

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church
September 7, 2021**

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

Present, Leadership Team Members: Sandy Abel, Mary Ann Crisman, Sandi Hudson, Megan Jones, Kathy Lee, Reverend Ethan Maple, Jack McKinney, Rose McKinney, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, Christine Sturgis, Tim Waymire

Also Present: Shawn Matney, Jeff Janiszewski **Absent:** Ron Arthur, John Bundy, Kristy Willhelm

The meeting of the Mt. Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:03 p.m. at the church's Philly Campus. Rev. Ethan Maple opened with prayer.

LOVE & LEARN –Pastor Ethan opened with a reading of Ephesians 4: 1-3. Leading discussion from the team's study of LEAD, Deric Roberts presented "Candor," and Sandy Abel presented "Identity."

By the Numbers

Financials – Church Income/Expenses for August: \$37,762.58 - \$33,015.72 = \$4,746.86. Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Income/Expenses for August: \$31,532.64 - \$30,847.28 - \$685.36.

General Fund Balance = \$35,591.11 Joyful Days Balance = \$28,122.29.

Restricted Accounts = Discipleship \$9,284, Missions \$18,831, Facility \$46,203, Rainy Day \$54,295.

In August we paid our church district and conference tithe for the six months January to July 2021.

Attendance, August

Philly = 8/1 – 41 | 8/8 – 41 | 8/15 – 43 | 8/22 – 35 | 8/29 – 37.

Mt. Comfort = 8/1 – 92 | 8/8 – 97 | 8/15 – 95 | 8/22 – 95 | 8/29 – 99.

Follow-up

Distribution of Trust Funds – Pastor Ethan reported \$179,228.27 has been distributed from trust funds to Mt. Comfort Church. An additional legacy gift of \$46,500 is pending and is expected before the end of the year. All legacy funds are being held in a restricted account until we determine how best to use these gifts. The team discussed the benefits of investing funds versus paying off the mortgage.

Facility Projects Update –Philly Campus – Some touch-up work needs completed in classrooms. The Fellowship Hall painting and renovation is completed, and everyone is pleased with the results. The bat remediation was successful.

Mt. Comfort Parlor – New flooring will replace the carpet.

Mt. Comfort Gym Floor – Work began today with the tear-out; install of new flooring will be completed in approximately five weeks.

Mt. Comfort Entry Doors, Digital Access – Access to the entry doors by the sanctuary and across from the parsonage will be converted to a cloud-based, digital system and can be controlled with a smart phone. Keys will continue to work. It was recommended to add two more digital entry points, at the Family Life Center lobby and at the south door. Jack McKinney moved, and Megan Jones seconded that one additional digital access be installed on the south door by the kitchen. The motion carried.

Purging – The Mount Comfort purging is about to be completed, and the dumpster will soon be removed.

Philly Parsonage Update – Pastor Ethan reported that we are waiting for a second draft of the purchase agreement for the Philly Parsonage from the attorney representing John Bundy. A provision will be added that if the church decides to buy back the parsonage property, the church will honor any leases that are in place until they expire. The church will select its own attorney to review the purchase agreement document when it is presented to us.

Mt. Comfort Campus Relocation Possibility Updates – Pastor Ethan presented a document from T & W Church Solutions for a Project Discovery and Architect Agreement. This is a reputable company that has completed construction projects for area churches. CBRE has not come back to MCC with any prospects for a buyer of the

Mt. Comfort campus property. To relocate, building a new church facility would cost about \$5 million, and money from the sale of the Mt. Comfort property would garner at tops an estimated \$1.5 - \$2 million. The Philly campus does not lend itself to expansion, as it does not have water and sewer utilities, and it would cost about \$1million to run them to the Philly campus; additionally, the property does not have enough acreage for the septic system that would be needed to support a larger structure. Pastor Ethan explained that the T & W document is simply a baseline to facilitate future decision-making.

UMC Separation Updates – Pastor Ethan shared information regarding the separation of the United Methodist Church. It is expected it will be another two years before another International General Conference convenes to address the issue of church separation, as an in-person meeting is needed, most likely in 2024. A local church option includes disaffiliation from the UMC. Pastor Ethan recommended that we request from the Indiana Conference the cost for MCC to disaffiliate from the UMC, and he estimates the cost would be around \$300,000. Deric Roberts moved that Pastor Ethan contact the Indiana UMC Conference with a request for disaffiliation costs; Chris Sexton seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business

Calendar Overview – Shawn Matney reviewed upcoming calendar events. Highlights: September 11 – Car Show, MtC. September 18 – Memorial Service, E. Harris, MtC. September 25 – Missions Workday, Hope House. October 23 -- Church Facility Workday. October 29 – Trunk ‘n Treat, Philly. November 12 – Turkey Noodle Dinner, Philly. December 4 – Christmas Bazaar, MtC. December 5 – Christmas Ladies Tea, MtC.

MCC Admin Website Page – The MCC Admin page on the church website provides links to the following forms: Maintenance/Repair Request, Event Information Form (for marketing and communication purposes, and submitted well in advance of the event), Expense Form. In addition, the minutes from Leadership Team meetings will be posted there. The Admin page is for internal use and is not for calendaring events, which is done by contacting the church office.

Business Personal Property Inventory for County Tax Purposes – The Hancock County Assessor’s Office contacted the church to explain the requirement of the annual filing of the Business Personal Property Inventory. The last time Mt. Comfort did it was 1996, and it is supposed to be filed annually. The County has waived the penalty and has given the church a due date of May 2022. [“The State of Indiana requires all businesses including any firm, company, partnership, association, corporation, churches or small business owner to complete personal property tax returns. Personal Property can be described as anything tangible such as tools, computers, printers, fax machines, desks, chairs, machinery, signage, display cases, security systems, farm equipment, etc. However, this does not include intangible property such as computer programs, inventory, or anything that has a license plate from the BMV (vehicles).”]

Live Streaming Equipment Proposal – Jeff Janiszewski presented three options for video camera purchases, which would be taken from the Livestream Upgrade fund. After considerable discussion, Megan Jones moved, and Chris Sexton seconded that Jeff Janiszewski purchase a video camera that best meets the church’s needs for church live streaming, and any cost above the remaining balance in Livestream Upgrade fund will be paid out of the Rainy Day fund. The motion carried.

Leadership Team 2022 – Pastor Ethan asked everyone to fill out the green form, Leadership Team 2022 – Desire to Serve, and to return the form to him by September 30. He encouraged everyone to make suggestions for new candidates to serve on the team.

Joyful Days –Christine Sturgis recommended closing two infant classrooms for one week, due to a staffing shortage resulting from some staff members now in quarantine for close contact with COVID. Tuition will not be charged to the families impacted. Pastor Ethan will work with her in communicating this information to families.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. Pastor Ethan closed in prayer. The next meeting is set for October 5 at 7:00 p.m. at our Mount Comfort Campus.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Hudson, Recorder