

## Re: Proposed 2025 MX multi-generational class

From: Steve Walker (swalker@mcknightcrossings.org)

To: bret\_blackford@yahoo.com

Cc: jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org

Date: Monday, November 18, 2024 at 01:45 PM CST

Bret

You bring up a couple of points that deserve some consideration. Let us think through some of your reasons for pausing. There are several motivating factors why we are considering a multi-generational class. We are in the early stages of thinking through the idea. Before we schedule the class, we will do the research to make sure there's a model for multi-generational classes for our motivating factors. In addition, there are proven practices that we may choose to model and teaching material available that aligns with the goals of the class. Once we have those things and other supporting documents, we will be ready to have a discussion with the elders about the class structure, goals, strategies and resources.

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 18, 2024, at 1:20 PM, M Bret Blackford <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com> wrote:

Steve Walker,

Below are some thoughts i shared (verbally) with Jeff McGlawn yesterday and thought I should also share with you. Just my \$0.02.

--- Bret

Proposed 2025 MX multi-generational class  
(Pedagogy – the study of learning)

This weekend it was mentioned that McKnight is considering a multi-generational class sometime in 2025. I am hoping this is still under consideration as the prospect of such a class gives me pause. As I consider the class I can think of two possible goals – education and socialization – and it would be good to understand what we are trying to accomplish with such a class as I do not think it will help with either.

Education: If we are trying to improve education, there does not seem to be any way such a mixture of ages will be beneficial. It will certainly be less beneficial than what we are doing now. In any situation where we try to educate, we divide the students by age (or ability). Countries spend billions of dollars trying to educate their citizens and have yet to decide to mix ages in a classroom. We work hard at McKnight to provide age-appropriate classes for our children and adults. In fact, I would say that all civilizations from the dawn of humanity have done what they could to separate adolescent boys from the rest of society. (OK, perhaps I am being hyperbolic).

Socialization: If the goal is to find a way to mix ages to allow familiarity, I also question that a class is the best solution. I would first ask if there were a need for more mixed-age socialization. If so, would there not be better solutions that having a mixed-age class? Eating together always seems to be a better way of mixing it up and getting to know people.

It may seem that I am a wet blanket, but I want to make sure that we are working to move the ball forward. That we carefully consider how we want to spend our time and that we work towards specific aims.

*“Take care. It is easy to break eggs without making omelets.”*

--- CS Lewis