

November 25, 2024 MX Elder Meeting

From: Blackford, Bret B. (mblackford@archrsc.com)

To: mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org; i.am.ross.brown@gmail.com; jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org

Cc: bret_blackford@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 at 08:19 PM CST

Guys,

Here are the notes from our meeting tonight.

Meeting recording available here - <https://www.shepherd.mx.mxcoc.xyz/positions/docs-24/11.24.2024-JohnGunter-debrief-Recording.mp4>.

Candidate	Sermon Date	Sermon Video	Survey Form
Jason Mundie	17-Nov-24	https://youtu.be/lr0awmhwk8A?si=CSwxzAHInU6rJS1n	https://forms.gle/F8NeDHthZUyMtFmV7
John Gunter	24-Nov-24	https://youtu.be/hPIMuPtfSIM?si=ACykTki1iolT9wTt	https://forms.gle/JXCEUq6z8t2xiCkE7

Agenda items for tonight (no special order). Goal is still to finish in 45-min

1. John Gunter – debrief
 2. Is Jason Mundie still interested? Steve Awtrey to find out.
 3. Sunday Class Prayer Time
 4. Upcoming Calendar:
 - a. December 1 Praise Service then congregational prayer time on 4th floor during class time
 - b. December 2 **Elder meeting**
 - c. Dec. 1-7 congregational week of prayer and fasting
 - d. December 9 last day to receive feedback from congregation
 - e. December 14 decision from candidate – give candidate 1-week to decide
 - f. December 16 **Elder meeting**
 5. Barb Eickele – harmful comments on Facebook
 6. Communion
 - a. Who should be allowed to provide communion thought?
 - b. Like with sermons, should we have a standing request that nothing divisive be discussed. Communion, as the name implies, is a time to come together. What brings us together at the Lord's table?
 7. Announcements – careful with what is discussed.
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Generated by AI. Be sure to check for accuracy.

Meeting notes:

- **Candidate Feedback:** Walker, David, Bradford, Steve Awtrey, Don, Jeff McGlawn, and Ross discussed their impressions of the two candidates, John Gunter and Jason Mundie. They highlighted John's strengths in preaching and teaching, while noting Jason's potential and pastoral inclination. They also mentioned feedback from the congregation, with some members preferring John and others favoring Jason.
 - **Steve Walker's Impressions:** Walker shared his impressions of John, noting that John often controlled the narrative and sometimes interjected without giving others a chance to speak. He also mentioned a discrepancy in a story John told about an apple fritter, which Walker clarified never happened. Despite these concerns, Walker acknowledged John's strengths and opened the floor for others' thoughts.
 - **David's Feedback:** David felt John did a fine job, was comfortable teaching and preaching, and received positive feedback from the congregation. He compared John to a maintenance candidate who could hold things together, while Jason had the potential for growth and could bring new ideas. David mentioned that Betty Vaughn liked both candidates, and Brian Hill felt John could maintain the status quo but might struggle to innovate.
 - **Bradford's Input:** Bradford agreed with David, noting that several people expressed a preference for John. He emphasized the importance of prayer and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in making the decision.
 - **Steve Awtrey's Comments:** Steve highlighted John's polished speaking and traditional approach, noting his experience as a minister. He expressed concerns about John's recent work-from-home arrangement and the potential impact on team dynamics. Steve also mentioned the importance of the candidate's spouse's involvement and the need for the chosen candidate to live closer to the church.
 - **Don's Observations:** Don appreciated John's preaching and teaching, noting his sincerity and personal revelations. He felt both candidates were strong but highlighted Jason's pastoral inclination and ability to connect with people. Don mentioned that some congregation members initially preferred Jason but later expressed support for John.
- **Candidate Comparison:** David compared John and Jason, noting that John is more experienced and ready to maintain the current state, while Jason has potential for growth and could bring new ideas. He mentioned that the congregation's input would be crucial in making the final decision.
 - **John's Experience:** David described John as a candidate who could maintain the current state of the church, likening him to a previous youth ministry candidate who had more direct experience. He felt John was ready to hold things together and provide stability.
 - **Jason's Potential:** David highlighted Jason's potential for growth and the possibility of bringing new ideas to the church. He compared Jason to a previous youth ministry candidate who had less experience but a lot of upside and the right heart.
 - **Congregational Input:** David emphasized the importance of the congregation's input in making the final decision, noting that both candidates had received positive feedback from different members.
- **Candidate Preferences:** Steve Awtrey shared that Jason and his wife are still interested in the position but have not made a final decision. He suggested maintaining regular contact with both candidates to keep them engaged.
- **Congregational Feedback:** Don and Jeff McGlawn mentioned that some congregation members initially preferred Jason but later expressed support for John. They noted that older members tended to favor John, while younger members leaned towards Jason.

