

Attendees: Brad Stevens (chair), Steve Awtrey, Dave Weiler, Bret Blackford, Don Fitzgerald, Steve Walker, Jeff Kryder

Next meeting: January 2, 2023

### **1. People**

- Jim Robert's brother Mike – in hospital
- Tom & Maria Holmes – in Bethesda Memory Care. Jeff Kryder visited Tom and Tom was able to tell Maria about the visit.
- Bob Connally – in/out of hospital and may be in last days/months. Ben Mehringer is helping out with rides. Jeff Kryder not sure how to help Mary Joe navigate these last days with Bob.
- Linda Mueller - I have COVID. Judy Miller has a bad cold and Betty Vaughn has the flu. The Arnold contingency is out of commission. Please pray for healing.
- Jamie & Pat Weihung – taking care of 4 grandkids and need time to rest. An occasional babysitter would be helpful. Valerie and Dan Creech have been trying to help. Dave and Amy Weiler also seeking to help.
- Valerie Creech – enjoyed working on the Christmas play and hopes Dan will consider returning to McKnight.
- Phil Matheny – back from Africa.
- Michael and Whitney Cannon – Steve Awtrey working to help them get transitional housing through CFS (<https://www.stlcfs.org/>).

### **As elders we need to write cards when we cannot visit.**

Jeff Kryder has been visiting and keeping in touch with much of the congregation. This both encouraged and challenged me (Bret). Surely this is what shepherding is about.

### **2. 2022-23 Budget**

On Sunday, December 18, there was a meeting after worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor to review the budget with anyone interested. Dave Weiler led the discussion and several individuals showed up. Dave walked through the October 2022 budget and explained a bit more about the current shortage in contributions.

The Admin elders – Dave Weiler, Brad Stevens, Don Fitzgerald – will meet Tuesday December 20 to continue work on the 2023 budget.

### **3. Communion in 2023**

Due to general loosening of covid restrictions in public and private spaces it was considered time to start easing restrictions at McKnight – allowing potluck meals, passing communion, etc.

- It was decided that starting January 1, 2023, we will pass the collection plate.
- After a few weeks we will start passing communion. Thought was to start passing trays with the single-serving communion cup/wafer. After a few weeks we can also add matzo crackers to the tray with the single-serving cups.
- Alec Hill would be asked to help coordinate the passing of the plates.
- An announcement will be made before we start bringing back communion.

5. **Policy regarding directed gifts and solicitations.** E.g., Room at the Inn & Pantry link go-fund-me requests.

McKnight websites has donation links for various external ministries. See here ... <https://www.mxchurch.org/local-ministries>. Also discussion on how we determine who can put a table in foyer.

There is a policy that if MX has a budget item for a ministry, they can request a table in foyer. Front-office aware of this policy and acts to comply without seeking approval from elders or ministry staff. All other requests should be routed to elders. Requests do not need to wait until next elder meeting but can be addressed via email.

## 6. Officers and Directors

Brad Stevens is filling the required legal documents for McKnight. This brought up the question of Lewis West. Louis is physically frail but has a great heart and is a great brother. He had mentioned to Jeff Kryder informally on a call that he would like to remain an elder "for a few more months." We discussed how we might honor this request.

Although Louis seems mentally sharp, we are reminded of the deterioration of Ron Burge and discussed if/when an elder should be counseled to step down.

Although Louis remains an elder, a shepherd, he will not be listed as a director. We will also discuss with Jeremy Picker reducing Louis' responsibilities during Sunday worship.

Steve Haupt – he has quietly stepped away from the formal role of an elder. Although Steve did not want any special recognition, we feel it still needs to be announced to the congregation.

## 7. Old Business

Dolores Miller – Dave Weiler communicated to Dolores that employment will end March 31, and that she will receive 6-months severance (still receive a paycheck through September 2023). Per Dave Dolores took this well. She is not eager to retire but at 78 she knows it is time. No immediate announcement is planned. Possibly announce retirement when we present the 2023 budget in January. The MX staff are aware of Dolores retiring.

