

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church
November 2, 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, Mary Ann Crisman, Sandi Hudson, Kathy Lee, Reverend Ethan Maple, Deric Roberts, Christine Sturgis, Tim Waymire, Kristy Willhelm.

Also Present: Jeff Janiszewski, Shawn Matney, Jim Winter. **Absent:** Megan Jones, Jack McKinney, Rose McKinney, Chris Sexton.

The meeting of the Mt. Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:04 p.m. at the church's Mt. Comfort Campus. Rev. Ethan Maple opened with prayer.

LOVE & LEARN –Leading discussion from the team's study of LEAD, Ethan Maple presented Presence.

The Leadership Team for 2022 will have the following changes: Jack & Rose McKinney have resigned. Jim Winter will join the team and will serve as Trustees Chair and will be attending the next two meetings as he transitions into the role.

By the Numbers

Financials – Church Income/Expenses for October: \$39,497.64/\$32,160.21 with net income \$7,337.43. Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Income/Expenses for October: \$31,244.28/\$31,798.72, with net income (\$554.44).

General Fund Balance = \$38,565.75. Joyful Days Balance = \$34,860.21.

Restricted Accounts = Discipleship \$8,884.23, Missions \$20,748.12, Facility \$47,699.45, Rainy Day \$52,165.58. Legacy Gift Balance = \$166,665.13.

Pastor Ethan announced that Mt. Comfort Church has been awarded the grant from the United Methodist Church and will receive \$3,700, which will be applied to the cost of the gym floor replacement.

Attendance, August

Philly = Oct. 3, 44 | Oct. 10, 43 | Oct. 17, 44 | Oct. 24, 32 | Oct. 31, 44. Average = 41.4

Mt. Comfort = Oct. 3, 112 | Oct. 10, 80 | Oct. 17, 98 | Oct. 24, 86 | Oct. 31, 107. Average = 96.6

Calendar Review - Church workday at MtC was a success with 25 participants. Trunk 'n Treat at Philly hosted 175 children, with an overall attendance of about 250, and the forms returned show that about 30% were unchurched. Pastor Ethan will follow up with the families. Upcoming Events include the following: November 12 – Turkey Noodle Dinner, Philly; November 13 – Hope Center tour; November 19 – Exploration Faith; December 4 – Christmas Bazaar; December 5 – Ladies' Tea; December 8 – Infant Memorial Service; December 12 – Kids Ministry PJ Party; December 17 – Joyful Days Christmas program; December 21 – Blue Christmas Service; December 24 – Christmas Eve services.

Discussion Items

Ministry Check-in

Missions – The Comfort Cupboard emergency pantry was set up on the church workday and is being stocked.

Discipleship – The Christmas series church-wide is not going to happen; instead, two evening classes will be offered for Advent studies.

Worship – The vocal ensemble has begun regular practices and will debut at the Christmas Eve service.

Administration – Window replacement will most likely occur in the spring, due to the supply chain.

Joyful Days – Christine Sturgis requested caulking for the childcare classroom windows that have deteriorated.

TD Ameritrade Account – The account is inactive. Money must be retained in the account, or it will be closed. The consensus was to transfer the minimum amount of money required to TD Ameritrade in order to keep the account open, as this gives the church the option to accept donations of appreciated securities.

Credit Card Approval, Joyful Days Assistant Director – Ashley Litton, Assistant Director of Joyful Days, needs credit card approval for the program’s purchases of food, snacks, and supplies for which she is responsible. John Bundy moved, and Deric Roberts seconded that Ashley Litton be approved for a Mt. Comfort Church credit card with a limit of \$1,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Custodial Responsibilities – Pastor Ethan presented a monthly chart for use in tracking the Mt. Comfort Campus custodial tasks. Pastor Ethan recommended an increase in the custodian’s salary for the Mt. Comfort Campus, from \$1,000/month to \$1,200/month. The consensus was to approve the increase, effective November 2021. This increase would be paid for through a \$200/month increase to the Joyful Days facility support transfer.

Mt. Comfort Campus Relocation Update – Pastor Ethan recently had a conversation with Dr. Parker, Superintendent, Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation, regarding relocation of Mt. Comfort Elementary School. Dr. Parker indicated the district might consider a move in the future, and he will keep Pastor Ethan informed, as the church may want to follow suit.

UMC Disaffiliation – Pastor Ethan asked for feedback on a potential disaffiliation of Mt. Comfort Church from the United Methodist Church body. Discussion – ▪ Could we ask the congregation for money for this purpose? Yes. ▪ Do we want to be proactive or reactive? By either September 2022 or April 2024, it will be determined if the UMC splits. ▪ How will this affect our membership? ▪ What does UMC affiliation provide? ▪ Key Question – Do we want the UMC to be our partner in the ministry of this church? ▪ A majority of the Leadership Team and 2/3 approval of church membership would be needed to disaffiliate. ▪ If we vote to disaffiliate, it would be effective July 1. ▪ If we disaffiliate, would we join another fellowship or network? We would discuss this and look at possibilities.

After discussion, John Bundy moved, and Sandy Abel seconded, that Mt. Comfort Church postpone a vote on the matter of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church until the December 2021 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

2022 Budget – Pastor Ethan presented the Mt. Comfort Church 2022 budget proposal, which includes the Joyful Days budget. Deric Roberts recommended the budget be amended to reflect a 30% increase in Gas and a 10% increase in Electric, for an additional \$4,500 in budget.

2022 Staff Compensation – Pastor Ethan discussed the possibility of adding a part-time pastor, which would add \$16,200 to the budget. This matter was tabled until Pastor Ethan has the opportunity to meet with the individual under consideration.

Staff members left the meeting so that the team could discuss staff compensation. The consensus was to add \$1,000 each to the salaries of the Joyful Days Director and the Office Manager.

Ron Arthur moved, and Deric Roberts seconded that the 2022 budget be approved as presented and amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Love INC of Greater Hancock County – Pastor Ethan has been asked to serve on the Board of Directors of Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ)., and he asked the team if this would be good use of his time and if there were any objections to his pursuing this offer. The team had no objections to Pastor Ethan serving in this position. The mission of Love INC is to work with local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ.

For the Good of the Church –

Charge Conference, December 6, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Drive-Thru at Rosedale Hills UMC.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m. with prayer. The next meeting is set for December 7 at 7:00 p.m. at our Mount Comfort Campus.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hudson, Recorder