- **Initial Preferences:** Don and Jeff noted that some congregation members initially preferred Jason but later expressed support for John. This shift in preference was observed among several members who had interacted with both candidates.
- **Age-Based Preferences:** Don and Jeff McGlawn observed that older members of the congregation tended to favor John, while younger members leaned towards Jason. This age-based preference was a significant factor in the feedback received from the congregation.
- **Decision-Making Process:** The team discussed the importance of prayer and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in making the final decision. They planned to continue gathering feedback from the congregation and meet again to pray and make a decision.
 - **Prayer and Guidance:** The team emphasized the importance of prayer and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in making the final decision. They planned to dedicate time to prayer and reflection to ensure they make the right choice for the church.
 - **Feedback Gathering:** The team planned to continue gathering feedback from the congregation over the next few weeks. They encouraged members to share their thoughts and experiences with both candidates to help inform the decision-making process.
 - **Decision Meeting:** The team scheduled a meeting on December 7th to pray and make a final decision. They aimed to have a clear direction by this date, based on the feedback and guidance received.
- **Administrative Considerations:** Bret and Steve Awtrey discussed the logistical aspects of hiring John or Jason, including the need for clarity on their availability and commitment. They also considered the potential impact on the congregation and the importance of a smooth transition.
- **Prayer and Fasting Week:** Steve Walker outlined the plan for the Congregational Week of Prayer and Fasting, which would focus on various topics, including the search for a new minister, unity, and the church's mission. The week would culminate in a prayer service on December 7th.
 - **Prayer and Fasting Plan:** Walker outlined the plan for the Congregational Week of Prayer and Fasting, scheduled from December 1st to 6th. The focus would be on various topics, including the search for a new minister, unity, and the church's mission.
 - **Dec 1 Prayer Time during Sunday Class – topics:**
 - 1. Next MX Lead and Children Ministers
 - 2. McKnight Crossings mission
 - 3. Next Generation
 - 4. Unity
 - 5. Christ centered life of Praise/Thankfulness/Trust
 - 6. A spiritual influence in the community leading our neighbors to the cross.
 - 7. Family, friends and members who have experienced loss.
 - 8. Personal prayers
 - **Prayer Service:** The week of prayer and fasting would culminate in a prayer service on December 7th. The service would include group prayers led by the elders, focusing on the outlined topics.
 - **Prayer Topics:** Walker listed the specific topics for prayer, including praise and thankfulness, the search for a new minister, unity, the church's mission, support for those experiencing loss, and personal prayers from congregation members.
- **Social Media Incident:** Steve Walker and Steve Awtrey discussed a recent social media incident involving Barb and other congregation members. They expressed concern about the impact on Barb and the need for sensitivity in addressing such issues.
- **Communion Guidelines:** Bret and Steve Awtrey discussed the need for guidelines for those leading communion, emphasizing the importance of focusing on the cross and avoiding divisive topics. They planned to work with Kaylynn to provide clear instructions for future communion leaders.
- **Backup Sermon Plan:** The team discussed the need for a backup plan in case a scheduled preacher is unable to deliver a sermon. Steve Awtrey and Brad Stevens volunteered to have a sermon ready in case of last-minute cancellations.
- **Calendar and Upcoming Events:** Bret reviewed the upcoming events and meetings, including the Congregational Week of Prayer and Fasting, the full elders meeting on December 2nd, and the decision-making meeting on December 7th. He emphasized the importance of staying organized and prepared for these events.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Candidate Feedback:** Send a thank you note to John Gunter as the first touch point. (Walker)
- **Candidate Feedback:** Include all the elders' emails in the Wednesday message to simplify feedback submission. (Walker)
- **Candidate Feedback:** Send out notes after the meeting and continue collecting feedback from the congregation. (Bret)
- **Candidate Feedback:** Ensure a weekly touch base with both candidates, including a "still praying for you" email. (Steve Walker & Steve Awtrey)
- **Prayer Service Preparation:** Modify the prayer list if necessary and print it for the prayer service on Sunday. (Walker)
- **Prayer Service Preparation:** Add a reminder in the prayer list about the week of prayer and fasting starting December 1st. (Walker)
- **Communion Guidelines:** Develop and provide guidelines for those leading communion to ensure the focus remains on Jesus and the cross. (Walker)
- **Communion Guidelines:** Discuss with Kaylynn about providing clear instructions to those leading communion, including keeping it to 5 minutes and focusing on the cross. (Walker) and avoid divisive topics

Calendar:

- December 1 Praise Service then congregational prayer time on 4th floor during class time
- December 2 **Elder meeting**
- Dec. 1-7 congregational week of prayer and fasting

M. Bret Blackford, PMP | Arch Resources, Inc. | mBlackford@ArchRsc.com | Director PMO, Change Mgt, Compliance

Time Zone: **Central**

OoO: Nov. 22; Dec. 6,13,20

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