## CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

# WELCOME

GLAD TO SEE YOU!

-----

**Welcome and Prayer** 

# Part 1 **Election of Officers**

#### **Election of Officers**

As Moderator of the Session, and Senior Pastor of Mt Paran, I declare that there is a quorum present, and The Congregational Meeting of Mt Paran Presbyterian Church is now called to order. (G-1.0505)

The meeting has been announced for multiple consecutive Sundays in accordance with the PCUSA Book of Order<sup>(G-1.0502)</sup>, and in accordance with the By-Laws of Mt Paran. The meeting held today is for two purposes:

- the first to Receive the Official Report from the Nominating Committee and call for election of two new Deacons for the Officer Class of 2026
- 2. the second for the congregation to receive the Annual Report for 2022 Part 1.

#### **Election of Officers**

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are our strength and our purpose, you fill our hearts with joy. We thank you that you have kept Mt Paran close to you and in your service for the last 308 years. As we look back at last year we give thanks to you with our whole hearts as we recount all of your wonderful deeds you have accomplished in the last year at Mt Paran. Our hearts be glad as we exalt your name. Continue to allow your Spirit to Inhabit our praises, today Lord as we rejoice in yesterday that you are calling today new officers to move us forward into tomorrow. We praise you that nothing can separate us from your love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord we pray. Amen.

The 2023 Meeting of Mt Paran Presbyterian Church has been called Order and opened with prayer.



We invite our Co-Clerk of Session to read the minutes of the last Congregational Meeting.

#### **Election of Officers**

The minutes have been read and accepted. Our thanks to our Clerks.

I call Elder Beatrice Muma to approach the mic. The BOO reminds us that: "The Church's ministry is a gift from Jesus Christ to the whole Church. Christ alone rules, calls, teaches, and uses the Church as he wills, exercising his authority by the ministry of women and men for the establishment and extension of God's new creation. Christ's ministry is the foundation and standard for all ministry, the pattern of the one who came "not to be served but to serve" (Matt. 20:28). (G-2.0101)

#### **Election of Officers**

"The call to ordered ministry in the Church is the act of the triune God. This call is evidenced by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the individual conscience, [and] the [confirmation] of the community of God's people." (G-2.0103)

"Church, by voice agreement, are you now ready to proceed to the election of Deacons?"

please say 'yes' or 'no'

Seeing the church is ready, let us proceed with the election.

The Church Nominating Committee represented by the Chair of the committee, Elder Beatrice Muma please put forth the names nominated for election. "The Church Nominating Committee places the following persons in nomination for the two offices of Deacon in the Class of 2026. Will the nominees please stand as their names are read:

Odilia Jator Amban Anjah Church, you have heard the nominations. The Book of Order says as a congregation you are afforded the opportunity to nominate a name from the floor. Mt Paran's By-Laws requires those you nominate from the floor must have been asked for permission for their name to be put forth prior to this meeting. Those nominated from the floor will be asked for the official minutes if they had been asked and gave permission to be nominated prior to this meeting.

#### **Election of Officers**

Church, are there any nominations from the floor that have been asked in advance and have agreed to have their name put forward? If so, please offer their names now.

#### **Election of Officers**

Seeing no further nominations from the floor, I ask for a voice vote that the nominations be closed. Church, do you wish to have the nominations closed? *Please respond 'yes' or 'no'* 

I declare nominations closed by unanimous consent and acclamation.

Church, like Esther, Odilia Jator and Amban Anjeh have heard God's call to serve as Ordained Deacons in His church and His Kingdom here on earth "for such a time as this." Our Book of Order informs us that the election of an ordained officer is not a vote of personality. Rather it is a moment of highest responsibility for the members of the congregation to show their agreement with God that the nominee has demonstrated the love of God, devotion to His Word and His people. You have prayed for the process and for the persons nominated and your "yes" indicates that you believe God has answered in the work of the Nominating Committee.

I ask now for a voice vote that the nominees,

Odilia Jator

Amban Anjeh

be accepted for the
Ordained Office of Deacon Class of 2026.

Please respond 'yes' or 'no'

### Annual Ministry Reports

God continued to really bless Mt Paran in its 307<sup>th</sup> year of worship to the glory of God! I have listed just a few reasons for all of us to thank The Lord for blessing us, protecting us, providing for us, and using us in the past year

#### Leadership

- We are blessed to have amazing Elders & Deacons that are dedicated to serving The Lord and the Mt Paran family
- Our Elders are spiritual leaders and excellent preachers and teachers.
- We continue to ordain and install leaders who are called by God to achieve His purposes for the congregation
- Pastor Donna Lea still continues to bring her service to God in the ministry.

