

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church, Inc.
July 9, 2024**

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, Gina Jones, Megan Jones, Bruce Kendall, Kathy Lee, Reverend Ethan Maple, Marcia Piercy, Deric Roberts, Roger Skinner, Kristy Willhelm, Jim Winter. **Also Present:** Shawn Matney. **Absent:** Mark Gooch.

LOVE & LEARN –Pastor Ethan opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Comfort Campus (MtC) of Mt. Comfort Church, Inc. (MCC), with a discussion of the article, “3 Crucial Differences Between Reaching People and Transfer Growth” by Carey Nieuwhof. The article encouraged church leaders to focus on reaching people, not number of people. This requires a heart for reaching people, fostering relationships, and demonstrating the love of Christ.

LEAD

Approval of April Minutes – Becky Holm moved, and Deric Roberts seconded approval of the minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting. The motion carried.

Credit Card Increases – -- Previously approved were the added credit card expenditures for Mary Ann Crisman, Youth Mission Trip. A church maintenance expense also required a June credit card increase. Annie Dawson moved, and Jim Winter seconded approval of a credit card increase for Julian Marshall to pay for Roto-Rooter service in the Mt. Comfort Campus sanctuary bathrooms. The motion carried.

Affirm Email Approvals – None.

By the Numbers:

June Income/Expense | \$32,047.74 – \$40,448.76 = (\$8,401.02)
Joyful Days June Income/Expense | \$30,960.50 – \$40,145.35 = (\$9,184.85)
General Fund Balance = \$34,559.69 | Joyful Days Balance = \$14,876.52
Restricted Accts = Discipleship = \$18,837.08 | Missions = \$18,251.29 |
Facility = \$65,468.95 | Rainy Day = \$32,366.64 | Joyful Days = \$70,364.80

Pastor Ethan noted that the June 30, fifth Sunday offering, will be reported in July. The Joyful Days written report noted that June was a three-paycheck month (which negatively affected the June financial report), but the program is operating in the black for the year.

Attendance -- Philly/MtC = June 2 – 46/85 | June 9 – 48/101 | June 16 – 54/74 | June 23 – 48/105 | June 30 – 190 (combined service).

Philly Campus Average: 49 | Mt. Comfort Campus Average: 91.25 | Combined Average: 150.2

Discussion Items

General Follow-Ups

MCC Staff/Employee Handbook – The Leadership Team members discussed the revisions to the final draft of the Mt. Comfort Church Staff/Employee Handbook. After discussion and a minor revision in Section IV A, Deric Roberts moved, and Roger Skinner seconded approval of the Mt. Comfort Church Staff/Employee Handbook as presented, to be effective May 1, 2024. The motion carried.

YMCA Relationship – Pastor Ethan discussed the YMCA summer camp and school break camps being hosted at the Mt. Comfort Campus. He noted that the \$600 Roto-Rooter repair bill would be passed on to YMCA. It was noted that the YMCA use of the building is putting great demands on Campus Facilities Manager, Julian Marshall. Deric Roberts moved, and Jim Winter seconded payment of a \$500 bonus in July for Julian Marshall. The motion carried.

Flooding – The Mt. Comfort Campus had flooding once again from the NE door, affecting the hallway and some children’s classrooms. The problem is a drain located by the NE door. Pastor Ethan consulted with an County worker who told him that the philosophy of the Hancock County engineer is that is the responsibility of the property owner to prove that the County is at fault when a problem occurs. It would take a third-party contractor to determine if the County or the church property is at fault. It cost MCC \$1,500 to do clean-up and drying of the

flooded areas. It was recommended to seek an outside contractor and possibly ask the church insurance company, Mennonite Mutual, for recommendations for someone to do the independent evaluation. Pastor Ethan will follow up.

Philly Campus Bats – Pastor Ethan reported on the recurrence of bats in the Philly Campus. July is the bad month for bat control, due to breeding and newborns. The bat removal expert will seal the openings when the bats are out at night, so they cannot gain reentry. The soiled areas will be cleaned.

Property for Sale – Pastor Ethan reported that two vacant lots west and adjacent to the Philly Campus are for sale, .8 acre listed at \$75,000. He asked the Leadership Team to consider the value of investing in this land. Questions: Is the barn protected by the Historical Society? How does the assessed valuation compare to the market price? Could our congregation pledge above and beyond in its giving to purchase this property to expand the Philly Campus? After discussion, the consensus was for Pastor Ethan to get more information about the property and determine if there is congregational buy-in to purchase the land, and if the congregation is willing to pledge money to facilitate the purchase.

Worship Leader Transition – Pastor Ethan updated the Leadership Team on the transition to Christopher Rose as MCC Worship Leader. Jeff Janiszewski's last Sunday is July 21, and he will be recognized and thanked for his service to MCC. Noah Maple will return in August and will begin serving as Worship Leader Assistant.

Optimist Baseball/Softball & MtC Parking Lot – Pastor Ethan reported a recent discussion with the Optimist commissioners to set expectations for community use of the Mt. Comfort Campus parking lot during youth sporting events: People will park only in the spaces designated for community use; the Optimists will be responsible for clean-up of the parking lot afterwards; someone must be designated to monitor the parking lot during the event, so that violations of our church rules do not occur (such as no alcohol). A misunderstanding occurred with a June event, and the gate was locked when the Optimists thought it would be open. After the discussion of MCC expectations, the Optimists proved they could not agree to the church's terms of use, so the MtC parking lot will not be used for Optimist Baseball and Softball events.

Youth Leader Search – Mary Ann Crisman said that the Lighthouse Student Ministry youth program is in need of a leader, as she has been serving in the role only temporarily. Matt Thompson and Alicia Petro are young adults who serve in support roles, and they wish to continue to do so. MCC will be seeking to hire one person to take the reins of the Lighthouse Student Ministry program. Currently, we pay approximately \$6,000/yr for the support people. We will need to consider a Youth Leader salary of \$1,000 month with responsibilities on Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon/evening, as well as at youth events. This salary would add another \$6,000 to our approved budget. The consensus was to advertise for a Youth Leader with a listed salary range of \$9 - \$12,000/year.

Pictorial Church Directory – Mary Ann Crisman provided an update. Photo sessions for the Church Directory will be September 6 and 7, with online sign-ups for appointments with the company ReMember. People who participate in the photo session will receive a free 8x10 and a free church directory.

For the Good of the Church

Pastor Ethan and his wife will be hosting a Leadership Team/Staff cookout at his home in September. Date is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:29 p.m. The next meeting is set for August 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson
Recorder