

McKnight Crossings Church of Christ
Elder Meeting
May 4, 2021

Attendees:

Lane Hamm, Bret Blackford, Glen Devania, Jeff Kryder, Dave Weiler, Keaton Jones, Wole Okunade, Brad Stevens, Steve Haupt

1. Special Prayers:

Bob Connolly – has been weak and struggles to breath. He is getting tests to determine cause. Heart and kidneys are working fine. Despite poor health Bob continues to run the Food Pantry and serve our community. Pantry open Wednesdays from 11:00-3:00.

Elders plan to lay hands on Bob and pray over him this Wednesday May 5. Those that can should meet at the Food Pantry Wednesday around 10:30.

Wole's cousin in Nigeria is in intensive care

Joe Shelley – struggling with cancer and related treatment. Has neuropathy in his hands and feet which make it a struggle for Joe to do much. His blood pressure is low and needs to be addressed before Joe receives his bone marrow transplant.

Don & Debbie Fitzgerald – prayers they can find a good counselor to help them as they work with their grandchildren.

Pat and Jaime Wehrung – Jaime's cancer is growing and she will need part of her lung removed (June 3). She and Pat are also helping to raise their grandchildren in the midst of this health crisis.

Kari Ferguson – her mother has Alzheimer's and Kari is trying to arrange living, etc for her. Keri is stressed about dealing with her mother.

Jerry Mickey – depression as he deals with divorce and associated life changes.

2. Discussion Question

The Church leadership was asked if a well-respected member (Erich McPherson) should be considered to join the Elders. Erich was previously divorced so we wanted to discuss how this impacts eligibility.

We discussed the Qualifications of an Elder, particularly focusing on "the husband of one wife."

In preparation for this discussion Jeff Kryder sent a paper "[The Meaning of a 'The Husband of One Wife' in 1 Timothy 3:2](#)", by Andy Woods. This paper, along with other scholarly articles, prior sermons from Mid-County and McKnight, as well as other video on the topic have been collected at the following website - <http://www.MCCoC.mBret.tech/Elders>.

There is much to chew on in the article so it was considered best that we stick with the topic du jour, which was "can a married man who was previously divorced be an Elder." Otherwise we could spend much time discussing the other interesting points/questions in the article, such as - can a single man be an elder, does an elder need to have more than one child, can a widowed man be an elder, etc.

I Timothy 3:2 in different versions (emphasis mine) ...

- ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, **faithful to his wife**, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (*New International Version*)
- ² A bishop then must be blameless, the **husband of one wife**, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; (*New King James Version*)

Conclusion: The de facto standard at McKnight has been that divorce excludes a man from Elder selection. The articles reviewed and associated discussion did not present a clear and compelling reason to change direction on this position and consensus agreement remains that an Elder should not have been divorced.

Although there was consensus on the conclusion we realize there is nuance in the passages that keeps them from being clearly black and white. Both sides of the position were discussed. However, one theme that we returned to in our discussion was that of the many listed qualifications of an elder the marriage covenant is a sacred thing, and not to be taken lightly.

(note: I have excluded all the pro/con discussion points but have them in my notes and can add if anyone feels they would add value at some future date)

3. MX Positioning for Various Culture Shifts – LGBTQ Community

Dave Weiler asked that the Elders consider getting out in front of this issue soon. It appears that the issue will need to be addressed at some point and it may be wise to address the issue early. It is a messy discussion and one where we need discernment.