

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church  
January 5, 2021,**

**Present, Leadership Team Members:** Sandy Abel, Ron Arthur, Kalen Baker, Mary Ann Crisman, Rev. Starla Gooch, Sandi Hudson, Kathy Lee, Rev. Ethan Maple, Jack McKinney, Rose McKinney, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, Christine Sturgis, Tim Waymire, Kristy Willhelm.

**Absent:** John Bundy, Megan Jones.

**Also Present:** Shawn Matney.

The meeting of the Mt. Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**LOVE** – Pastor Starla shared from her reading of Daniel and the prayer Daniel prays on behalf of his people. She then led the team in a “popcorn prayer” and closed with prayer.

**LEARN** – Pastor Ethan reviewed the article the team had read prior to the meeting: Carey Nieuwhof, “Why You Should Lower Your Expectations for 2021 Starting Now.” The team then discussed some of their goals for the church for 2021, and Pastor Ethan encouraged the team to tackle these issues. Communication and service access – we appear to have a handful of people who do not have internet or access to email and virtual church. How can we remedy this?

**LEAD**

**Numbers** – The year-end numbers are not final and will be emailed to team members by the end of next week. In-person worship: 75-80 combined campuses on January 3; low numbers in December, as a result of a surge in the pandemic and more people choosing virtual worship. Financially – Mount Comfort Church ended 2020 with more money year-end than in the previous year (\$113,000 – 2019; \$150,000 – 2020). This is an amazing blessing in the time of a pandemic.

Pastor Ethan reviewed the expectations we have always had for Leadership Team members: 1. Be “sold out” for Jesus. 2. Be passionate about our church mission. 3. Be dedicated to the church – servant leaders. 4. Be intentional about personal growth. 5. Be committed to serving.

Pastor Ethan then offered the following challenge to the team and asked everyone to think and pray about embracing these additional expectations for 2021: 1. Be champions of who we were – so the stories and legacies from our past do not get lost. 2. Be representative of who we are today – no matter what campus. 3. Be leaders of who we are becoming – this is “canoeing the mountain.” He noted that these pieces are critical for how we do ministry in 2021. In short, the last two years we have been merging; in 2021 we will emerge.

Pastor Ethan asked the team to share their questions for our church for 2021.

1. How do we gain the wisdom to deal with all of these challenges?
2. How can we get better acquainted with each other? How can we learn more about the history of the different churches which have merged to become Mt. Comfort Church?
3. How are we going to carry out church events?
4. How do we form a collective identity as a church? (In what ways can we get acquainted with others in the congregation? e.g. email profiles, virtual meetings)
5. How do we make this church with two campuses look like a blended congregation, and what can we do to help the two campuses come together?
6. Do we need a mission or value statement for the Leadership Team to keep us on point?

7. How about having a combined church pictorial directory? (Photo sessions are planned for April.)
8. What do we do with the unoccupied Philly parsonage? What kind of asset can it be for the church?
9. What do we do about the church parking lot?
10. How can we expand Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare?

Pastor Ethan concluded the discussion by saying 2021 poses more questions than answers. We need to lead as a team, not as individuals, but as representatives of the church family. The biggest question: Who are we? That being so, what does it mean to walk through that process? The answers will come through prayer, scripture reading, and becoming aware of how God is going to use our church. Pastor Ethan then gave team members permission to hold one another accountable – if someone has tunnel vision, if someone does not think from a representative standpoint – call each other out.

In concluding the meeting, Pastor Ethan asked team members to reflect on the five things we have always expected of our leaders, and to seriously embrace the three things he has asked of team members for this year.

#### For the Good of the Church

Kristy Willhelm asked for ideas for fundraisers to replace the in-person events, as it appears the February Chili Supper and Dessert Auction cannot be an in-person event. Please email Kristy if you want to be part of a brainstorming session.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. Pastor Ethan closed in prayer. The next meeting is set for February 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson  
Recorder