

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church  
April 12, 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, Jeff Janiszewski, Reverend Ethan Maple, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, Tim Waymire, Kristy Willhelm, Jim Winter. **Also Present:** Shawn Matney. **Absent:** Megan Jones, Kathy Lee, Christine Sturgis.

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 28:5-6 and discussed it with the Leadership Team. Would we be surprised if Jesus's words came to fruition? Let us take some time to remind ourselves of what Jesus said. Pastor Ethan then opened the meeting with prayer.

**LEARN**

Pastor Ethan asked the Leadership Team to take a minute and celebrate, and team members shared what they celebrate about Mt. Comfort Church and their family life.

**LEAD**

**Affirm email Approvals** – The Leadership Team unanimously affirmed the following email votes of approval: accept donations through Mt. Comfort Church for Ukrainian pastor, Levi Brinkerhoff; accept the Duke Energy small business energy saver proposal at a cost of \$13,198.53.

**By the Numbers**

**Financials** – Church Income/Expenses for March: \$33,751.74 - \$35,932.58 = (\$2,180.84)

Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Income/Expenses for March: \$29,501.50 - \$25,959.54 = \$3,541.96

General Fund Balance = \$36,851.93 Joyful Days Balance = \$33,616.99

Restricted Accounts = Discipleship \$10,240.81, Missions \$11,688.11, Facility \$48,182.49, Rainy Day \$70,173.83; Joyful Days = \$306,272.41; Legacy Gift Balance = \$171,551.82.

**Attendance, March 2022**

Philly/MtC = March 6 – 49/95 | March 13 – 43/91 | March 20 – 43/96; March 27 – 34/97

Average: Philly Campus = 42.25 | Mount Comfort Campus = 94.75 | Combined Average = 137

**Ministry Check-In**

**Missions** – Pastor Ethan reported the Linen Closet is established. One Mission Society – Mt. Comfort Church and the congregation have donated over \$20,000 to the Ukrainian relief effort. A representative from the Boys and Girls Club will be our partner in worship services on May 29. One Thing April – Travel size toiletries to donate to homeless shelters. One Thing May – Snacks for Boys & Girls Club.

**Discipleship** – Mary Ann Crisman reported. The US 40 garage sale – previous volunteers have offered to do the kitchen work and food sales and has asked the youth to take over running the garage sale, June 3 & 4. Starting May 1, we will begin collecting donations (no clothing) at the Philly Campus. Youth – New members are attending, and leaders need to replenish the Lighthouse Youth Ministry shirts, @ \$8.00 each. Mary Ann Crisman moved, and Jim Winter seconded that \$500 from the Discipleship Restricted fund be designated for the purchase of Lighthouse Youth Ministry shirts, and the motion carried unanimously. Early bird registration for Church Summer Camp ends soon; MCC is offering scholarships of 50%.

**Worship** – Jeff Janiszewski reported. The worship music team has grown and has been well received. The iMac at Philly needs to be replaced, and he recommends a laptop, at an estimated cost of \$1,000 - \$1,300.

**Administration** – The church will be donating its excess Bibles to various organizations, and it was suggested that the church congregation be given the opportunity to take a free Bible.

**Joyful Days** – No report.

**Discussion Items**

**The Comfort House** – Pastor Ethan provided a grant update. While we did not receive an outright grant for the remodeling and repurposing of the Philly parsonage for temporary, emergency housing, Mt. Comfort Church has

been invited to have conversations with other community organizations on how we can collaborate in pursuing grant funding to address this problem. As it likely could be months before anything will materialize from this offer, we need to decide if we want to participate in a collaboration and pursue the grant or drop out and pursue our original plan in collaboration with John Bundy. If the Philly parsonage sits as is, it will deteriorate. The consensus was to make necessary repairs now and to table a decision until next month.

Maintenance Report – The Church Workday at Mt. Comfort Campus was a success. Jim Winter said he had a great crew and would like to schedule another workday. The lighting project is completed. Pastor Ethan said Sharon Hensley has volunteered to beautify the north and east Mt. Comfort campus outdoor entrances with some landscaping and fencing. The consensus was for a small team to work with Sharon and to approve a plan. Some future maintenance projects to schedule include a safe structure for the church bell and tree removal.

Joyful Days Grant Expenditures/Updates – Christine Sturgis has scheduled a staff training seminar in Conscious Discipline and wants to open it to the community. Joyful Days Sunday is set for May 22 at the Mt. Comfort Campus. Ms. Sturgis has asked about the possibility of a washer and dryer hookup for use by Joyful Days, possibly in the shower area.

Annual Report Procedures (NP-20) – Procedures for filing required government forms need to be established for Business Tangible Personal Property Returns and Property Tax Exemption. The Mt. Comfort Campus forms filed with the Assessor's office. Ron Arthur will submit the Philly Campus forms. The consensus was for the non-profit NP-20 to be filed when we have completed the name change after disaffiliation.

Disaffiliation Process Moving Forward – The motion for Mt. Comfort UMC to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, effective June 30, 2022, passed 72 in favor and 4 against in an All-Church Charge Conference on March 12, 2022, with Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright. In addition, in a special meeting of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, Inc., held March 12, 2022, a majority of the members voted to dissolve the corporation effective June 30, 2022. Pastor Ethan discussed next steps, and he will be meeting with the church's legal counsel next week to begin discussion on establishing bylaws and articles of incorporation. What method do we want to work through these decisions? The consensus was to establish a small team to work through the details with the lawyer. Volunteers: John Bundy, Sandi Hudson, Chris Sexton, Rev. Ethan Maple, with Deric Roberts as a consultant.

It was suggested to set a goal of \$150,000 for the fundraiser for the disaffiliation fee. We will launch this fundraiser April 24 with a target completion date the middle of June.

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

Deric Roberts shared a concern that the Family Life Center lobby is very cluttered and did not look good when we had visitors here for the Easter Egg Hunt. It was noted that in the gym, the Pickle Ball equipment was scattered about. Sandi Hudson asked for everyone to keep a list of any church equipment and inventory that is donated or liquidated, as the items must be removed from the 2022 inventory reported to the Assessor in 2023.

**Personnel Matters** – Church staff members were excused from the meeting at 8:27 p.m. so the Leadership Team could discuss confidential personnel matters with Rev. Ethan Maple.

Summer Office Hours – Pastor Ethan presented a request from Shawn Matney that she be allowed to work from home two days per week in the summer. Currently, Shawn works the hours of 9 – 3, with only Friday at home. Proposed: M-W-F work in the church office, and Tues-/Th work from home. Pastor Ethan said we could evaluate this plan and possibly continue it year-around. The consensus was to approve the summer plan, effective the first of June.

Pastor Proposal –Rev. Starla Gooch has contacted Pastor Ethan and has proposed that she be hired as Pastor of Spiritual Formation at 10 hrs./week. The team discussed the proposal. The consensus was to offer a counterproposal, crafted by Pastor Ethan, that will better address our church needs.

Pastoral Compensation, Post – UMC – Pastor Ethan presented a handout for Post-UMC Pastoral Compensation. The team discussed what should be included in the senior pastor's contract, including salary, benefits, vacation, sabbatical, severance, non-compete clause, disability and life insurance.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:32 p.m. The next meeting is set for May 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Comfort Campus.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Hudson, Recorder