

**Leadership Team, Mount Comfort Church, Inc.
October 8, 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, Reverend Ethan Maple, Marcia Piercy, Roger Skinner, Kristy Willhelm, Jim Winter. **Also Present:** Shawn Matney. **Absent:** Mark Gooch, Kathy Lee, Deric Roberts.

LOVE & LEARN –Pastor Ethan opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Comfort Campus (MtC) of Mt. Comfort Church, Inc. (MCC). He shared a devotional, “We All Have Gifts” (TodayDevotional.com 10-06-2024) based on 1 Peter 4:7-11; he then opened the meeting with prayer.

LEAD

Approval of September Minutes – Marcia Piercy moved, and Roger Skinner seconded approval of the minutes of the September 10, 2024, meeting. The motion carried.

Credit Card Increases – None.

Affirm Email Approvals – The Resolution Granting Authority to Execute in the matter of the real estate closing on the property acquisition for the Philly Campus was approved by email vote, and the Leadership Team affirmed the action, which named the Rev. Ethan Maple as the person with the authority granted by the Board of Directors to sign the legal documents at closing. Closing is set for October 10, 2:30 p.m. in Greenfield, IN.

By the Numbers:

September Income/Expense | \$39,479.81 – \$40,106.33 = (\$626.52)

Joyful Days September Income/Expense | \$29,631.00 – \$40,614.12 = (\$10,983.12)

General Fund Balance = \$24,524.81 Joyful Days Balance = \$4,774.37

Restricted Accts = Discipleship = \$15,856.95 | Missions = \$18,337.78 |

Facility = \$65,468.95 | Rainy Day = \$28,736.64 | Joyful Days = \$62,196.68

Attendance -- Philly/MtC = September 1 – 50/119 | September 8 – 43/93 | September 15 – 50/102 | September 22 – 46/113 | September 29 (combined worship) - 144

Philly Campus Average: 47.25 | Mt. Comfort Campus Average: 106.75| Combined Average: 152

Discussion Items

General Follow-Up

Joyful Days – Gina Jones provided the Leadership Team members with a Directors’ Report prior to the meeting. Gina Jones, co-director, currently does not have a church credit card. Roger Skinner moved, and Mary Ann Crisman seconded that Gina Jones be issued a church credit card with a credit limit of \$1,500 per month. The motion carried. Pastor Ethan introduced a transition to 26 pay periods for Joyful Days staff members. Shawn Matney explained that the current payroll schedule includes some three-week pay periods, which can put a financial strain on employees. A change to 26 pay periods will result in two extra pay periods per year, which will have an additional processing expense of \$200. The consensus was to table this matter and consider a change as part of the 2025 budgeting process.

Pastor Ethan raised the issue of the future sustainability of Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare as a ministry of Mt. Comfort Church, due to the current enrollment figures not meeting targets. Pastor Ethan noted the positives of the current programming, communication, and good state reports. Challenges include the need for more child enrollment, staffing two adults per room when enrollment is low, rising costs, and the current economy.

YMCA vs. Boys & Girls Club Partnership– Pastor Ethan said YMCA will be at MtC for fall break, but not winter break, and the current contract will be up for renewal. The Boys & Girls Club is exploring options for expansion for a summer program and after-school option. At this point, everything is in the discussion phase.

Missions Meeting Recap – Pastor Ethan provided information from the recent meeting of the Missions team. Christmas outreach will include Operation Christmas Child, with a packing party set for November 17. MCC also will collect boxes from church families. The Christmas outreach of gifts to families will be in December. The Missions team recommends a church donation to hurricane relief, as the relief effort for this year’s hurricane season is monumental. Becky Holm moved, and Annie Dawson seconded that \$2,500 be sent to UMCOR for hurricane relief efforts. The Missions team proposed to add support of \$150 per month to the 2025 budget for

international missionary support. The Missions team also would like to offer a mission trip opportunity for the church family in 2025.

Facility and Ministry Area Updates – Pastor Ethan reported that Philly projects include painting, flooring, and bat removal and prevention. MtC projects are in the works. Mary Ann Crisman reported that the Children’s Ministry is continuing to recruit volunteers. Trunk and Treat is set for October 26 at the Philly Campus. The Youth fundraiser at Smokin’ Barrel BBQ was well attended last night. Small groups are going well. The church van is getting positive feedback, and it was used recently for the women’s trip to Shipshewana.

2025 Budget Draft – Pastor Ethan led a discussion of the 2025 Budget draft prepared by Deric Roberts. Expenses are very similar to the 2024 budget; however, some software has increased in cost, and this is reflected in the draft budget. SPRC and personnel discussion and salary decisions will take place in November. This budget draft reflects a \$12,023 deficit. We need to resolve this by either giving a higher projected income or by reducing budget line items. It also was noted that the budget can be modified throughout the year. The Joyful Days budget will be presented in November.

Christmas 2024 Schedule – December 1 – Ladies’ Christmas Tea; December 7 – Holiday Bazaar; December 15 – Joyful Days Christmas Program/PJ Party; December 22 – Longest Night Service; December 24 – Christmas Eve Service (MtC); December 29 – No in-person worship.

For the Good of the Church – Mary Ann Crisman reported on the Church Directory. People have given positive feedback about their photos. She is working with the company’s layout department on final details. The directories will likely be distributed after January.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Leadership Team is set for November 19. The plan is to cancel the December meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudson
Recorder