

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church  
February 2, 2021**

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

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Jeff Janiszewski, Shawn Matney.

The meeting of the Mt. Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom. Pastor Ethan Maple opened with prayer.

Annual Incorporation Meeting – The business of the Leadership Team meeting was suspended at 7:06 p.m. in order to conduct the annual business meeting of the Mount Comfort United Methodist Church Board of Directors.

The Leadership Team meeting resumed at 7:10 p.m.

Financial Snapshot – Pastor Ethan reviewed the January Financials. Mount Comfort Church showed a downturn in January income, typical for this time of year: Total income = \$26,461.64 and Total Expenses = \$31,467.61 with Net Income = (\$5,000.97). Joyful Days January finances showed Total Income = \$30,964.96 and Total Expenses = \$29,504.86 with a Net Income = \$1,460.10.

The team discussed our current practice of transferring General Funds monthly income in excess of \$25,000 to Rainy Day (10%), Facilities (10%), and Missions (5%) funds. Jack McKinney recommended raising the General Fund amount, so that monthly income in excess of \$35,000 be designated for transfers to Rainy Day (10%), Facilities (10%), and Missions (5%) funds. The consensus was to do make this change to \$35,000, retroactive to January 2021.

Missions – Chris Sexton noted that the money sitting in the Missions & Outreach fund totals \$14,951.94, and he recommended using the money to bless our community and support organizations. The team brainstormed ideas, which included the following.

- Micro-grants to organizations. (Use an application process.)
- Partner with schools to assist families in need (e.g., Contact school guidance counselors and ask to be made aware of needs not met by other resources.)
- Support world missions or provide direct support to missionaries in the field.
- Provide financial help to struggling families.
- Donate money to food pantries and UMCOR.
- Continue to support Fletcher Place and Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen.
- Scholarship for volunteers on church mission trips.
- Partner with (or donate to) organizations already doing good things (God's Open Arms Ministries, Broken Arrow Outreach)

Pastor Ethan asked the Missions leaders, Rose McKinney and Kathy Lee, to meet and to formulate a recommendation for use of missions' funds to present to the Leadership Team in March. Sandy Abel and Starla Gooch volunteered to assist in this endeavor. In the meantime, the consensus was to provide some financial assistance this month to a family who has been identified as currently struggling to pay the bills.

Facility Projects – Pastor Ethan reviewed some of the current and upcoming facility projects for both the Mount Comfort (MCC) and Philadelphia (Philly) church campuses. Parking lot – MCC, re-surfacing and Philly, striping. Roof work -- MCC & Philly. Gym floor replacement with possible upgrade – MCC. Furnace unit (Heat & AC), one twin-unit replacement at about \$15,000 – MCC. Christine Sturgis – Would like more room for Joyful Days Childcare & Preschool. (The new Infant room is open and has passed State inspection.) Window replacement – MCC Family Life Center. The church may receive some money from trusts, but that remains to be seen, as trusts are often contested.

Philadelphia Parsonage – John Bundy provided an assessment of the Philly parsonage. To make the parsonage simply usable, estimated cost is \$60 – 70,000, and to do it right and make the parsonage livable, \$80-100,000. Unknowns: septic, foundation, roof, termite damage. Knowns: Need to replace electrical, plumbing, HVAC, windows, doors, eliminate the mold problem. Mr. Bundy shared his vision for the Philly parsonage, as God has laid on his heart the possibilities for using the parsonage for local missions. He then presented an informal proposal. Mount Comfort Church would sell the parsonage to Bundy, LLC, which would then repair and remodel the parsonage, converting the garage into a studio apartment and the house into leasable space. The apartment space would be used for mission-oriented purposes, with Mount Comfort Church having a voice. The leasable space would be owned and managed by Bundy, LLC, which would have sole control.

Timeline: Phase 1 – remodeling the garage into a studio apartment – 60 – 90 days + county permit timeline. Phase 2 – house rehab and remodel – one year.

The parsonage appraisal is estimated at \$45 - \$55,000 as is. Three-bedroom homes of similar construction in the area appraise at about \$85,000. The cost to demolish the parsonage is estimated at \$54,000 + permits + dumpster costs.

After discussion, Pastor Ethan recommended that John Bundy present a more formal proposal to present to the Leadership Team in March

All-Church Meeting – Pastor Ethan reviewed plans for the All-Church Meeting via Zoom set for tomorrow, February 3, at 7:00 p.m. What needs to be included? What are the most important things to communicate? Responses included the following:

- People need to know the “why” of the recent changes, which may not have been conveyed to the church family in the time of COVID.
- We have had major changes in our worship service (why?).
- What changes will happen in the future? – Will we have a choir?
- People need to know if you are looking into changes for the future.
- If you are considering changes, make people aware of them.
- If things are going to change, let people know to expect the changes.
- Pastor Ethan will share church accomplishments that we need to celebrate – our church finances in time of COVID-19, missions and outreach, and community support.

Worship Time – Pastor Ethan explained that staff would benefit with more time between our two Sunday worship services (9:00 a.m. Philly and 10:30 a.m. Mount Comfort). He proposed moving the Mount Comfort campus service time to 10:45 a.m., beginning this coming Sunday, February 7. The consensus was yes. Notifications will be sent via email and in social media.

The church Preaching team includes Pastors Ethan Maple, Starla Gooch, and Carl Fannin. The worship design team includes the preaching team and Jeff Janiszewski, Mary Ann Crisman, and Shawn Matney. These teams meet weekly, on Thursdays. Staff meeting are scheduled every other week to think out the big picture and vision. The Discipleship team meets on a regular basis

and is looking to add a young adult ministry and support small groups. Pastor Ethan shared that he expects Mount Comfort Church to be in an excellent place; we are on the right path, and God will show us some amazing things.

#### For the Good of the Church

Kristy Willhelm announced that we may turn the Fish Fry into the youth fundraiser, since we will not be able to have the chili supper and dessert auction this year.

Suggestion from John Bundy – talk to Dave’s Car Wash in Greenfield. The youth could sell car wash coupons for a fundraiser.

Question – When will the sign be installed at Philly campus? John Bundy needs to see a template of the sign. Pastor Ethan will follow up with Jason Pope.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Pastor Starla closed in prayer. The next meeting is set for March 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson  
Recorder