

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church  
March 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:**

The meeting of the Mt. Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:03 p.m. via Zoom. Pastor Ethan Maple opened with prayer. He asked team members to share what they are looking forward to in regards to having more people resume in-person worship. He offered the following challenge: How do we be intentional about living out the story of our church history and be representative of who we are and be the leaders of who we, the church, are becoming? We must continue to be mindful of Christ's example while living into the Mission of our church.

Financial Snapshot – Pastor Ethan reviewed the February Financials. Total income = \$28,089.64 and Total Expenses = \$35,309.88 with Net Income = (\$7,220.24). Pastor Ethan noted the actual deficit is closer to \$2,000, due to the February 28 offering not being deposited until March 1. We do celebrate a General Fund balance of \$43,817.29 after transfers. Designated Funds show the following: Facilities Upkeep & Maintenance = \$36,859.54; Mission & Outreach = \$16,356.58; Rain Day = \$29,120.72. Joyful Days February finances showed Total Income = \$29,840.88 and Total Expenses = \$30,591.06 with a Net Income = (\$750.18). Pastor Ethan noted that some February receipts were not deposited until March, due to how the calendar fell.

Update on Trusts – Funds from two Trusts should be transferred to MCC at some point in 2021, with one trust expected to be approximately \$125,000 and another to be \$50,000. It is possible that the transfer of assets will be in stocks. The consensus was to review the list of assets before determining the best path forward – liquidate stocks to cash or retain them as an investment. Anyone who would like a list of the assets in the Everhardt Trust may request the information from Shawn Matney.

Missions – Pastor Ethan reported on the recommendations of the committee that met recently to consider how to bless others with Mount Comfort Church Missions & Outreach funds. The following recommendations total \$14,300; Sandy Abel moved to approve, Deric Roberts seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- \$900 - Blessing bags for the staff of 80 Springhurst Health & Rehab.
- \$1,000 - UMCOR Disaster Relief.
- \$1,500 - College Scholarships. The amount represents three \$500 scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year, possibly one for each district in which we have families (New Pal, Mt. Vernon, Greenfield).
- \$1,500 - Joyful Days Emergency Relief.
- \$2,000 - Mt. Comfort Elementary. Reach out to the administrators at MCE to see how this money could be best spent to bless teachers & staff.
- \$2,400 - Missionary Support.
- \$2,500 - Local Mission Support. Bless and encourage with \$500 each five local missions/outreaches that are doing great work.
- \$2,500 - Seed money for a church-sponsored mission team.

Discipleship – Mary Ann Crisman reported. Kids' Worship resumes in person March 7. It will look different at each campus. Philly – Large group only, mixed ages. Mount Comfort – Assemble in large group, then split into age groups. As the Philly children's ministry grows, the program will evolve. We still need more volunteers.

Youth Ministry is in a transition phase, as Cassie Willhelm is moving and is stepping down as youth leader. Justin Croft will continue in his leadership role, we will be seeking someone to fill the vacancy. Volunteers also are assisting Justin. The youth mission trip is set for Charleston, SC, and we need about \$1,000 in addition to the funds on hand to fully fund the trip. Kristy Willhelm noted that the Fish Fry on March 13 will be a youth fundraiser.

Discipleship -- Rev. Starla Gooch, Rev. Carl Fannin, and Mary Ann Crisman have been participating in leadership training and would like to offer intentional training for our small group leaders in April. Subsequently, in-person Wednesday Discipleship Nights will be presented in May. Rose McKinney plans to resume her Sunday School class after Easter Sunday, April 4.

Pastor Starla Gooch reported on Congregational Care; she is organizing this effort, which includes outreach to shut-ins and to those in nursing homes and assisted living. Pastor Starla has been and will continue to meet with people who have been active in congregational care in the past. She also is looking at assimilation and wants to establish a better process for those who wish to volunteer. (Currently, a person must contact the individual in charge of the activity or event in order to volunteer.) All our church family will be asked for directory and other relevant information, in order to create an up-to-date database (both paper and digital options will be pursued). Pastor Ethan noted this process that will start from ground zero, and we will ask everyone to complete the request for information.

Joyful Days – Christine Sturgis provided an update. Joyful Days Childcare and Preschool is in the midst of a 10-day quarantine shutdown, due to three cases of positive COVID-19 among staff and students. The previously scheduled Spring Break was adjusted to occur during this current full week of shutdown, with the Joyful Days program in session during the originally scheduled break.

Events – Chris Sexton reported on the March 13 Fish Fry and said 32 people have volunteered to help, and we have 40 pre-orders to date. Cost of a meal deal is \$10, drive-thru only, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Community Easter Event – Mary Ann Crisman reported that she met with Kristy Willhelm and Megan Roberts. The Community Easter Event will be outdoors on Saturday, March 27, with three time slots/waves (9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and noon), with sign up in advance and attendance limits. In previous years, this event drew 300 participants.

One Thing for March – Easter candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Worship – Pastor Ethan reviewed the plans for upcoming sermons. The theme of Holy Week is Upside Down. Maundy Thursday will be a virtual service. Good Friday service will be in-person at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Comfort campus and livestreamed.

Upgrades – In an email vote conducted February 25, 2021, the Leadership Team approved a livestreaming upgrade for audio and video equipment and training for the Mount Comfort campus, and the acceptance of a \$5,000 donation designated for this purpose. Upgrades include the following.

- \$2,500 - \$3,000 new camera(s)
- \$500 video switcher
- \$500 cords/adapters
- \$500 room microphones

- \$250 contracted training

- \$250 software updates

Feedback on Worship – Philly campus sound quality has improved. Appreciate the growing number of participants on the music/tech team. Congregational response to the Dear Church series with the Post-It Notes had been good, and the notes left by the participants are inspiring.

Mount Comfort Parsonage – Christine Sturgis requested permission to paint white the woodwork trim throughout the parsonage where she resides. (The floor trim currently is an inconsistent mismatch of paint and stained wood and synthetic material.) The consensus was to approve the request.

Philadelphia Parsonage – This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Capital Projects – Chris Sexton asked that the team address the problem of church storage, as we are bursting at the seams. He asked the team to consider building more storage by extending the MCC storage garage by building another storage bay. Pastor Ethan said this needs to be placed on the list of upcoming capital projects. In addition, the linoleum gym floor has deteriorated and needs to be replaced. Chris has requested quotes for floor replacement. Kristy Willhelm noted that we are considering applying for a grant through the Hancock County Community Foundation. Chris Sexton will provide the information from the floor quotes to Kristy Willhelm, who will be working with Pastor Ethan on the grant application.

#### For the Good of the Church

March 17-24, Pastor Ethan will be on vacation. He will be teaching on Monday nights at University of Indianapolis.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. (Note: Finished before 1½ hours!) Pastor Starla closed in prayer. The next meeting is set for April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson  
Recorder