





John Gunter – Verbal/Email Feedback Summary  
November 24 weekend feedback

Below are comments received verbally or via email (not collected on survey form <https://forms.gle/sN3Svj7L3oY15d1x6>).

From	Comments
Willefords	<p>Confident, knowledgeable, personality, charismatic, high energy, related to everyone, engaging. I know we haven't been back very long, but these are how my family described John today.</p> <p>Please hire him.</p>
Larry Franke	<p>Some random thoughts on our two preacher candidates...</p> <p>John Gunter, today's preacher candidate was good. He seemed open and genuine, and injected humor into his sermon. I met his wife after worship. She seems nice, too. Did not get to meet the kids. John pretty much fits the mold of a traditional Church of Christ preacher, which may be just what some people need. Since he went to Harding and Lipscomb, he would have attending a Church of Christ university in common with some of our membership (I graduated from Harding in 1976). Not much interested in the Arkansas Razorbacks, deer hunting, or BBQ, so I might find something to talk about with him difficult.</p> <p>I liked Jason Mundie more. I like his background. As a military brat, he has lived all over the place, giving him a variety of perspectives. He likes to travel (me, too)! I like that he used to be a barista and photographer (creative occupations)! He has written two books (an author)! He has a BFA in media art (an artist)! He lists video and social media experience in his CV and has served as a media minister. Perhaps he has some ideas how to improve our online presence. He has worked with college students (yes, I know we already have that ministry covered, but it doesn't hurt to have a back up). He thinks young (cf., man bun). I was especially struck by his humility. Liked his wife, too. As far as personal interests, I can relate to a lot more that he brings to the table than John, but I am open to either candidate.</p> <p>Larry</p> <p>By the way, I think that Jeff Kryder might be a good preacher. See if he is interested in applying. 😊</p>
Debbie David	has a preference for candidate John
Greg Walton	felt John was like laying on nice COC pillow. He was comfortable. Jason may be the person who shake things up a bit.
Olivia Walton	<p>likes Jason. He's young needs more experience. Sermon was personable. If she had to make choice today the Mundie's. Would like to spend more time with him.</p> <p>John made some assumptions about the biblical knowledge of his audience that may have missed those who are seekers or young Christians.</p>



Susan Blaine	prefers Jason
Hannah Grimshaw	prefers Jason
Caz Grimshaw	prefers Jason but has some concerns about how committed he might be to staying a reasonable period of time.
Glenda Smith	My choice would be John Gunter. Both young men presented good sermons, but I feel John would be a better fit for our congregation.
Becky Kryder	<p>Just wanted to share with you my thoughts on the two candidates, Jason and John.</p> <p>I strongly prefer Jason for the position of Lead Minister. I believe he demonstrated humility, a willingness to learn and a collaborative mindset. I believe he is the candidate to attract and connect with a younger generation and help facilitate growth at McKnight.</p> <p>While John has many strengths, I believe his style is not best suited for our culture at McKnight. I see John fitting into a southern church culture, which is not McKnight.</p> <p>If Jason is offered the position and unable to accept, I ask that we do not default to John, but continue the search. I know the search has been long, tiresome and at times challenging. I'm confident that God will bring the right man to McKnight.</p> <p>Galatians 6:9</p> <p>Thank you for your love and service.</p>
Chris & Katrina Fuller	<p>Katrina &amp; I have been prayerfully thinking over the lead minister position &amp; wanted to ensure you &amp; the elders knew our preference. First, we feel we would be blessed with either candidate but our preference would be with Jason &amp; his family. He just seems to be a better fit for us at McKnight.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work in this search.</p>
Susie Burge	<p>I did like them both, though they were very different.</p> <p>The first one, Jason, is very young of course, and inexperienced. He would need a mentor or two to coach him a little bit in things like eye contact with the congregation as he is speaking. I did like what he had to say, and his remarks have stayed with me, possibly because that was what I needed to hear at the time: God's faithfulness does not depend on Him answering my prayers the way I want, or altering my circumstances, but on His presence and His promises. It has stayed with me!</p> <p>Has he studied scripture and interpretation? I don't remember.</p>



