

October 17, 2021

Dear McKnight Crossings Elders,

I am writing to let you know that I am resigning as Children's Ministry Coordinator as of February 28, 2022.

Here are three main reasons for making this difficult decision:

First and foremost, as a wife and mother my family must come first. Jeff and I have made the decision to transition our children to a new school to improve their education and provide them a Christian curriculum. I am now driving 100 miles each day and with Jeff's travel schedule there is a strain being put on our family. This will likely lead us to move, and I will need to focus my energies on transitioning our family and allowing Jeff to focus more on increasing duties at his job.

Related to our transition is the increasing realization that growing and championing the children's program at McKnight is going to require someone who can provide more to the role like a "Children's Minister" versus a "Coordinator," potentially someone who is employed full time. I feel my skills lend themselves well to the administrative aspects of the role and I love working with the kids at McKnight and bringing them Jesus each Sunday, but the kids and McKnight deserve someone who can devote more to this role than I will be able to devote moving forward.

Finally, the letter from Eric McPherson that was accidentally leaked to the staff showed me that there may be some who see a greater need in the children's program and believe that McKnight deserves better. Although hurt by the letter and disagree with some of its assertions that church programs increase "growth," I don't disagree that McKnight would benefit from someone who can provide more time and energy to the role and whose ministry gifts will generate more activity and excitement for the children's ministry at McKnight. In the spirit of continuity and church unity I wanted to provide my resignation with as much advanced notice as possible so that a suitable replacement can be found that can exceed the needs and expectations of the church. Please know that Jeff and I have been prayerfully considering this for quite some time and the letter from Eric did not provoke my resignation but may have sped up its timing.

During the last 17 months I believe I have met and, in some cases, exceeded the expectations of my role. Sunday mornings are running more smoothly as I implemented a monthly teacher rotation with lessons being delivered 2 weeks in advance with follow up to assure their comfort with the material and readiness to teach it. I have tried to generate excitement for kids worship by implementing the monthly theme provided by the curriculum through activities and stage decorations. My hope is that this will reinforce the learning with the kids who attend. I am leaving the ministry in much better shape than I when I arrived on staff, some of the improvements have been organizing closets and supplies, improving volunteer appreciation with monthly cards and small gifts, showing love to kids by sending them birthday cards, communicating with parents through quarterly (sometimes monthly) emails (and Sunday discussions), and trying to make all the kids feel welcome by being sure to acknowledge them each Sunday. During COVID my role changed so I found ways to keep families engaged. I often delivered boxes of supplies with crafts and activities to help families discuss the life of Jesus, especially around Christmas and Easter.

I have had a wonderful time in my current role. I know that my time here at McKnight has been well spent. I have created relationships and have enjoyed collaborating as a team with Jeremy, Michalie and Jeff. I have always felt heard and supported by the elders. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ and this body of believers.

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In Him,

Heather Goff