

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church**  
**March 8, 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, Christine Sturgis, Kristy Willhelm, Jim Winter. **Also Present:** Shawn Matney. **Absent:** Tim Waymire

The meeting of the Mount Comfort Church (MCC) Leadership Team was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the church's Mount Comfort Campus.

**LOVE**

Pastor Ethan shared the scripture, Matthew 24:14, and discussed it with the Leadership Team.

*Jesus said, "And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all peoples will hear it; and then the end will come."* Rev. Ethan Maple then opened the meeting with prayer.

**LEARN**

Pastor Ethan led a discussion of the article he asked team members to read: "Three Counterintuitive Ways to Reach the Unchurched" by Mark Clark. He asked the team to consider the three ideas that can guide individuals and churches in the tasks of reaching and discipling the world.

**LEAD**

**Affirm email Approvals** – The Leadership Team affirmed the following email votes of approval: retaining as legal counsel for disaffiliation the firm, Dentons Bringham Greenebaum LLP at a cost of \$500; Joyful Days tech expenditures with the grant funding.

**By the Numbers**

**Financials** – Church Income/Expenses for February: \$29,174.51/\$35,624.17 with net income (\$6,449.66). Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Income/Expenses for February: \$26,902.78/\$22,458.58, with net income \$4,444.20.  
General Fund Balance = \$39,792.45. Joyful Days Balance = \$31,032.47  
Restricted Accounts = Discipleship \$10,272.72, Missions \$21,041.98, Facility \$47,917.93, Rainy Day \$67,713.72; Joyful Days = \$308,042.99; Legacy Gift Balance = \$171,551.82.

**Attendance, February**

Philly/MtC = February 6 – 45/75 | February 13 – 30/91 | February 20 – 27/90; February 27 – 43/103  
Average: Philly Campus = 36.25 | Mount Comfort Campus = 89.75 | Combined Average = 126

**Discussion Items**

**Ukraine** – In light of the recent invasion of Ukraine by Russia, Pastor Ethan asked what our church can do to help. Kristy Willhelm moved, and Deric Roberts seconded that Mount Comfort Church donate \$2,500 from the Missions Restricted fund for direct humanitarian relief for Ukraine and that we ask the congregation to join in donating to the cause.

**Maintenance Report** –

Lighting Proposals – The team discussed the Duke Energy lighting proposal. The consensus was for John Bundy to discuss the specifications of the proposal with Ken Costello, Duke Energy Service Representative, Jim Winter reported on repairs and maintenance. A church workday is set for March 19.

HVAC estimates – No report.

Custodian vacation – Julian has requested vacation March 14 – 18. We need to fill the gap.

Snow removal and lawnmowing – Due to recent increases in gasoline prices, it was determined a budget adjustment was needed. Sandy Abel moved, and Jim Winter seconded that we increase the snow removal/lawnmowing budget to \$10,000, a \$2,000 increase. The motion carried unanimously.

Parking lot – It was noted that the Mt. Comfort Campus church parking lot is in need of repair.

Annual report for Incorporation – Shawn Matney reported that the annual filing with the State of Indiana for Mt. Comfort UMC, Inc. has been completed for 2022.

Inventory & Property Exempt filings – Two separate filings of the Business Tangible Personal Property Return forms 103 and 104 are required, as the campuses are in two different taxing districts, and these are due May 16. The Property Tax Exemption Form 136 form is due April 1.

Joyful Days Grant, Expenditures and Updates – Christine Sturgis reported. Staff support – Joyful Days is hiring, and some staff positions remain open. A portion of the grant must be expended on staff within a three-year period. John Bundy moved, and Chris Sexton seconded that the hourly employees of Joyful Days receive a 50 cent increase on their hourly pay rate, effective the second pay in March 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Discerning Disaffiliation – Pastor Ethan discussed the latest UMC decisions – the General Conference of the UMC will not meet in 2022 and has been scheduled for 2024, and the Global Methodist Church (GMC) will launch in May of 2022. Churches which change affiliation from the UMC to the GMC will transfer their property to the GMC.

The Disaffiliation vote will take place at a Church Charge Conference on March 12, 1:00 p.m. at the Mt. Comfort Campus. Dr. Aleze Fulbright, Central District Conference Superintendent, will conduct the meeting. People will check in and receive a ballot. Chris Sexton, Church Council Chair, will make the motion. For disaffiliation to happen, the church must fulfill all requirements in the disaffiliation agreement.

### **Ministry Check-In**

Missions – Pastor Ethan reported Missions met last night. The linen closet to support the needs of Love, INC, is now stocked in the Comfort Closet. The March One Thing is Easter candy for the community event on April 9.

Discipleship – Mary Ann Crisman reported. The Men's Breakfast will be March 26, and a Ukrainian pastor is scheduled to speak. We need to decide if we want to have scholarships for summer church camp. Christine Sturgis moved, and John Bundy seconded that we set aside \$1,500 in Discipleship restricted funds for summer church camp scholarships that would defray 50% of the cost for students who attend.

Worship – The worship music team has grown and is receiving good reviews.

Administration – Upcoming events include the community Fish Fry on March 12, Church Workday on March 19, and Men's Breakfast on March 26.

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

The Chili Supper and Dessert Auction was a great success and lots of fun. The One Thing collections have had great participation. Pastor Starla will be graduating this May and asked for prayers, as she will be moving into her next stage of education. Pastor Ethan led the team in Prayer at 8:45 p.m., and support staff left the meeting.

Pastor Ethan asked for the Leadership Team to consider raises for Joyful Days salaried staff. After discussion, John Bundy moved, and Jim Winter seconded to increase the salaried positions in Joyful Days as follows – Director - \$3,500 annually, and Assistant Director -- \$1,500 annually. The motion carried unanimously. Sandy Abel moved, and John Bundy seconded that a \$200 monthly stipend for bookkeeping services be paid to Shawn Matney, Office Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Ethan discussed having a compensation package and a contract for the Senior Pastor if the disaffiliation occurs and requested that this be an agenda item at the next meeting.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The next meeting is set for April 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Comfort Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson, Recorder