some of the Shepherds to reach out to Cas and Hannah and ask how they are doing. Looking for work is a big life stressor, and the shepherds should be aware of these life events and check in.

7. Jeff Kryder's Duties to Transfer

Did not have time to discuss, but summary handout [here](#). We will need to find a way to manage major gaps until a new minister is hired (or beyond). How can the elders step-up to address these areas?

8. ACTS Space – full email thread noted [here](#).

As mentioned earlier, the M1Bank meeting facility previously used by the ACTS Campus Ministry will no longer be available. Katie Holloway, the ACTS Campus Minister, is seeking a space for the weekly Friday dinner and devotional and has inquired if McKnight might be able to provide a suitable location.

This request was discussed by the MX staff and leadership on Aug. 5, and all agree it would be a mutually beneficial arrangement to find a space for ACTS at the McKnight building.

Ideally, Katie would like to use the large classroom on the 4th floor. She proposes to outfit the room to accommodate the college students, with all costs being covered by the ACTS budget. The classroom or possibly the large 4th floor meeting room would also be used for meals. The ACTS group will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves, and any damage to the carpeting will be covered by the ACTS budget. If the 4th floor is used for food instead of the cafeteria/gym, the sink on the 4th floor will need to be updated, which will also be at ACTS's expense.

During the Elder meeting last night, it was agreed that providing space for ACTS at the MX building would be acceptable. The 4th floor classroom would be outfitted by ACTS but would remain available for other uses when ACTS is not meeting. ACTS will have priority for that space, and others who use it will need to clean and return it to its original setup.

9. Elder Training for Jeff McGlawn and Ross Brown

Did not have time to discuss. Email thread on topic noted below ...

Leadership Training - Jeff McGlawn & Ross Brown: Jeff and Ross have been sitting in on Elder meetings since January. We should ask how they are doing. I feel it too early to ask if they are ready to commit. However, I do want to make sure that the current elders are providing them proper guidance in their decision and exposure to the role. An Elder-in-training is an apprenticeship model, where we hope Jeff and Ross pickup things passively, but do they need more specific guidance? At a minimum I think we should share/explain these 2 key items:

1. [MX Shepherd Covenant](#)
2. [MX Shepherding Model](#)

10. LGBTQ+ Conversation (key item from prior mtgs)

Steve Walker shared the [Rooftop Community Church Statement on Gender and Sexuality](#).

Although “marriage” is mentioned in the McKnight Crossings Church of Christ Core Beliefs ([Facility Rental Agreement \(mxcoc.xyz\)](#)). However, this is not on our website but has in the past been distributed to ministry leaders to affirm during budget submission.

It was discussed if Dave Weiler could present his thoughts on the Church and LGBTQ+, based on his recent study in this area. The Elders can then decide what, if anything, might be needed as far as a formal position on the matter. This should be done prior to a new minister as to avoid any suspicion that it was done on his request or prompting.

Other earlier discussions on the topic:

July 10, 2023 notes:

LGBTQ+ discussion – Dave Weiler mentioned study with Brian Hill and Bret Blackford on Sundays after worship. Brian Hill has a homosexual uncle and uncle asked McKnight’s position on the matter. Dave Weiler explained that McKnight’s position is that a marriage recognized by God is one man and one woman for life, but that homosexuals and those on the LGBTQ+ spectrum should be welcome to worship with the McKnight body. Books we are reading as part of this study:

1. [For the Bible Tells Me So \(the biblical-theological necessity of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the church\)](#) by Katie Hays
 - Dave, Bret, Brian Hill reading jointly
2. [Messy Grace : How a Pastor with Gay Parents Learned to Love Others Without Sacrificing Conviction](#) by Caleb Kaltenbach
3. [Messy Truth: How to Foster Community Without Sacrificing Conviction](#) by Caleb Kaltenbach

Other documents:

- Email from Craig Young regarding the Betheline Monastery in France – [link](#)
- August 7 Email Bulletin - [link](#)
- August 7, 2024 MXYG Newsletter - [link](#)
- August 7 Kidmin Newsletter – [link](#)
- [Rooftop Community Church Statement on Gender and Sexuality.](#) - [link](#)
- What Do Elders Do? – [link](#)
- McKnight Crossings Shepherding Model – [link](#)
- McKnight Crossings Shepherd’s Covenant – [link](#)
- McKnight Crossings Core Beliefs – [link](#)
 - Note: includes the following statement:
*We affirm that **marriage is ordained by God as a covenant made between a man and a woman, which is the foundation of the family and representative of Christ and His church.** Eph. 5:22-33; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:23-24*
- McKnight Crossings – Gender Summary (Fall 2014) - [link](#)
 - Note: includes the following statements:
*We, the leadership, have asked ourselves whether we want to be among those contributing to the benefit of the next generation? If so, how? Our answer is that **we would like to do our part to strengthen the body of Christ and the mission of God, by allowing women every role our current understanding of the Scripture will enable***
*Therefore, as a leadership, at this time, **we do not believe that a woman should be the primary teaching minister (which necessarily requires leadership) for the church or serve in the role of an elder.***
*If our principles **allow women to use their gifts more fully ... We will encourage and build upon an inclusive use of gifts ... including leading worship and preaching a sermon.***

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption.”

