

To the Florida Mission Center

November 12th, 2022

Greetings

The Florida Mission Center (FMC) Leadership Team greets you in the name of Christ and hopes that you, your families, and loved ones are well. We affirm that God is with us and continues to bless us as we journey together in Christ's name. The Mission Center (MC) Leadership Team strives to facilitate World Church communications to leaders, support congregational leaders, and provide a vision for the future of the MC. We are privileged to journey with you.

Support Ministries

Ken, Chuck, and Mark want to personally thank congregational leaders for your willingness to provide needed ministry; we hope you have been richly blessed. We are also fortunate to have a full-time youth minister, Serena Tankersley, working for the mission center (MC), and administrative support minister, Debbie Bartlett. They provide communication, outreach ministry, planning and support that greatly help move the MC forward.

The FMC Council, comprised of members around Florida, continues to meet regularly online. They bring insights, give voice to how the Holy Spirit is moving throughout Florida, and help shape what the MC is to become. We again affirm that God and God's purposes are sure and will not fail.

The MC has continued to provide worship via Zoom the 2nd Sunday of most months. A MC worship planning team is responsible for scheduling and developing our gatherings and we thank them for all their efforts.

The Youth Ministries Council also meets regularly striving to strengthen the youth camping program. You will hear more good news in a separate youth ministries report.

Mission Center Activities

Despite the COVID pandemic, the MC sprang into action this past year. Leadership training occurred at our Nuts & Bolts gathering, followed by camp staff training, and a successful return of our youth camping program. Successful gatherings for Celebración and Women's Retreat also occurred. Unfortunately, Winter Reunion and the Labor Day events were canceled. It has been a struggle to get people back to Deerhaven this past year, but we are hopeful the MC will continue to see value in supporting and attending unique events that provide spiritual growth, healing and renewal!

Over 20 participate in an online book review of *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church meets the Postmodern World* by John C. Dorhauer. We are aware that several congregations meet in-person and connect with others online during their regular worship. Our continued participation in online events has become the new norm and expands our outreach ministries. We are looking forward to World Conference this year and hope many of you will take this opportunity to attend as delegates for the FMC. In addition to meeting Saints from around the world in person, this conference will connect us virtually with Saints in many countries.

The South Miami congregation continues Fishes & Loaves ministry currently reaching 120 families each week. Tarpon Springs congregation has experienced growth this past year. Rejoicing in baptisms and ordinations, they worship and eat together, and are living examples of how lives are changed when we express God's unconditional love for one another.

In Other News

The Pinellas Park congregation requested disorganization of the congregation due to lack of leadership and membership. This officially occurred on September 12th, 2021, and the property was subsequently sold. Eighty percent of the proceeds went towards the Bridge of Hope and the MC retained 20%. We are aware some congregations experienced decreased giving during the past year. If passed, the MC Leadership is proposing paying all congregational Deerhaven assessments (~\$37,500) for year 2023. Our hope is this will provide some needed financial relief to congregations.

Beginning in January 2023, numbered envelopes will no longer be mailed to homes. With an increase in online giving and change in envelope giving, the MC is asking and reminding congregations to continue to promote contributions toward 2 Cents a Meal, campership giving days, and Deerhaven when possible.

After Hurricane Ian, the MC contacted congregations concerning their well-being and will assist in helping with repairs if needed.

The Hands and Feet of Christ

Our love and caring blesses and is life-giving to others! May we continue to work together as the hands and feet of Christ in this time and place.

In Christ,

Your Mission Center Leadership Team: Ken, Chuck, Mark, Serena, and Debbie.