	<p>The second one, John, was of course older and more experienced; delivery was very smooth, and he has had a lot of training. I wonder why he is leaving his present position. (What is he looking for that he doesn't currently have?) I also wonder if he would be humble enough to let God work through him, rather than his own ideas and initiatives.</p> <p>I am sure you have asked them things like: to describe their own quiet times, journey in faith, how they think they could help our congregation, what their vision for our church might be.</p> <p>It's a tough decision! I think they both had pros and cons.</p> <p>I also think you, as elders, would need to make sure they had a thorough job description, even with input from themselves. I really think shut-ins need to be regularly visited, and I'm not sure that is happening.</p> <p>I am praying for you as you make this decision! It's a toughie. Also very appreciative of Steve Walker for bridging the gap!</p>
Kay Heintz	<p>I vote for Jason. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions .</p> <p>Thanks for your hard, time consuming work.</p>
Peggy Hope	<p>Good morning elders.</p> <p>I have deliberated on this. Couldn't seem to get the words.</p> <p>I'm going to state concerns because I did not spend any time with either.</p> <p>Jason. This was his very best lesson of all time. I asked and was told he has not preached much. Concern is who is going to step up and teach him. Coach him.</p> <p>He did not look at the audience. He can be coached with that.</p> <p>Of the 2 he would be better.</p> <p>John. I think. John.</p> <p>I struggle with preachers sounding like preachers. He definitely reminded me of living in Texas in the 80's, old C OF C</p> <p>He mention church of Christ jokes in lesson. So many of our people have no idea the church of Christ I like that. I think it makes a feeling if left out.</p> <p>Also comments of "everybody knows the rest of this story". Nope, many don't.</p> <p>My discernment, I did not feel great about him.</p> <p>I struggle writing this because it was my sin. Gluttony.</p> <p>If he did not share that this is tough for him and he's working on it, I think a problem.</p> <p>God speaks of this like 32 times. Talks of our temple.</p>



	<p>Again. I'm good if he shared that.</p> <p>My hope is that you guys shared your struggles and they share their sins and needs.</p> <p>I kinda wish when they interview they would tell the church their dream for our body. Where they want to lead.</p> <p>I was told several times. It's hard to get candidates. Not many to choose from. I don't know if that's true. Who cares. I believe God will provide if we wait on him. We have time.</p> <p>Trust I pray and fast often for this. For you. Your exhaustion in this process. All the comments you get.</p> <p>Maybe you loved them. I'll trust that</p>



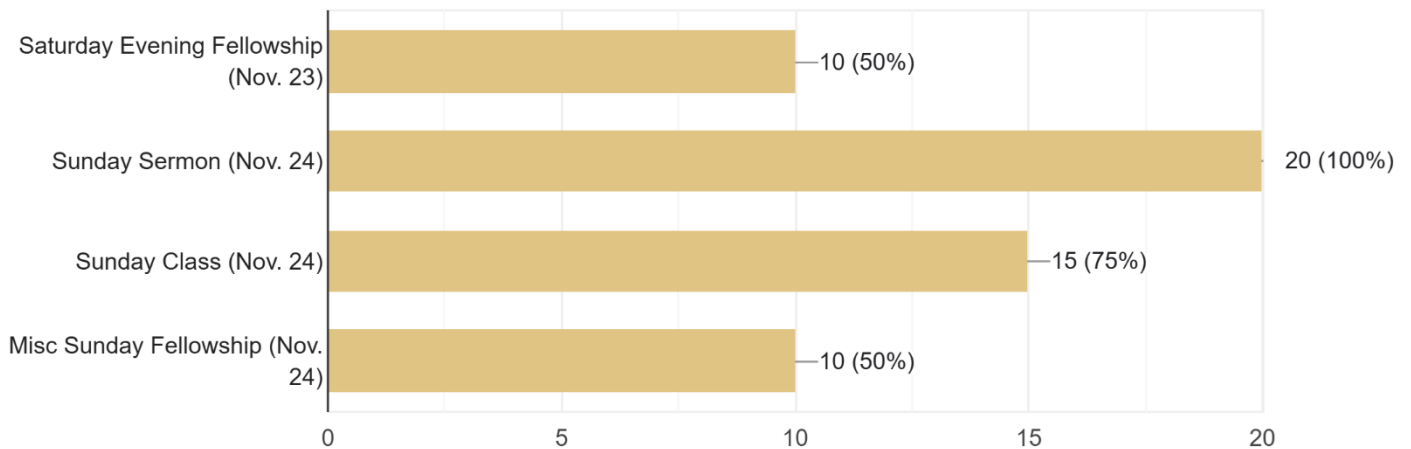
### John Gunter – Google Forms Survey

Below information summarized from the Google Forms Survey sent to McKnight congregation in various email and bulletin communications - <https://forms.gle/jw7YT2KCWCegT18P8>.