Elizabeth McPherson – Steve Walker discussed raise (3% COLA + 10% promotion). Job description is still in flux but some items moved to minister roles (Jeremy, Nathan, Jeremiah). Elizabeth will meet quarterly with Steve Walker and Jeff Kryder to evaluate role and any issues.

Staff supervision and Mentoring (need to maintain scalar principle):

Elizabeth McPherson & Jeremiah Haywood – meet with Steve Walker

Nathan Strickland & Jeremy Picker – meet with Steve Awtrey

Office Moves:

Katie Holloway and Elizabeth McPherson will both share Jeannie Britzman's old office.

Jeremiah Haywood will move into Katie Holloway's old office

Nathan Strickland will keep the large back room and will share with the occasional intern.

Elizabeth McPherson will also spend part of her time at her original desk in the front office. Not many phone calls but still enough foot traffic that needs attention.

Jeremy Picker Sabbatical – information outlined in the attached from Steve Awtrey. Bret has added a few comments to the attached noting that a sabbatical is not formalized in policy.



Sabbatical  
description for Jerer

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**8. New Business**

Frequency of Elder Meetings: Do we still need to meet twice a month? Considering meeting once per month and having sub-committees (Admin, Finance, Building, Shepherding) meet as needed. We can use email to address any ad hoc situations.

Sunday Morning Elder Availability: Do we still expect all elders to meet each Sunday from 8:45-9:15. Intent, as I understand, was to be available for anyone who may want prayers or to discuss issues with the elders. It is very rare that anyone takes advantage of this time. It was discussed that a single elder could make themselves available on Sunday mornings to talk/pray, perhaps in the prayer room.

Directory – Jeff Kryder has been reviewing. There are about six (6) people that need to be contacted (a letter is to informal). Individuals such as Neil Jordan, Arstine Dickerson, Susie Berge, etc.

Bret Blackford will chair the January-February elder meetings.

Some people need to work

### Jack London: The Call of the Wild

#### 4. Chapter IV: Who Has Won to Mastership (continued)

But it was Dave who suffered most of all. Something had gone wrong with him. He became more morose and irritable, and when camp was pitched at once made his nest, where his driver fed him. Once out of the harness and down, he did not get on his feet again till harness-up time in the morning. Sometimes, in the traces, when jerked by a sudden stoppage of the sled, or by straining to start it, he would cry out with pain. The driver examined him, but could find nothing. All the drivers became interested in his case. They talked it over at meal-time, and over their last pipes before going to bed, and one night they held a consultation. He was brought from his nest to the fire and was pressed and prodded till he cried out many times. Something was wrong inside, but they could locate no broken bones, could not make it out.

By the time Cassiar Bar was reached, he was so weak that he was falling repeatedly in the traces. The Scotch half-breed called a halt and took him out of the team, making the next dog, Sol-leks, fast to the sled. His intention was to rest Dave, letting him run free behind the sled. Sick as he was, Dave resented being taken out, grunting and growling while the traces were unfastened, and whimpering broken-heartedly when he saw Sol-leks in the position he had held and served so long. For the pride of trace and trail was his, and, sick unto death, he could not bear that another dog should do his work.

When the sled started, he floundered in the soft snow alongside the beaten trail, attacking Sol-leks with his teeth, rushing against him and trying to thrust him off into the soft snow on the other side, striving to leap inside his traces and get between him and the sled, and all the while whining and yelping and crying with grief and pain. The half-breed tried to drive him away with the whip; but he paid no heed to the stinging lash, and the man had not the heart to strike harder. Dave refused to run quietly on the trail behind the sled, where the going was easy, but continued to flounder alongside in the soft snow, where the going was most difficult, till exhausted. Then he fell, and lay where he fell, howling lugubriously as the long train of sleds churned by.

Below is the schedule through Christmas. Note later start times and no classes.



**McKnight Crossings Church  
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS  
SCHEDULE**

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	<b>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b>	<b>9 AM</b>
<b>DEC. 18</b>	<b>"GOD WITH US" NATIVITY PLAY &amp; WORSHIP</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
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<b>DEC. 24</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b>	<b>4:30 PM</b>
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<b>DEC. 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS WORSHIP</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
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<b>JAN. 1</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>

**\*\*No classes on any of these dates\*\***



Latest bulletin attached here

