

Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church
January 11, 2022

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, Megan Jones, Kathy Lee, Reverend Ethan Maple, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, Tim Waymire, Kristy Willhelm.

Also Present: Marianne Nichols. **Absent:** Jeff Janiszewski, Shawn Matney, Christine Sturgis, Jim Winter.

The meeting of the Mount Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at the church's Mount Comfort Campus. Rev. Ethan Maple opened with a prayer.

LOVE

Pastor Ethan presented a devotional reflecting on John the Baptist's and *metanoia* (repentance -- reconsider) and how John's ministry led the Jewish people to reconsider their understanding of their faith traditions. In the same manner, we as church leaders need to reconsider our mission and ministry in light of how we can fulfill God's will.

LEARN

Pastor Ethan led discussion of the article he asked team members to read: "12 Disruptive Church Trends That Will Rule 2022" by Carey Nieuwhof.

LEAD

Pastor Marianne Nichols – Pastor Ethan introduced Rev. Marianne Nichols, who is being considered for a part-time staff position in Congregational Care for Mount Comfort Church and for New Palestine UMC. She shared her background and answered questions from the Leadership Team.

By the Numbers

Financials – Church Income/Expenses for December: \$51,855.97/\$36,597.03 with net income \$15,288.94. Compared to 2020, the end-of year balance for 2021 is about \$3,000 down from the previous year.

Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Income/Expenses for December: \$20,042.54/\$22,785.94, with net income (\$2,743.40). Closed classrooms due to COVID-19 negatively impacted the December Joyful Days balance sheet.

General Fund Balance = \$52,071.66. Joyful Days Balance = \$36,233.14

Restricted Accounts = Discipleship \$9,091.40, Missions \$20,975.05, Facility \$45,333.87, Rainy Day \$60,430.63; Legacy Gift Balance = \$175,053.13.

Attendance, December

Philly/MtC = December 5- 69/87 | December 12- 53/68 | December 19 – 35/102.

Average: Philly Campus = 52.3 | Mt. Comfort Campus = 85.6 | Combined Average = 138.

Christmas Eve service = 212.

Discussion Items

Church Credit Card – The main credit card holder for MCC must be assigned, due to the change of Treasurer. Tim Waymire moved, and Mary Ann Crisman seconded that Deric Roberts be named the main credit card holder for Mount Comfort Church. The motion passed unanimously.

The credit limit for Shawn Matney's church credit card needs to be increased. Sandy Abel moved, and John Bundy seconded that Shawn Matney's Mount Comfort Church credit card limit be changed to \$1,000 month, rather than the current \$250/month. The motion passed unanimously.

Amazon Business Prime Account – Pastor Ethan asked that the church Amazon account be a Amazon Business Prime account for all church users, with the annual cost of \$500 split between the church and Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare. The consensus was to approve this request.

Joyful Days –The grant monies from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) have been received. The consensus was for Director Christine Sturgis to manage the grant with oversight from Pastor Ethan and the Leadership Team. Projects being considered: new, updated iPads for staff, a toddler playground, and floor replacement in classrooms (replace carpet with laminate). Also, the consensus was to establish a restricted account for Joyful Days ministry that would be in line with our other restricted accounts; to start \$6,233.14 of their current balance (not counting grand funds) will be transferred to this new restricted account. Anytime the Joyful Days non-grant balance is over \$25,000, 10% will be transferred to the restricted account.

Denominational Discussion – Pastor Ethan led discussion on possible disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church. If General Conference happens this year, we will get caught up in the conversations of the human sexuality issues. If General Conference does not happen, we have more flexibility. If we want to disaffiliate, we must pay the disaffiliation fee by June 30, 2022. After discussion, Megan Jones moved, and Ron Arthur seconded that the Leadership Team recommend to the congregation that Mount Comfort Church disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church in 2022. The motion passed unanimously. The matter now must be presented to our local congregation for a vote. Pastor Ethan will host a Town Hall meeting to present the matter and to allow time for questions prior to the vote. At least two-thirds of professing members present at a Mount Comfort Church Conference must vote to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church for disaffiliation to occur.

Hiring of Congregational Care Pastor – Pastor Ethan led discussion on the proposal to hire Marianne Nichols as part-time pastor of Congregational Care, shared with New Palestine UMC. Salary would be a shared cost, with MCC, New Palestine UMC, and the Conference each contributing \$10,000 annually. Ms. Nichols is a locally licensed pastor. Hiring someone for this position would fill a gap in Mt. Comfort Church's ministry. The arrangement is not contractual and could be terminated at any time by either party. After discussion, it was determined this matter would be tabled in light of the disaffiliation recommendation.

For the Good of the Church

Administration – A grant opportunity for non-profits is available through the American Rescue Plan. Sandi Hudson will attend a required workshop January 18 and report back to Pastor Ethan of the grant requirements.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m. with prayer. The next meeting is set for February 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at our Mount Comfort Campus.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hudson, Recorder