

As all of you are probably aware, all the adult classes are meeting together in the auditorium during the months of January and February for the Member Orientation to the McKnight Crossings Church of Christ. Here's the Schedule:

Jan. 8	The New Name, Logo, Tagline, Mission Statement
Jan. 15	Core Beliefs and Unity
Jan. 22	Shepherds, Ministers, Staff and Leadership
Jan. 29	Outreach
Feb. 5	Inreach
Feb. 12	Children's and Teens' Ministries
Feb. 19	Ministries, Budget and Member Involvement
Feb. 26	Questions and Answers

I encourage everyone to be here. These sessions are very important as we go forward. Be in prayer for God's blessings and be a part of the exciting future of the McKnight Crossings Church of Christ. This week's session (Jan. 29) is very important to our plans for the future as Jeff Kryder explains our plans for reaching out into the community and St. Louis.

If you missed last week's session, here are some things you missed:

The following "7 Ones" of Ephesians 4:1-6 make a list of Core Elements for our unity. Not only are we committed to be united in these as a church, but we are also committed to not divide over issues that are outside the scope of these core elements.

1. One Body – the Church (Eph. 1:22-23)
2. One Spirit – the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8)
3. One Hope – eternal salvation (Titus 1:2; 3:7)
4. One Lord – Jesus Christ, Son of God (1 Cor. 1:3,10)
5. One Faith – the saving message (Rom. 1:16-17)
6. One Baptism – united in Christ (Rom. 6)
7. One Father – God over all! (Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:3)

The Elders of the two churches are now combined together to form the team of Shepherds for the McKnight Crossings Church of Christ. There will be a time in the future for affirming these Elders and selecting more after the whole congregation and the team of Elders have had ample time to get to know one another and new leaders have been developed from within the church body. The Administrative Team [composed of four Elders representing both churches (Don Fitzgerald, Steve Haupt, Brad Stevens, and Steve Walker), the two lead ministers and the finance committees of both churches] that has been responsible for the legal and administrative work of the merger will continue to handle administrative details during the first year. It is hoped by freeing the rest of the Elders from these administrative duties it will enable more shepherding of the flock. Our Elders and Ministry Staff are determined to create a positive committed church culture and encourage every member of the church family to be a part of this effort. Our Elders and their wives will work together as Shepherding Couples to work with clusters of church members called Shepherding Groups to help the whole congregation to be involved in shepherding one another to produce a healthy church family atmosphere. Every member will be contacted by a Shepherding Couple over the next few weeks to encourage your involvement in the ministries of McKnight Crossings Church of Christ. Please be in prayer for our leaders and involved in every opportunity to serve.