— C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory

Attachment D

Below notes from Jeff McGlawn, noting scheduled classes for remainder of 2024.

Notes
CFT Meeting
July 8, 2024

- NT Wright series seems to be going well.
 - People are in different places in their faith journey; some still are questioning.
- There is no plan for collecting Back to School Supplies
 - Betty will check with Barb Eickele about the possibility of providing supplies for Food Pantry patrons.
- **The schedule for “But What Does It Mean – Part 2” class is set.**

Date	Name	Topic
8-Sep	Brett Ferguson	Covenant
22-Sep	Matthew Bardowell	Love
29-Sep	Steve Awtrey	Repentance
6-Oct	Travis Myers	Faith
13-Oct	Kaylynn Myers	Kingdom
20-Oct	Todd Mayberry	Justification
27-Oct	Betty Vaughn	Grace & Mercy

- **The next class after the Part 2 class will be “[Living God’s Love](#)”.**
 - Start date: 11/3
 - Teachers: Jeff Fogarty, Jeff McGlawn (if able), Tim Nicholson
 - Class Meeting Dates: 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29
- Discussion on getting people to be more involved in Bible Study.
 - Jeff Fogarty will start a list of members not currently involved.
 - We will work on building relationships through lunch dates.

NEXT MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

Attachment F

I am happy to give some more information about Siburt's Church Health Assessment and concur with Carson that McKnight Crossings' engagement with it can only be helpful to you all in this season! I know Carson and I shared with your elders last June when we met via Zoom that one of our resources is the [Church Health Assessment](#). We have deployed the instrument in over 55 congregations and it measures the congregation's attitudes and perspectives on nine areas we believe to be pivotal to a church's health:

- Vision, mission, and goals
- Ministry and activity effectiveness
- Family life stages
- Spiritual formation and discipleship
- Worship
- Congregational culture, communication, and conflict
- Leadership
- Church relationships
- Finance and facilities

Through an online survey link specific to your church, congregants are invited to participate and a report is made of the data collected. The areas listed above are given the category of green (perceived strengths), yellow (special attention required), or red (needs immediate attention). This report is then shared with the leadership of the church (normally during a Saturday morning gathering) and then with the whole church (normally during Sunday class time).

The information gathered from the Church Health Assessment gives data to the perceptions of the church regarding these areas, and provides a framework for conversations and next steps for the leadership. The CHA can be particularly helpful to churches who are ministerial transitions to have a tangible assessment of themselves for future conversations, and shows prospective candidates that McKnight Crossings is aware of its perceived strengths, attention areas or softer spots. Conversations that result from the report then begin to engage questions like, "How does McKnight Crossings leverage its strengths to attend to other areas? What might be the 2-3 leading areas for McKnight Crossings' leadership to purposefully engage in together? How does knowing our strengths and attention areas inform conversations with prospective candidates and strengthen the knowledge of who might be best to lead with us given these realities?"

If this raises specific questions, I'm happy to answer them. Also, if it would be helpful to engage a Zoom call for the elders to ask questions and learn more about the CHA, we can get something scheduled.

Hope this is helpful,

Shelby

Attachment G

Jerry Jones, possible interim preacher, offered some of the following topics:

1. **Who are we?** – Ephesians 1
2. **Expositions of Philippians: What knowing Christ Meant for Paul**
3. **Will God Run?** (Luke 15)

Jerry does not have PowerPoint slides for these but could create some if needed.

Jerry has been preaching some new sermons at Troy for the past two years. He has PowerPoint slides for these.

1. Jerry has two sets of sermons that might be called a series:
 - a. Two sermons from Ephesians using the two prayers. Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21
 - b. Forgiveness: Forgiveness Defined. How are we forgiven?

2. The Five Roles Barnabas Played:
 - a. Paul the Preacher – Acts 20
 - b. Exposition of Mark defining Discipleship
 - c. Security of the Believer: How Can I Know I am Saved?
 - d. Little Faith: Worry. Fear of the Future. Doubt God's Word