

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church
May 4, 2021**

Champions of Who We Were | Representatives of Who We Are | Leaders of Who We Are Becoming

Present, Leadership Team Members: Sandy Abel, Ron Arthur, John Bundy, 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: Mary Ann Crisman, Shawn Matney.

The meeting of the Mt. Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Ethan Maple opened the meeting with prayer.

LOVE & LEARN – The team began its study of *LEAD* by Paul David Tripp (Ephesians 4:1-3) with a review of Chapter 1, “Achievement,” presented by Sandi Hudson and of Chapter 2, “Gospel,” presented by the Rev. Ethan Maple. The team discussed the principles in these chapters. Pastor Ethan shared “praying the impossible” (Matthew 19:26) and challenged the team to pray the impossible every night at 1926 (7:26 p.m.).

LEAD

A Vision of What’s to Come – Pastor Ethan shared with the team his vision for the future of Mount Comfort Church. His hope and prayer are to remain the pastor of Mount Comfort Church for as long as possible, and he is leading from a long-term perspective. Pastor Ethan shared his ministry motivation to live out our church Mission: “At Mt. Comfort Church we are committed to transforming our lives, our community, and our world through the power and love of Jesus Christ.” Our emphasis is three-fold and is illustrated with intersecting circles: people who don’t know Jesus yet; community partnerships and missions/outreach; congregational care & discipleship. He asked the team, “Where would you plot yourself on these circles?”

Updates

Financials – Financial reports were provided for the month of April. Mount Comfort Church shows Income as of April 2021 totaling \$32,441.80 and Expenses of \$31,655.92, for a Net Income of \$785.88. As of April 30, 2021, General Fund Balance after transfers totals \$51,978.53. The April 2021 Profit & Loss report showed Net Income for the month of April at \$785.88, which is \$5,831.34 below budget projections. Pastor noted that the budget is a guideline.

Joyful Days Childcare shows April Income totaling \$34,196 and Expenses totaling \$36,623.05, for a Net Income loss of (\$2,427.05).

Attendance – Attendance (combined campuses) for the month of April showed the following. 4/04 = 202 (Easter); 4/11 = 191 (Baptisms); 4/18 = 128; 4/25 = 151. May 2 = 117.

Bee Keeping Partnership – Pastor Ethan updated the team on the progress of permitting Amadeus Wagner to locate beehives in the woods on the Mount Comfort Campus property. The hives will start arriving this weekend.

Trusts Transfers – Nothing new to report.

Telecommunications – Pastor Ethan reported that at Mount Comfort Campus the new phones are working great, and the internet has been upgraded.

Hancock County Community Foundation Grant – The grant proposal for gym floor replacement has been submitted to the HCCF. Pastor Ethan, Chris Sexton, and Shawn Matney will represent Mount Comfort Church on May 12 at the grant application interview.

COVID Guidelines – The consensus was to continue to ask people to wear masks at church worship and gatherings indoors.

Church Pews – Pastor Ethan asked the Leadership Team to make decisions on the seating in the Mount Comfort Campus sanctuary, as half of the church pews are currently in storage, and it is not desirable to keep the pews in the locked storage containers during the summer. One layout was presented showing the original sanctuary layout utilizing all pews, with a seating capacity of 342. Another layout showed a new layout using a reduced number of the total pews, with a seating capacity of 250. Some of the unused pews could be placed throughout the church building; however, some of the longer pews would need to be donated, sold, or disposed

of. After considerable discussion, Sandi Hudson moved to transition the sanctuary to the seating plan for 250 total people, and to place as many of the unused pews throughout the church building as possible, and to donate the pews we cannot use. Megan Jones seconded. The motion carried with two dissenting votes.

Philly Parsonage Proposal – John Bundy presented a proposal for the purchase and renovation of the Philadelphia Campus parsonage by John & Christina Bundy/Rite-Way. A copy of the proposal was emailed to the Leadership Team in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bundy offered a purchase price of \$43,000 for the Philadelphia parsonage and property, as-is, with plans to renovate the house into two habitable apartments. The garage apartment unit would be donated back to Mount Comfort Church (including utilities) for a period of no less than three years, for the purpose of ministry as determined by the Church. MCC would have the option to buy back the property at invested cost, plus 5%. Jack McKinney requested that the agreement include retaining receipts as proof of all invested cost in case the church wants to buy back the property in the future. Jack McKinney moved, and Ron Arthur seconded, to approve the John Bundy proposal for purchase of the Philadelphia parsonage, and for John Bundy to provide Mount Comfort Church with receipts as proof of all invested cost, and to draw up a more formal agreement for signatures. The motion carried unanimously.

Purging Plan – Tabled.

Facility Projects – Pastor Ethan provided a handout of potential facility projects and asked the team to prioritize the projects and estimate a timeline. He asked the following people to serve on a committee to work on this task and present a recommendation to the Leadership Team: Ron Arthur, John Bundy, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, and Tim Waymire.

For the Good of the Church

Calendar Planning Session – Pastor Ethan will send an email and invite team members to sit down together to plan the church calendar events.

Cookout for Leadership Team – Pastor Ethan announced he will be inviting the Leadership Team/Staff members and their families to attend a cookout at the Maple home this summer.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. Pastor Starla closed in prayer. The next meeting is set for June 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson
Recorder