

Champions of Who We Were | Representatives of Who We Are | Leaders of Who We Are Becoming

Present, Leadership Team Members: Mary Ann Crisman, Annie Dawson, Becky Holm, Sandi Hudson, Kathy Lee, Ashley Litton, Reverend Ethan Maple, Marcia Piercy, Deric Roberts, Chris Sexton, Roger Skinner, Kristy Willhelm, Jim Winter. **Also Present:** Shawn Matney. **Absent:** Megan Jones, Tim Waymire.

LOVE & LEARN –Pastor Ethan opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Comfort Campus (MtC) and followed with an overview of the article, “7 Church Trends That Will Disrupt 2024” by Carey Nieuwhof. At the February meeting the team will discuss the article in more depth.

LEAD

Approval of December Minutes – Roger Skinner moved, and Jim Winter seconded approval of the minutes of the December 12, 2023, meeting. The motion carried.

Affirm Email Approvals – None.

Credit Card Increases – No increases were needed for December.

By the Numbers:

December Income/Expense | \$46,910.86 - \$37,647.12 = \$23,111.36

Joyful Days December Income/Expense | \$38,523 - \$42,806.01 = (\$4,283.01)

General Fund Balance = \$67,058.23| Joyful Days Balance = \$6,284.32

Restricted Accts = Discipleship = \$23,218.24| Missions = \$22,171.32|

Facility = \$72,895.51| Rainy Day = \$63,902.51| Joyful Days = \$97,852.19

It was noted that the 2023 General Fund tithe exceeded the budgeted expectation; expenses were slightly below the budget expectation, and the year ended in the black. Pastor Ethan expressed his appreciation for faithful giving from the church family and God’s blessing, as well as appreciation to Deric Roberts for budgeting and Shawn Matney for accounting..

Attendance -- Philly/MtC = December 3 – 37/97 | December 10– 49/96 | December 17 – 63/97 |
December 24– 56/106.

December Worship Average: Philly = 51.25 MtC = 99 Combined Average: 150.25

Discussion Items

Christmas Season Review – Pastor Ethan requested feedback on the 2023 Christmas Season programming at Mt. Comfort Church (MCC). Remarks were positive, including participation at the Christmas Concert, scheduling for the music team, and quality of programming. The PJ Party might benefit from an earlier calendar date to increase participation. A suggestion was to have a program of the order of events at the Christmas Concert, so the parents of small children will see that it is a one-hour program and will not leave after their children complete their part. Deric Roberts expressed appreciation to the staff for their efforts and hard work for the Christmas season events.

501(c)(3) Application – Pastor Ethan reported that the application for MCC to become a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit had been submitted to the IRS.

Community Foundation of Hancock County Grant (CFHC) Cyle – Pastor Ethan discussed possible projects at the Mt. Comfort Campus that would qualify for grant funding from the CFHC: Fellowship Hall acoustics for sound quality improvement, Family Life Center lobby flooring, portable scissor lift. These would qualify for the capital improvement grant category for Hancock County non-profits. Grant requests may be submitted for \$1,500 - \$10,000 per category, with the stipulation that the matching grant would “support or increase the agency’s capacity to deliver programs and services that benefit Hancock County.” After discussion, Jim Winter moved, and Deric Roberts seconded, that Mt. Comfort Church submit a letter of intent by the January 31 deadline to apply for a CFHC grant in the amount of \$10,000 for sound quality improvement to the Fellowship Hall at the Mt. Comfort Campus. The motion carried.

Facilities – Jim Winter reported on the details for a purchase of a portable scissor lift that would be used at both campuses. After discussion, Chris Sexton moved, and Deric Roberts seconded that \$8,000 be allocated for the

purchase of a portable scissor lift, payable from the Facilities designated fund, General Updates and Maintenance. The motion carried.

Church Property Inventory – Pastor Ethan noted that the Church Personal Property inventories at both campuses need to be updated for reporting to the Hancock County Assessor. Church leaders are asked to report items that have been liquidated, donated, or sold. Report Philly property to Ron Arthur. Report Mt. Comfort Campus property to Sandi Hudson. Requested deadline is January 30, but this could be extended if more time is needed. The new acquisitions will be added to the list, with information gathered from church 2023 invoices.

Youth Leadership: Communication and Interim Support – Mary Ann Crisman presented the names of two young adults who have expressed an interest in working with Lighthouse Student Ministry. The consensus was to compensate each of them as interim leaders with a stipend of \$60 per session that they work with the youth program. This transition will be communicated to the youth and their parents at a meeting January 14.

All-Church Meeting January 28 – Pastor Ethan reminded the team of the annual, All-Church Meeting on January 28, which is a requirement for maintaining our status as an incorporated church. This will include financial reports, the approved budget, ministry reports, and goals.

2024 Emphasis – Church Policies and Ministry Bolstering – The Church Policies need to be developed and officially adopted, and the work will begin with a small committee. The following people volunteered to work on this task: Sandi Hudson, Roger Skinner, Pastor Ethan. Additionally, Ministry Bolstering will be a focus in 2024, examining how we are communicating and identifying ways that we can improve in our specific areas of ministry..

Ministry Area Updates – The Comfort House has one vacancy and one guest family currently occupying the house. The systems and procedures are working well. Church Directory – Mary Ann Crisman researched another company, which requires a minimum of 75 households to sit for a photograph and also to return for an appointment to view the photos for purchase. Ashley Litton shared a Joyful Days report via email to team members. The Chili Supper and Dessert Auction, a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip, is set for February 18 at 5:00 p.m. This year's Youth Mission Trip will be a construction-based project in June. Pastor Ethan would like for the church to consider hosting a Missions Breakfast on a Sunday morning. The January One Thing collection is for disinfectant wipes and diaper wipes for Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare.

Calendar

Movie Night – Jesus Revolution, January 21 at 6:00 p.m., MtC. All-Church Meeting – January 28, 6:30 p.m., MtC. Mt. Comfort Church New Member Class & Lunch – February 4, 12:00 p.m., MtC. Chili Supper and Dessert Auction -- February 18, 5:00 p.m., MtC.

For the Good of the Church

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is set for February 6, 2024, the first Tuesday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson
Recorder