

Pax Vobis



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Welcome to Pax Vobis!

Welcome to Pax Vobis (“Peace be with you” in Latin). This newsletter will be my periodic thoughts on Missio Dei Church’s everyday liturgy (work of the people in Latin). The content here will encompass more than just our corporate gatherings on Sunday mornings, but how our faith in Jesus Christ encompasses our every day life.

Sharing Our Stories

There is nothing quite like a good story. As a teacher, orally reading great pieces of literature to my students was critical in helping them love reading. After reading these great stories, I found that students also found their own stories. It would soon branch out in story time!

As a pastor, I am finding it very similar. Year after year and week after week, the Greatest Story Ever Told is shared in our regular conversations, missional communities, discipleship relationships, and corporate worship. The Gospel is powerful and when we constantly apply the Gospel to our personal lives we should see our trajectory change, we can see our lives changing before our very eyes.



Sharing these stories with family and friends adds excitement! As we hear stories of lives being changed by the Spirit, we share that good news with other and desire it more and more in our own lives. It becomes a witness to ourselves, to those closest to us, and to the world that God is at work in changing and redeeming and restoring our lives.

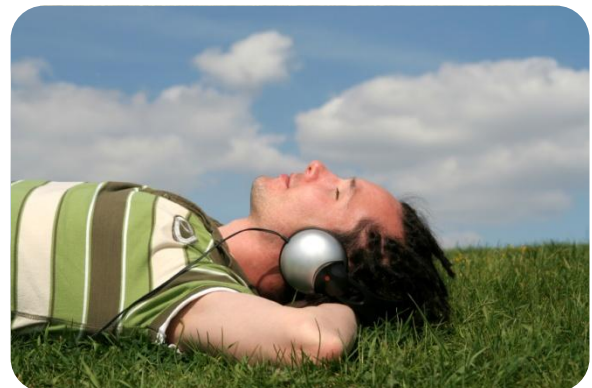
In The City, we have a powerful tool called [The Story Center](#) which allows us to share the stories of God’s work in our lives. It is our hope that as we discover God’s ongoing work in our lives (in big and small ways) that we offer them as worship to God and as encouragement to each.

Prayerfully consider sharing your story today!

Preparing for Corporate Worship

One of my greatest pet peeves is when I come to an important meeting and find that no one has put much thought into the agenda, nor have they come with the needed materials for the meeting. Maybe it is my obsessive compulsive tendencies or my hope to get something accomplished, but whatever reason it is, it just kills me! You ever experience that?

In the last edition of Pax Vobis, I wrote an article called “Moving Too Quickly” where I talked about



our corporate tendency to disengage after communion to start thinking about other things. This week, I want us to think about what it means to come prepared for worship.

One a weekly basis, the Missio Dei Family comes together for the purpose of communing with God. In the reformed tradition, [faithful worship](#) is defined as:

God-centered, a divine-human conversation, personal, formed by the presence of Christ in both word and sacrament, "home grown" and nourished in the rich soil of the whole church.

All too often I have heard people ask the question "What did you get out of worship today?" This very question puts humanity at the very center of things. If God is the one that we have primarily come to worship and adore, we should be asking, "*What did we offer God and each other in our worship?*" What did we offer God? This part of the question asks not only about the quality of the gifts, but dives even deeper to ask the even more awkward question: "How have I prepared myself (the very offering itself) for worship?"

This preparation requires intentionality. It requires us to reprioritize things: time, talent, and treasure. As a child growing up in the reformed tradition, Saturday was considered a day of preparation for worship. We polished our shoes, cleaned the cars, worked on memorizing our memory verses for Sunday School, and lastly, we made sure that we were in bed in a timely manner so that we could offer our very best to God when gathering to worship Him. I'm sure some of this may sound foreign and maybe even backwards to some of you, but now as an adult there is something beautiful, powerful and refreshing in preparing for worship.

So here's my challenge: In the weeks to come, ask yourself,

- What am I offering to God?
- Is my offering the best that I can offer to my Creator and Redeemer?
- How do I prepare myself for corporate worship? What needs to change in my life so that my mind and heart are ready to encounter the Living God?
- Am I coming in a timely manner to worship so that I can prepare my mind and heart to offer God my best?

Your Responsibility with an Elder Candidate

Resurrection Sunday is always exciting for me. It is just another opportunity I have to share the good news about Jesus Christ. This past Sunday was special for another reason: Brandon Jacobson announced that he feels called to continue pursuing ordination as an Elder to the Missio Dei family. That is great news for the whole family!

The next two months are going to be busy for him so here are some ways that you can be in prayer for him:

1. Next Monday – Thursday, he is going to be traveling with me and



Kasey Warren to the [Together for the Gospel](#) conference Louisville, KY. This conference theme is The **(Unadjusted)** Gospel.

2. Brandon still has two more months of the Training and Discernment Course to go through (April – May). During this time he will be going through the Missiology and Ministry modules.
3. On Sunday, May 23, Brandon will be theologically examined before the church.
 - a. Following Public Examination, his name will be published for at least two (2) weeks in the Church bulletin, on The City and via the MDC Weekly email.
 - b. During this period of time, anyone with a reason(s), either legal or spiritual, for contesting Brandon's nomination shall make those concerns known to the Elders.
4. If no reasons are made known to the Elders, Brandon will be ordained into the Office of Elder on June 13, 2010 at Camp Manitoqua (10:00 AM).

Needless to say his plate is full and the temperature is going up...

As a church, your work is just beginning. Scripture gives instructions to the Church about Elders or prospective elders. The Apostle Paul instructs the church as to the proper qualifications for eldership ([1 Timothy 3:1 – 7](#); [Titus 1:5 – 9](#)) and instructs the church to examine them as to their qualifications ([1 Timothy 3:10](#); [5:24 – 25](#)).

In between now and June 13, we are asking you, the church, to watch Brandon's life and doctrine carefully. If there are any legal or spiritual reasons for contesting Brandon becoming an elder, please make them known to Brandon (brandon.jacobson@gmail.com) and Paul Vroom (paul@mdchurch.us) or Nathan Phillips (nathan@mdchurch.us).