

08.15.2021: Elder Commissioning

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Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021, 08:24 AM CDT

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From: Jeff Kryder <jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org>
To: Lane Hamm <lane.a.hamm@gmail.com>; Blackford, Bret <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>
Cc: Brad Stevens <bstevens@shandselbert.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 07:36:48 AM CDT
Subject: **Elder Commissioning**

Hi Guys,
This Sunday is a big day! Below is a summary of my remarks for the Elder Commissioning. For the questions that I ask you and then the church, I believe it best to come on the stage and bring your wives. After the church responds, all of the Elders and wives are invited to come to the stage, and Brad will pray for you and the next chapter at MX.
Thanks,
Jeff

Shepherd Commissioning – August 2021

For a few months, Lane Hamm and Bret Blackford have been serving alongside our current Shepherds. We have had a chance to see their lives more closely and they have had a chance to see the workings of our current leadership, warts and all.

We alerted you that the leadership was proposing these men and their wives (Kim and Michelle) – to become Shepherding Couples. Then, for a few weeks, we have invited you to get to know them and ask them, or us any questions.

I am happy to say that we have arrived at the day of commissioning.

A great summary of the qualities of a Shepherd are found in I Tim 3 and Titus 1. A few years back, I stumbled on an OT passage that describes the work of the Shepherd in one verse. Actually, the passage is stated in the negative. The people have been taken into Babylonian captivity, and this young priest – Ezekiel – reminds them of the history of their leaders. The Shepherds were not doing their jobs.

Ezekiel 34:4 - 4 You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.

However, we can positively reframe it in terms of the characteristics of a good shepherds.

Here is a good Shepherd - Spirit led description – **“You have strengthened the weak, healed the sick, and bound up the injured. You have brought back the strays and searched the lost. You have ruled them kindly and gently.”**

Ask these Men – Will you do your best to point people to Jesus by strengthening the weak, healing the sick, and binding up the injured? Will you do your best to bring back the strays, and search for the lost? Will you serve the flock of God kindly and gently?

Ask the Church – Will you follow these men (and their wives) as they seek to follow Christ? Will you do your best to promote a culture of trust and service in this church? Will you pray for the leaders? Will you do your part to make the burden of leadership a blessing? Will you commit yourself to becoming more like our Lord Jesus?

PRAY.

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Jeff Kryder
Senior Minister
McKnight Crossings Church of Christ