

Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church, Inc.
September 13, 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, Ashley Litton, Reverend Ethan Maple, Marcia Piercy, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, Tim Waymire, Jim Winter. **Also Present:** Jeff Janiszewski, Shawn Matney. **Absent:** Kristy Willhelm

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

LOVE- Rev. Ethan Maple opened the meeting with prayer. He later shared Matthew 25:29 and the impact of this verse.

LEARN & LEAD – Pastor Ethan shared the results of the input on Pastoral Responsibilities and asked for comments. The averages were as follows: Bible Studies/Small Groups = 8.85%, Preaching/Worship = 32.54%, Leadership/Future Planning = 15.81%, Personal Growth/Study = 9.96%, Community Partnership/Relations = 10.96%, Administrative/Ministry Oversight = 12.38%, Congregational Care/Visitation = 9.50%.

Affirm email Approvals –The consensus was that the following email approval votes be affirmed. 1) Leadership Team minutes from August 9, 2022, approved in an email vote. 2) The removal and stump grinding of five spruce trees on the front lawn of the Mt. Comfort campus at an estimated cost of \$2,500, paid from the Facility Restricted account, approved via an email vote.

By the Numbers

Financials – Church Income/Expenses for August:

Church Income/Expense | \$37,707.70 - \$32,706.20 = \$5,001.50

Joyful Days August Income/Expense | \$30,044.55 - \$28,252.02 = \$1,792.53

General Fund Balance = \$41,023.70 | Joyful Days Balance = \$12,091.03

Restricted Accts = Discipleship = \$8,344.47 | Missions = \$8,508.90 | Facility = \$37,527.94 |

Rainy Day = \$78,076.99 | Joyful Days = \$274,410.92 Legacy Gift Balance = \$20,541.02

Eric Roberts moved, and Jim Winter seconded transfer of funds in the amount of \$18,000 from the Joyful Days restricted account to the Joyful Days general fund. The motion carried.

Attendance, August 2022

Philly/MtC – August 7 – 42/75 | August 14 – 44/103 | August 21 – 44/73 | August 28 – 40/107

Sunday Average: Philly Campus = 42.5 | Mount Comfort Campus = 89.5 | Combined Average = 132

Discussion Items

Congregational Communication – Pastor Ethan asked for comments on congregational communication.

Melville Batts Trust – Mt. Comfort Church has received a legacy gift of \$377,814.41 from the Melville Batts Trust. This money will go into a restricted account. The Team discussed a proposed allocation plan for use of the funds, which included the following: paying off the \$150,000 mortgage; \$100,000 for capital projects (roof, HVAC, parking lots); 68,344.32 for restricted funds investment; \$25,000 for a Family Life Center entrance to the front lawn, Mt. Comfort Campus; \$20,000 for updates on the sanctuary-end (Building 1, Mt. Comfort Campus); \$10,000 for repairs (both campuses); and \$4,470.10 for congregational blessings. In discussion it was noted that the Philly Campus church building needs a roof replacement now. It was recommended that we address with the congregation the question of how long the Mt. Comfort campus will remain a part of the Mt. Comfort Corridor in light of the industrial development in the area.

In response to the recommendations, the Leadership Team took the following actions. Ron Arthur moved, and Jim Winter seconded that Mt. Comfort Church pay off the \$150,000 mortgage of Mt. Comfort Church with funds from the Melvin Batts Trust restricted account, and the motion carried. Deric Roberts moved, and Chris Sexton seconded that we allocate from the Melvin Batts Trust \$20,000 for sanctuary-end updates and \$10,000 for repairs, and the motion carried. John Bundy moved, and Deric Roberts seconded that Mt. Comfort Church allocate \$4,470.10 from the Melvin Batts Trust restricted fund to fund a congregational celebration. The motion carried.

Mortgage Modification Update – Pastor Ethan provided an update on transferring the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church mortgage to Mt. Comfort Church, Inc. With funds approved to pay off the mortgage, the plan now is to complete the pay-off transaction as soon as the trust funds are received and deposited so that a mortgage modification will not be needed.

Sanctuary-End Updates (Building 1, Mt. Comfort Campus) – Projects include painting, reassessing room and space usage, and upgrades to make Kids' Ministry a more welcoming space.

Key Person & Short-Term Disability Insurance – Pastor Ethan said the insurance packages continue to be a work in progress.

Parsonage Update – The current tenant will be vacating the parsonage this month. A preliminary inspection showed the house to be in good condition, and a final walk-through is scheduled.

Calendar Update – Pastor Ethan reported on upcoming calendar events. The use of our church facilities has increased with the start of the school year.

Credit Card Approval – Sandy Abel moved, and Tim Waymire seconded approval of a credit card for employee Julian Marshall with a credit limit of \$500/month. The motion carried unanimously.

2023 Budgeting Process – Deric Roberts has started crafting the 2023 church budget. Those in charge of specific ministry areas were encouraged to email Deric with their 2023 budget needs.

Ministry Area Updates

Joyful Days – Ashely Litton provided a written report via email prior to the meeting.

Discipleship – Small groups are meeting. Carl Fannin is leading a group on the Wesley tradition. Pastor Ethan and Crystal Maple are leading a small group on trauma. Small groups will be highlighted monthly in a handout in order to encourage participation.

Missions – The Comfort House (Philly Campus) – Mt. Comfort Church has been approved for the next phase in the American Rescue Plan Act grant, facilitated by the Hancock County Community Foundation and must submit an application for our proposed project – the repurposing and renovation of the Philly parsonage for temporary, emergency housing, The Comfort House. The grant is due in November. The vision is to divide the home into two separate units with a common entrance, which could facilitate the needs of a multi-generation family.

Mt. Comfort Elementary School has asked for snacks for students in need, and the Missions fund is providing snacks to the school on a regular basis.

A local Girl Scout troop has started a project to create comfort bags for child cancer patients, and the troop leader has asked for donations. The Missions team wants to provide the lap blankets.

The consensus was to approve the proposed Missions projects.

Prayer Team – The prayer team, led by Brittany Janiszewski, is meeting and providing trained people to pray with anyone seeking prayer at the end of worship service, and prayer team members are walking the church and praying over the church. Mary Ann Crisman commended Brittany for her presentation on prayer to the Lighthouse Student Ministry.

Worship – Jeff Janiszewski reported and asked for approval to add more user subscriptions to Planning Center, which would increase the monthly cost. Mary Ann Crisman moved, and Deric Roberts seconded approval of the request as presented, and the motion carried. Jeff asked for approval for sound panels to be installed to improve sound quality in the Mt. Comfort Campus sanctuary. Jeff will email a proposal to Team Members.

Administration -- Credit cards under the new Mt. Comfort Church, Inc. bank account are on their way, and once this is accomplished, we can close the MCUMC bank account.

For the Good of the Church

Chris Sexton reported on an upcoming Crossroads Air Show coming to the Mt. Comfort Indianapolis Regional Airport October 28-29, 2023. Organizers are seeking volunteer groups and looking for VIP parking areas. This would be an opportunity for our church to participate in a community event.

Pastor Ethan will take a vacation the week of October 9.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting is set for October 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Comfort Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson, Recorder