

10.27.2024 Observations From Lane Hamm

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Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 02:37 PM CDT

Steve Walker at al,

Thanks for forwarding these thoughts to the group. As a former elder and long-time member of McKnight I appreciate the thoughts that Lane Hamm shared below. As Lane mentioned, he was just here for one Sunday so it may not be representational, however, worth considering.

I plan to add this to our agenda for Monday. Possibly setting aside 10-15 minutes to discuss.

It is helpful the way Lane gave 3 areas to consider. Below are my initial thoughts on the items noted below (just my thoughts to help start our conversation on Monday):

1. **Consistency:** I agree consistency is helpful. Although our guest speakers to-date have been tremendous, I think having a consistent voice with occasion guest speakers would be beneficial. Possibly have Jerry Jones speak 2 Sunday a month until we find a Sr. Minister? If Jerry unviable perhaps we can arrange something with Philip Matheny? - *mBret*
2. **Energy:** Not sure how to manage this. My batting order for worship leaders would be Carey Strickland, Nathan Strickland, Kaylynn Meyers, Bryant Taylor. Perhaps we can find a way to increase the frequency the more comfortable and dynamic worship leaders. *mBret*
3. **Classes:** I think Lane may have misheard the plan for the remainder of the 2024 year. However, as discussed in 1 & 2 above, I think we should try and have the more experienced and dynamic teachers lead classes whenever possible. I like Mathew Bardewell, Betty Vaughn, Jeff Kryder, Don Fitzgerald. *mBret*

--- Bret

On Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 11:27:18 AM CDT, **Stephen Walker** <srainey6@yahoo.com> wrote:

Arstine had emergency surgery last Sunday (10.27.2024), so I wasn't at church. Apparently, the Hamm's were there. I received these observations from Lane. - [SW]

"It was nice being at MX, happy to see so many faces and folks with whom Kim and I worshipped with for such a long time. I only got a one week snapshot but thought I would share some impressions from worship as you continue to navigate a world without a Senior Minister. (Unsolicited advice, yea!!)

There is no doubt in my mind that those who are invested in MX will continue to be patient as you search for a new Senior Minister. I would be focused on meeting the needs of those who are new to MX, fringe members or looking for a home. Is what they are experiencing on Sunday morning giving them a compelling reason to keep coming back and ultimately getting plugged into MX?

1. Consistency in the pulpit. I understand the desire to fill the pulpit with volunteers. I see this as a great way to acknowledge long-time members with a desire to get in front of the congregation. I would stretch these out and rotate your most dynamic speakers consistently and letting others fill the pulpit as the exception. Core members will enjoy supporting the volunteers while fringe and visiting members may question how long this is going to go on and do I want to be here for this.

2. Energy in the service. Worship was flat on Sunday. Not sure how you solve this as attendance may be down from where we were two years ago and if true is impacting the praise team and worship leadership. Song selection is critical, some energy is required that will inspire attendees to sing or revel in what they are hearing. I also don't think that long communion talks help with fringe members or visitors. I think you have an opportunity to provide stronger instructions to those who serve in worship service capacities. I think there is a lot you can "get away with" when you have a strong speaker in the pulpit but when you don't"

Not sure what he heard to come to this conclusion. - [SW]

3. Classes for parents. All communities need to look to stay younger and that is best accomplished through attracting families. If this is true then adult activities are a must during class time. I thought I heard that there were no classes planned for the remainder of the year. What will the less established parents of children do during class time? If it were me, I would leave as I wouldn't have anybody to visit with during this time period. Building familiarity and relationships is critical and won't be accomplished in a worship setting only.

That's all I have. Continue to care immensely about the future of MX which is why I shot this over.

I responded to Lane with a couple of thoughts.

- [SW]