#### Leadership

Our leadership was able to bring us our first ever Immigration Workshop and Immigration Clinic in partnership with Just Neighbors. 17 families were assisted with free Legal services thanks to a grant that the Lord provided.

Several more families were aided by other congregations as we shared their church names we are in fellowship with Just Neighbors.

#### **Member Involvement**

- Our congregation continues to be a diverse congregation in all aspects (age, race, nationality, education, and financial)
- We received 11 new members by Reaffirmation of Faith in Jesus Christ
- Sunday Morning Worship average attendance increased by 10% overall
- Friday night & Sunday Morning Adult Bible Studies attendance increased as we continue to move from our Covid shut down period of 2020
- Membership is increasing in our Christian Women
   Fellowship (CWF) and Christian Men Fellowship (CMF)

#### **Member Involvement**

- We have an active Youth Ministry which includes SMORES,
   Youth Groups, Youth Choir, & sight and sound ministry.
- Our Sunday Morning Offerings increased
- Our members came out in full support of our beautification project in 2022 both in manual labor and in financial contributions.
- We added a new roof onto our Historic Chapel and
- We continue to look for new and meaningful ways to partner with the community
- We maintained our loving, caring, family atmosphere despite of our growth

#### **Mission Partnerships**

• Our partnerships with the Baltimore County Night of Peace Shelter, the Gideons and support of churches in Cameroon, etc have strengthened and we look for new ways to minister in the community with our partners as we continue to move back to more normal visitations from the 2020 Covid era.

#### **Mission Partnerships**

 We continued our Missionary partnership with Ron Metzger (Western Caribbean) and with Kurt & Johanna Metzger (Papua New Guinea), Our ministry with Ron Metzger continued until his health prevented him from serving. The Lord has called Ron home this year, and we will continue to support the Metzger family and their ministries.

#### **Community Outreach**

- We provided Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families in our community
- Members in our community attended our Ash Wednesday, Easter "Son Rise", Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Services
- We look to more outreach activities as we move closer to the Federal Governments lifting of Covid Emergency status in May of 2023

#### **Benevolences**

- Much of our offerings goes to help other people
- The Emergency Fund was used to help 9 individuals / families this year
- The Deacon's Fund was used to help 4 individuals / families
- The Deacon's Pantry continues to be utilized by our community members and we are happy to be used by God in this capacity.

#### **Capitol Improvements to The Fellowship Hall:**

- Added a projector, screen, and TV monitor in the over flow room
- Upgraded the sound system (New speakers, mixer, lapel microphones, & cordless handheld microphones)
- Purchased new chairs for our overflow area
- The building interior received a fresh coat of paint in the main sanctuary, kitchen, Children's Church room.
- We anticipate in 2023 to complete the replacement of our boiler or upgrading to electric HVAC. The boiler has served this building well beyond its anticipated life span.
- We anticipate by 2024 replacing the roof

#### The Future:

Every one of you should be very proud to be a part of the Mt Paran family and to be included in the wonderful things God is doing at Mt Paran. While we have lots of reasons to celebrate and to be proud we need to look at some of the major challenges we as a congregation face in 2023:

• We need to continue to our spiritual journey. It has been a long journey to come out of the 2020 Pandemic adjustments and shutdowns. In 2023 we will see a return to a more robust program of activities to grow us spiritually and to extend our fellowship with one another.

 To meet this challenge of spiritual growth attendance at Sunday School (Adult & Youth), Friday Night Bible Studies, Wednesday Night Worship must become a top priority for all members. More of us need to view our commitment to The Lord as being much more than on Sunday morning.

In addition, we must begin to plan for building or expanding on our property. We have been blessed to have outgrown the building. God is clear in His Word that He will not grow a people materially with something like a new building, until they have demonstrated spiritual growth. TO date, of our 230+ members, less than a dozen attend Bible Class on Sunday mornings. As we are moving away from the Covid era we anticipate offering a wide variety of times to study and fellowship beginning in 2023.

#### The Future (cont'd):

 We need to continue our journey to become financially sufficient to pay a full-time pastor, bookkeeper, and for professional outside audits every 5 years. As our music ministry is growing, we will need a new electric piano upstairs. To meet this challenge our Sunday Morning offerings need to increase substantially and we need to continue to grow numerically. Again, expanding the building or building a new edifice on the property must become an attainable goal in the next few years.

#### The Future (cont'd):

We need to continue our mission outreach at home and abroad. To meet this challenge we must find additional ways to reach out and minister to our community. We need to become more involved in evangelism and hands-on mission projects especially now that we are nearing the end of pandemic restrictions. To achieve this we need volunteers to step up and take leadership roles in ongoing and proposed projects like Vacation Bible School, Community Festivals, Soup Kitchens / Shelters, Nursing Home Ministry, Heifer Project, Immigration Ministry, etc. We weill need volunteers to lead and go on Mission Trips.