#### Contact with Candidate:

##### Contact with candidate (John Gunter) (click all that apply)

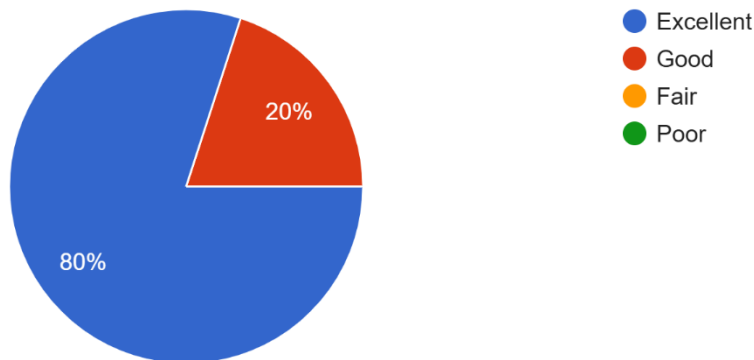
20 responses



#### Section 1: Sermon and Teaching – How engaging and relevant was the sermon?

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20 responses



#### Section 1: Sermon and Teaching

How engaging and relevant was the sermon?

Add any comments here ...

18 responses

John seemed very comfortable.

Interesting how John used Lamentations to remind us of God's faithfulness. It is clear that John is a seasoned preacher and can deliver a message. He made the topic interesting, bible-based, and challenging. Class was equally well delivered and Bible based. A good combination of teaching and interaction with the class.

God's faithfulness in the storm, applicable to our anxieties

His presentation was very polished.

Very good delivery

John was able to engage the congregation with questions, funny comments, and was able to stay moving around the stage well.

I appreciate that John has stronger speaking skills. He clearly has more experience with sermons. I personally do not like the more traditional Southern style church of Christ cadence, intonation, and "loudness" that he appears to represent. (But that is my own opinion.) I'm sure many who come from traditional church of Christ background find him very familiar and safe. Although Jason's sermon was not polished, it was heartfelt. I thought he tried to connect to the congregation over a mutual sense of suffering and struggle, and offered compassion, prayer, and being in the presence of God.

Lamentations is my new favorite book of the bible. Very engaging and easy to listen to.

I thought it was really good and well delivered

I feel John has a true gift to get the message across. He was on topic and very comfortable in front of a group. The week before, when Jason preached, he wasn't as comfortable. That being said, I do think he will probably get there the more he preaches.

Kept to the subject and gave relevant scriptures

Presented like a seasoned pulpit minister.

Sermon was engaging and relevant. He had a warm presentation.

Grabbed me right off the bat. Great sermon!

John was very good at communicating to a new audience. His messaging was both positive and on point. He was also very easy to hear and understand!!

Excellent

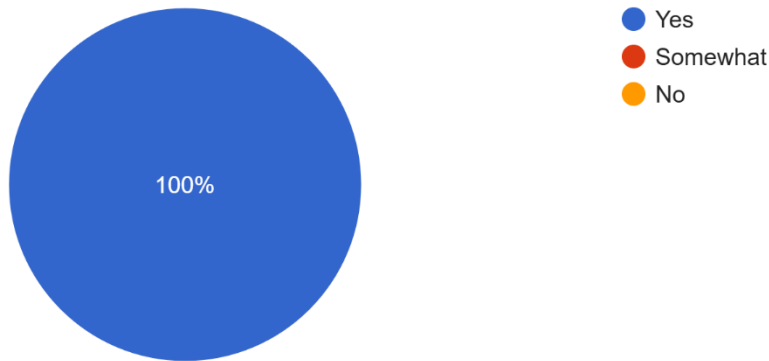
John is a trained and experienced pulpit preacher. He can really bring a message. If we want a pulpit preacher he is the better choice. But for all his preaching excellence I expect his doctrinal style would alienate the young people who we hope to attract and retain.

He was very engaged with the congregation. A very good public speaker.

Section 1: Sermon and Teaching - Was the message clear and biblically sound?

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20 responses



Section 1: Sermon and Teaching

Was the message clear and biblically sound?

Add any comments here ...

12 responses

Lots of scripture references.

Sermon followed the text in Lamentations (with a few additional support scriptures). It was not a topical sermon that used a few cherry-picked verses to make a point. repetition of key points and support in scripture

Yes, his sermon was biblically sound and clear.

Very well thought out message

Yes, his sermon on lamentations boiled down to the take away: In the face of a storm --Remember, Repent, and Renew.

He started Bible study with a song and said he likes to start that way to get people engaged.

Yes

Didn't fall asleep

Good sermon

His sermon was well organized and well presented. The man is a preacher. I'm just not sure that he is the right choice for our congregation.

He did a nice job incorporating a lot of scripture with stories and life application.

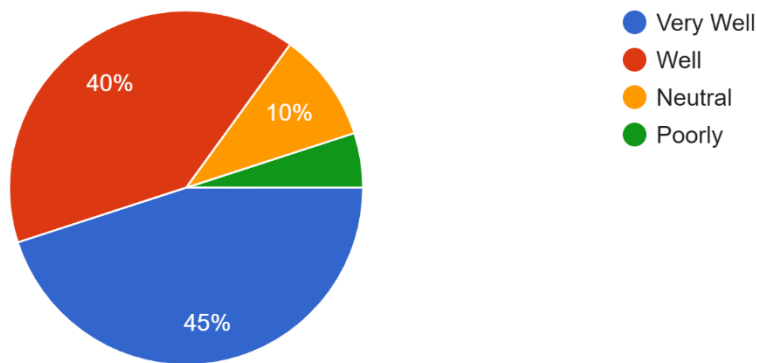




Section 2: Connection with the Congregation - How well did the candidate relate to different groups in our church?

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20 responses



Section 2: Connection with the Congregation

How well did the candidate relate to different groups in our church?

Add any comments here ...

12 responses

John is a personable guy and comes across as easy going and approachable. However, he did seem to keep things on the surface (which, given that this was an initial interview weekend, is understandable). We need to make sure we have a minister that can talk at a deep level about the human condition - people that are hurtling, or confused. Can he speak genuinely to the individual (and not just in general to a congregation)?

Based on the people I received feedback from, in general, the older people preferred John. The younger families seem to prefer Jason.

He seemed to connect with all age groups well.

I think he would appeal to those who have been at MX for a long time, in that he brings a familiar presence.

John and Katie seemed well received by the ministry leaders and congregation. John likes to talk, and control the narrative. He has a lot of stories and jokes to tell. Katie seems quiet. Many women did not respond well to John talking "for" Katie and making excuses for her before she had a chance to speak. I personally did not feel like I got to know either of them very well from the dinner w/staff because John talked so much about himself and the people he knew within the church of Christ community. He didn't ask questions about the staff, or the church. I felt the communication was more one-way.

Na

Hard to tell Sunday, but Saturday night we had a nice chat with both.

He related to me and Joanie, and I think he would relate to our age group. Can't speak for other groups in the church, but I think he would relate to them as well.

Engaging



John showed that he has an out- going personality and we think he would be able to relate to all groups.

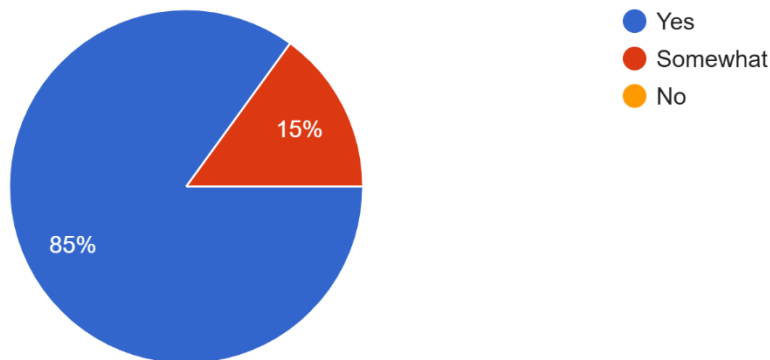
Good

John is coming out of a very traditional church of Christ background. I don't see him relating well to our diverse congregation. He describes sedentary activities. His interests consist of food and restaurants, watching football and deer camp. I don't think these activities will relate well to the people at McKnight Crossings.

**Section 2: Connection with the Congregation - Was the candidate approachable and personable?**

**Section 2: Connection with the Congregation Was the candidate approachable and personable?**

20 responses



**Section 2: Connection with the Congregation**

Was the candidate approachable and personable?

Add any comments here ...

11 responses

Seemed like many folks were chatting with him.

You can tell John is used to interacting with people. Again, not sure how easy it will be to get to know him and his wife deeply.

friendly and conversational

John was very personable and approachable.

I think John and Katie are nice. I thought our church received them well for the weekend. I didn't feel they were as open, vulnerable, and personable as Jason and Megan. I didn't feel like they brought the same energy and warmth.

He seemed engaged with people when he spoke to them.

Na

Joanie felt he was very personable and genuine.

Definitely wanted to connect with us.

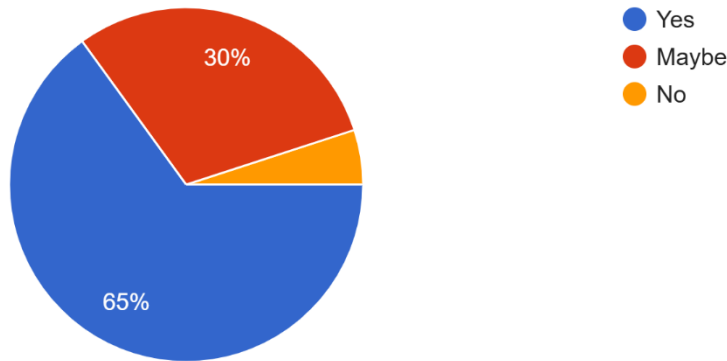
Good



John did not seem to be approachable or personable. I believe his doctrinal approach would drive away the people we are hoping to attract to McKnight Crossings. One of our goals at McKnight is to reach the Next Generation and I believe the Gunters would alienate them.

**Section 3: Overall Impression - Do you feel the candidate would be a good fit for our church?**

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20 responses



**Section 3: Overall Impression**

Do you feel the candidate would be a good fit for our church?

Add any comments here ...

16 responses

John would definitely be able to help us maintain. I'm praying to discern if John would help us be flexible and grow.

John knows our faith tradition and the general church of Christ feel. He can resonate at that level with much of the congregation as he brings some of that familiarity.

John impressed me as a traditional COC preacher. I wonder if that's the approach MX needs. I enjoyed him leading a song prior to Bible study.

John seemed to be experienced in the ministerial role. He seemed to have leadership skills and is a very polished speaker. I guess my question would be, is McKnight seeking a minister that can step in to a leadership role. If so, then John would fit right into that role.

Strong preaching ability...maybe less pastoral than Jason

Potentially could be a good fit for the current state of the church.

I believe John would be a good fit if our leadership is trying to appease the older population at our church. John is familiar to those who harken from traditional church of Christ. When I asked Marisa what she thought of the candidate, she said he was "average" and what she would expect from church. I asked her to get on YouTube and listen to Jason's sermon. She listened to a portion and said "he seems cool." Plus, she liked the thought of a minister with a "man bun." Now, she is eighteen years old :) but the point is.. the younger generation is more willing to listen to someone who looks different, acts different, has a more conversational style of presenting, and appears genuinely interested in them as a person, not a group.

I felt like he was trying really hard to not be 'Church of Christ 'by saying various things throughout the sermon and class. Perhaps he was trying to prove he could fit in. Overall, it seems like he would be a strong leader for the people already there. I did detect some southern -polished -church in him and I don't think that part is a good fit. I didn't get to respond about Jason so I will here. He seems to be less polished but sincere and authentic. His sermon had a good message but his teaching in class was not



effective. I think he would need to grow in preaching which I think he can. I also believe he is the type of person who could reach the younger generations and to me this is a big plus. Overall he seems to be a better fit. However, it's very difficult to make that call from just a sermon and a class. We do need to pray and fast and I'm grateful you are doing that and encouraging the body to do that. I'm so glad to part of this body and I believe we are ready to go. I know you have weathered many storms over the last couple of years and I respect that you have stayed the course and trusted God to sustain you. I am thankful that you serve well for our body of believers

I thoroughly enjoyed his sermon and lesson afterwards.

Yes, definitely. You could tell he has been a pulpit minister for years. Only the elders can tell how he would work with the staff and leaders. Katie is a great asset too.

We feel like he would be a good fit for our congregation. We were impressed with his preaching and teaching, and he seemed to be a kind and caring person. We feel he would draw people to McKnight.

Much better than the last guy.

Family man with children, and young enough to relate to both young and older generations.

Good fit

We need to ask ourselves what direction we want to go. If we want a doctrinal pulpit preacher then John is our choice. If we want a shepherd who can relate to people then Jason Mundie would be the better choice.

He appears to need less coaching possibly than Jason but Jason is tender hearted and moldable. I think John would adapt more quickly but may not be quite as appealing to the younger generation. I think Jason would challenge our thinking and be more outwardly evangelical. I don't think we can go wrong with either of the men.

## Additional Thoughts or Concerns

### Additional Thoughts or Concerns

Please write any other feedback here:

12 responses

John is solid and capable and somewhat old school in his sermon and class. I don't know if that will help attract seekers and young families or not. It may be the solid base they are looking for, or it may be a bit unrelatable. Need to keep praying.

John can hit the ground running. He is a seasoned minister and can handle preaching and teaching. However, can he connect deeply with the members of the body? Can he challenge the congregation to step out in new ways? Can he speak to the younger generation? During the weekend with John I didn't get a clear sense of his vision for the Church. John's wife, Katie, is shy but friendly. She admitted her gift is not being out front or leading a ministry. However, she is happy to support. Is John looking to work at another church because he is feeling God's calling to a special work or opportunity to server, or is he just looking for someplace better than where he is currently at?

One of my concerns was the dynamics with his wife. At times, his interactions seemed controlling and belittling towards her.

John's strengths would be his leadership and experience. However, is his background in a more conservative Church of Christ and if so, would he be feel comfortable at McKnight. He would also be new to the STL area, so there would be a learning curve for community involvement, including young adults, college age and possibly STL diversity.

The two candidates are very different. I appreciate the leadership for seeing strengths and potential in both. I personally feel that John is too traditional and "expected." I have been at McKnight since 1996 and feel this style of preaching would be a step backwards in time. I think Jason would need some additional coaching and encouragement by the leadership for his sermons, but as far as his relational approach to life, interpersonal skills, and sincerity, I think he has an advantage over John. (Just my humble opinion.)

I did not fill out the survey for the first candidate - but I feel that they would both potentially be good fits. I'm sure you've thought of this, but maybe experience as a lead pastor (John) would allow him to hit the ground running faster than experience as a campus youth minister? I liked them both pretty much equally - and both were good sermons.

Jason and Katie were both very personable.

Of the two candidates, John is my choice. However, if they are offered the position and turn it down, Jason & Megan would be acceptable.

If I had to make the choice, I would choose mr. Gunter

We think John would be a good choice for our head minister.

I do not believe MxCrossings can go wrong with either candidate. John is eloquent & will attract an older and more traditional CofC crowd . On the they hand, Jason speaks from the heart & will attract a younger more progressive crowd. The elders will need to pick the direction the church should go. Either way, I trust God's ability to work his will in this church.

The first couple, Jason and Megan Mundie, are approachable and personal. They are more diverse, energetic and active. Jason preaches in his church and also leads a college ministry. I believe that our God is a god of relationships, compassion and mercy, not dogma. I see Jason as the man who can bring

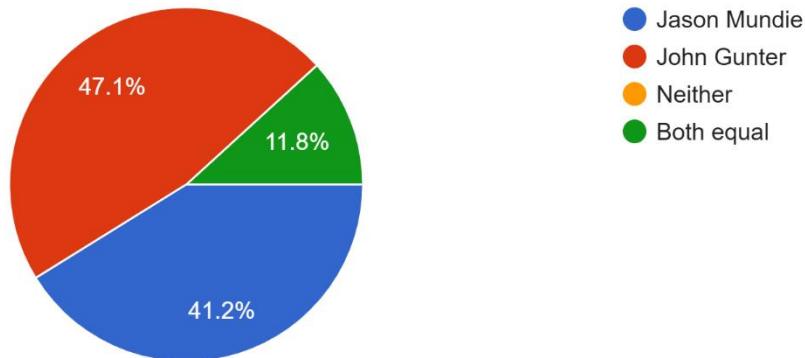


in and retain new members with his caring personality. I can see him relating to the next generation which has been one of our goals as a congregation.

### Candidate Preference

#### Candidate Preference - Jason Mundie & John Gunter

17 responses



#### Candidate Preference - Jason Mundie & John Gunter

We hope you have made the effort to meet and listen to both candidates and provide feedback on each. After considering both candidates do you have a clear preference? Do you have any concerns or reservations about either candidate? Do you feel either candidate would be a bad choice or problematic for McKnight Crossings?

Please provide your thoughts below:

12 responses

I like them both and either would provide good lessons and leadership and be a great addition to the MX family.

I guess the question I ponder would be "are we seeking someone like John, an experienced minister to take over the leadership role immediately, or someone like Jason that might be more inexperienced but might be immersed into diversity and attracting young adults to the congregation". Both are excellent candidates, but I think that I would lean toward John simply due to his experience and leadership in leading a congregation. However, I would be happy with either candidate. I want to thank the Elders for their diligent work in our minister search.

I strongly believe both candidates could be a good fit for us. I feel John is a better preacher than Jason. I feel Jason has a stronger pastoral heart as his strength. Based on their respective personal situations it will be a sure for John & Katie to accept and move here than for Jason & Megan...all other things equal. If pressed I would lean into John & Katie...but believe either could be a blessing to us.

I feel I am leaning more Jason at the moment. I've been seeking wise counsel to fill the gaps where I might miss things about the candidates. I truly like both guys and think either could do the job. I resonate with Jason in that he's never been a full time preacher, the same way I was never a full time youth minister. I think he has some growth to do, but I think especially with his background in campus ministry, he could be an asset to bring in young people. His sermon would appeal to the "mature Christian" as well as the people we want to reach. Jason and Megan both are super genuine and I love their background in the foster care system, a great form of putting faith in action. I think Jason would work well with this staff, and probably have to grow into leading us, but be able to do well. John has more experience, and I even think his sermon was presented better than Jason's. But when I think of the future, I think Jason can be what the church needs. I even think that as we make this push to be a diverse church, Jason





would be an appeal to the people we want to reach. I would never suggest hiring based off of diversity alone, but this is a plus. I personally would love to speak with people who think we should offer the job to John so that I can see if I'm potentially missing something. But at the moment, I'm leaning more Jason. I'd be happy to speak to any elders or members who think otherwise! (I would not be angry or opposed to John if Jason declined. I truly did like John).

[As described in previous sections.]

John is my preference. As I said, I think Jason has great potential and I don't think it would take long before he is more comfortable speaking to a big group.

John needs more seasoning

Both men seem to be quality persons. Jason was very sincere and open with his life, which was very appealing, but we don't think he would be the best fit as our pulpit minister. We think John's maturity and personality and experience as a pulpit minister would make him a better fit.

Mr. Munde was not engaging. I don't go to church for a "Ted talk"

See previous answer under comments for John Gunter

I believe Jason & Megan to be our best choice. While John is an excellent pulpit preacher but I expect his doctrinal style would alienate the young people who we hope to attract and retain. I think that the Gunters are looking for a way out of their traditional Church of Christ. I think that the Mundies are already more diverse and have a wider range of worship experiences that will fit our congregation. I think the Mundies are looking for a way forward, a way to grow. They have a personal, relatable style that will better fit our congregation and our culture in St Louis.

They are equal but different in different ways.

## Excel Spreadsheet of Google Form Survey

Responses noted above are also available in an Excel spreadsheet here -

<https://www.shepherd.mx.mxcoc.xyz/positions/docs-24/MX-MinisterCandidate-JohnGunter.xlsx>.