

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church  
December 7, 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, Mary Ann Crisman, Sandi Hudson, Megan Jones, Kathy Lee, Reverend Ethan Maple, Jack McKinney, Rose McKinney, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, Christine Sturgis, Kristy Willhelm.

**Also Present:** Jeff Janiszewski, Shawn Matney, Jim Winter. **Absent:** John Bundy, Tim Waymire.

The meeting of the Mt. Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at the church's Mt. Comfort Campus. Rev. Ethan Maple opened with an advent devotional and a prayer.

**LEAD**

**By the Numbers**

Financials – Church Income/Expenses for November: \$43,992.64/\$34,509.60 with net income \$9,483.04. Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Income/Expenses for November: \$30,686.11/\$26,569.78, with net income \$4,116.33.

General Fund Balance = \$44,099.15. Joyful Days Balance = \$156,286.54 (includes grant funds of \$117,310.) Restricted Accounts = Discipleship \$7,832, Missions \$20,161, Facility \$43,499, Rainy Day \$55,583.92. Legacy Gift Balance = \$170,053.13.

Attendance, November

Philly = Nov. 7 - 44 | Nov. 14 - 42 | Nov. 21 - 38 | Nov. 28 - 50. Average = 43.5

Mt. Comfort = Nov. 7 - 88 | Nov. 14 - 98 | Nov. 21 - 86 | Nov. 28 - 90. Average = 90.5

**Ministry Check-in**

Missions – Rose McKinney reported 188 shoeboxes were sent to Operation Christmas Child; the Comfort Cupboard has been stocked.

Discipleship – Mary Ann Crisman reported. Exploration Faith Night in November drew 35-40 participants, who really enjoyed packing the Christmas shoeboxes. The next event will be in February. The Ladies Tea had a nice turnout. The PJ party is December 12.

Worship – The Festival Choir has been well received. Special services: December 8 – Infant Memorial Service; December 17 – Joyful Days Christmas program; December 21 – Blue Christmas Service; December 24 – Christmas Eve service, Mt. Comfort Campus. On December 26, Sunday worship service will be virtual only.

Joyful Days – Christine Sturgis reported that COVID-19 positive cases have caused some shut-downs of specific classrooms, and she explained the protocols for when a positive case is confirmed. Due to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, the following changes will take effect December 9: the infant room will be closed down through the end of Christmas break; parents of children in the other classes who choose to keep their children home during this ten-day period will be credited with the time missed; Joyful Days will be open for parents who choose to keep their children who are symptom-free in attendance.

Christine Sturgis shared about the grant monies received from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in the amount of \$117,310. That figured is based off of three-month operational expenses. Stipulations: 35% to staff; remainder on facility and Personal Protective Equipment; purpose – rebuild and sustain programs. Pastor Ethan recommended that the grant money be given a designated fund under the direction of the Leadership Team. Funding can be retroactive to January 2020 and must be liquidated in 2023. After discussion, Christine Sturgis moved to use ARP grant money to pay loyalty bonuses to Joyful Days employees currently employed in the amount of \$50/month, retroactive to April 2020 for months employed; Deric Roberts seconded, and the motion carried. Ms. Sturgis also plans to budget grant money for staff training, marketing, and facility upgrades.

Christine Sturgis moved that grant money be transferred to the Mt. Comfort campus Facility fund as follows: \$5,000 for gym floor replacement and \$5,000 for window replacement. Jack McKinney seconded, and the motion carried.

Facilities – Jim Winter needs a church credit card for his role as church Trustee Chair. Ron Arthur moved that Jim Winter be given a Mt. Comfort Church credit card with a credit limit of \$1,500; Mary Ann Crisman seconded, and the motion carried.

Recycling – The recycling service the church uses has not been reliable. The consensus was to seek a better option for recycling.

Upcoming projects: MtC furnace filters; FLC window replacement quote totals \$10,000, with work scheduled within 6-8 weeks (cost will be split between Joyful Days grant and Facilities fund).

Open Path door access – Rather than set a specific window of time for individuals who use the digital church Open Path door access app, the app will be accessible 24/7, and the usage log will be monitored.

### **Envisioning the Future**

Disaffiliation – About six churches in our conference have disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church. We need to continue the conversation about the path Mt. Comfort Church will pursue. Pastor Ethan said we should know in February if the General Conference of the UMC will meet as scheduled. Looking at options for another church network, Church 2/42 is looking at becoming a vehicle for like-minded churches which disaffiliate to work together. Pastor Ethan also has discussed a partnership with Amity UMC. These are things to think about and pray about. If we were to recommend disaffiliation to our congregation, we should do so no later than March 2022.

Relocation – We need to continue to pray about God's will for the location of the Mt. Comfort Campus, as industrial development is continuing to change the community of which it is a part.

### **For the Good of the Church**

Pastor Ethan thanked Jack and Rose McKinney for their time serving on the Mt. Comfort Church Leadership Team, for their work for the church, and for the wisdom they have conveyed, as both have resigned their positions and will not continue to serve on the Leadership Team in 2022. They will be missed.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. with prayer. The next meeting is set for January 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at our Mount Comfort Campus.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Hudson, Recorder