#### The Future (cont'd):

We will never meet these challenges with our resources, our intelligence, and / or our energy. The only way we will continue to have an effective ministry at Mt Paran is to depend upon the unlimited power of our Almighty God, the guidance of The Holy Spirit, and a close personal daily relationship with our Savior Jesus The Christ.

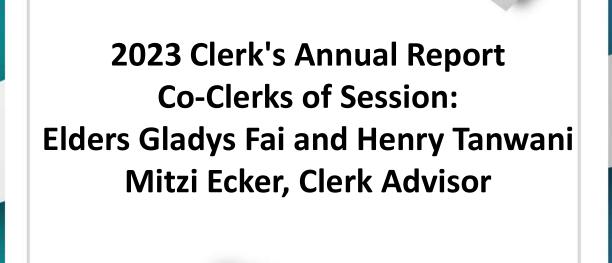
- Will join me in committing yourself to pray for Mt Paran each day in 2023?
- Will join me in committing yourself to be faithful, available, and teachable throughout 2023?

#### The Future (cont'd):

Again I want to thank each of you for a great year and for the honor of being called to be your Pastor. It is one of the greatest blessings of my life! I give God all the credit and all the glory for richly blessing Mt Paran by bringing each one of you to Mt Paran! May we never forget that God places specific people, with specific talents, at specific places, at specific times, to do specific jobs for Him.

With that in mind may we all be quick to respond to God's call by saying:

"Here am I Lord use me in what ever way you choose."



#### **Clerk Of Session**

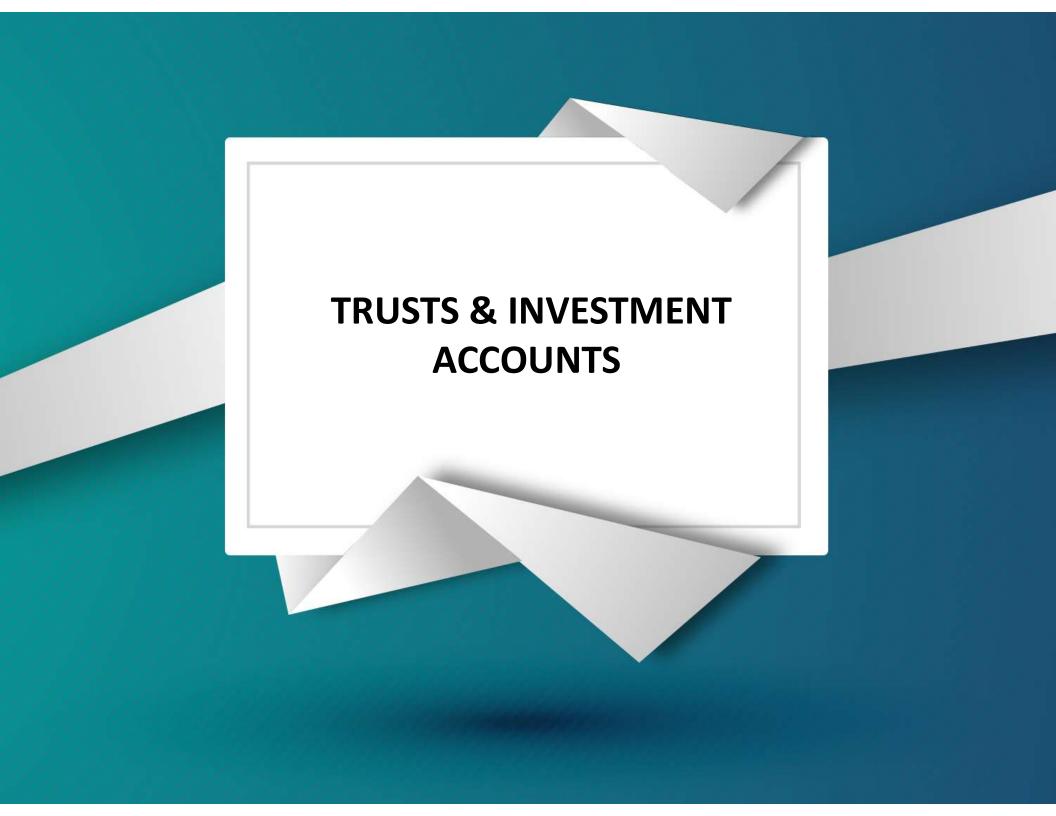
#### 2022 ANNUAL CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

#### STATISTICS:

10 New Members 3 Affiliate Members TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF DEC. 31, 2022 -234

#### **KEY STRENGTH:**

Prayer is still the key strength of Mt. Paran. Scripture says to pray without ceasing and we do that. We have an on-going prayer list, emergency prayer notifications, and our Shepherds' prayer list. Our source of strength is evident in our smallest children's prayers up to our Pastors' prayers. We have learned how to do zoom meetings and virtual worship services. This has given us a wider audience to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. God has blessed us for over 307 years and we will continue to preach the Gospel that says the only way to Salvation is through Jesus Christ. AMEN.



### 1.SANDUSKY TRUST

- Interest Income Designation to go to Cemetery Account
- Lincoln Fund (Mutual Fund XXXXX31)

• Balance 01-01-22 \$60,929

• Balance 12-31-22 \$47,178

### II. FITE TRUST

Interest Income Designation to go into Operating Budget Account U.S. Trust (Money Market XXXXX79)

Balance 12-01-21 \$377,274

Balance 11-30-22 \$309,088

### III. PNC

Interest Income Reinvested
Account XXXX7278-Manse Escrow

Balance 0-01-22 \$ 1844

Balance 12-31-22 \$1844

Account XXXX8673- SALT Escrow

Balance 01-01-22 \$1000

Balance 12-31-22 \$1000

### IV. GROWTH ACCOUNT

• Interest Income Reinvested

Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX 97)

Balance 01-01-22 \$ 166,225

Balance 12-31-22 \$ 123,592

### • V. CEMETERY ACCOUNT

- Interest Income Reinvested (Cemetery Expenses Paid Out Of Account-40%)
  - Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX25)
  - Balance 01-01-22 \$19,948
  - Balance 12-31-22 \$22,631

### • VI. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

- Interest Income Reinvested
- Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX37)
- Balance 01-01-22

\$ 328,936

• Balance 12-31-22

\$ 258,993

### VII. BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT

Interest Income reinvested

Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX32)

Balance 01-01-22 \$ 302,156

Balance 12-31-22 \$ 230,481

### VIII. LAURA E. SCOTT MEMORIAL FUND

Interest Income Reinvested

Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXX 0571)

Balance 01-01-22

\$ 65,715

Balance 12-31-22

\$ 51,865

### IX. MISSION TRIPS

Interest Income Reinvested

Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXX1242

Balance 01-01-22 \$ 28,697

Balance 12-31-22 \$ 24,425

### X. TERRY LEGACY FUND

Interest Income Reinvested- To be used for youth Christian Camps

Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXX1104)

Opened 11- 22 \$12,850

Balance 12-31-22 \$13,159

•

### XI. CHECKING ACCOUNT

Bank Of America (Account XXXXX0904)

Balance 01-01-22 \$ 94,140

Balance 12-31-22 \$118,074

### • XII. MT. PARAN EMERGENCY FUND

PNC Bank (Account XXXXX13)

Balance 01-01-22

\$ 5,402

Balance 12-31-22

\$ 8,341



### **Worship Ministry**

**Purpose**: Proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments

### **Duties:**

- Provide of the corporate worship in accordance with the Book of Order.
- Plan the Worship calendar.
- Oversee the children's participation in Worship and provide adults to teach and supervise.
- Provide Bibles, hymnals, paraments, bulletins, flowers, etc. for the worship services.
- Procure and oversee the Lay Readers and Ushers.
- Oversee the choirs and liturgical dancers.
- Plan at least one special worship activity each quarter.
- Plan a laity service once a quarter.

### **Worship Ministry**

### **Accomplishments:**

- We continue to proclaim the Word through Music (Adult/Youth/ CWF/CMF), Praise Team, Children's Church.
- We have with the help of our members up-graded our electronics to include new flatscreens.
- MPPC held in-person worship services each month this year except January, when we had to close briefly due to Covid positivity rates in our county extreme increase.
- We have continued to provide oversight the Children's Church with the Session and Deacons providing assistance.
- Welcomed a new Adults Choir for 2023.
- Elders continue to preach according to schedule.
- Youth Ministry provides tremendous participation for 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays



### **Mission Ministry**

**Purpose**: extending the Word to the community through outreach activities and opportunities.

### **Duties:**

- Plan and provide for the distribution of the benevolent funds.
- Help plan for Mission trips.
- Maintain contact with the missionaries supported by Mt. Paran.
- Maintain contact with the Mission partnerships our church supports.
- Oversee and maintain the church website.
- Plan at least one special local hands on Mission activity each quarter.

### **Mission Ministry**

### **Accomplishments:**

Authorized the distribution of benevolence to include:

- Wycliff Bible Translators
- Mt. