

## Ministry Candidate Comparisons:

These are my thoughts on the two candidates. I am responding now to get my thoughts out before Thanksgiving. I will fill out a survey on John when it comes out on Wednesday in the church email.

My clear choice is Jason and Megan for many reasons.

- They (Jason and Megan) are both warm and authentic and it comes across clearly.
- Jason is aware of this current generations skepticism and doubts and I believe is more able to effectively speak to them.
- Jason is speaking to the people we hope to reach and John is speaking to the people we have already reached.
- Jason is moving toward something (a new opportunity and challenge) and John is moving away from something (legalism and conservatism).
- John is the easy choice for now and for who we are. Jason is the choice for the next 10 years and who we want to be.
- John is the more polished (not necessarily better) speaker. He has the cadence, rhythm, sound, and articulation of a southern preacher. He is more preachery and Jason is more relational. Both are scriptural. Jason came across as more humble and open.
- Jason had more interest in getting to genuinely know people and John seem to talk about himself a lot.
- Jason seems to have more interest in outreach and John is more interested in preaching.
- John is a plug and play. He can come in and preach 50 sermons right away. Jason will need more development and time and may only preach 40 sermons in the first year.
- Jason was more transparent in his sermon admitting that he didn't struggle with mental health until the tragedy with David. That was bold.
- They are both extroverts so that is good.
- I apologize for this harshness, but I feel like I have to say it. I worry about John's weight. I get that people struggle, but he is obese. What does that say about his discipline? How will that affect his longevity and work habits? What will his long-term health be like?
- There was a different energy in the meeting on Saturday night with Jason and Megan than there was with John and Katie. I don't know why that was, but it was noticeable to me.
- They (Jason and Megan) seem to share an equal interest in church activities where Katie is more reserved in her involvement.
- There was an easier flow between Jason and Megan during the Saturday night meeting than with John and Katie.
- Megan is more prepared for ministry than Katie.
- Since Jason is more relational, I think he would be better prepared or more effective at leading staff than John.
- I worry about all the job changes John has made.
- Jason has been at a bigger church for a while and might understand the larger staff dynamics.

I had no preconceived expectations going into this. I did not either candidate or anything about them. I formed my thoughts after meeting them both.

I got excited when I met Jason and heard their stories. I got excited when I thought about him being our minister for the next decade. Their heart and commitment is evident in how they live their life. I believe that he is the right choice for the next iteration of McKnight.

Any of my opinions or excitement for Jason is NOT an indictment on John. To say: "*Their heart and commitment is evident in how they live their life.*", does not mean that John and Katie are not committed or faithful. I am just trying to draw distinctions based on my opinion and observations.

John and Katie are fine. They would be a solid if not exciting second choice. I would advocate for a continued search if Jason says no. I also understand the exhaustion that comes with the search and would understand if we say we are done.

I appreciate all that the Elders have done in this process. It takes a lot of time and patience. I know that you all are tired and ready to move on.

I would be willing to explain further if you need any clarification on any of these comments.

Thank you!

Eric McPherson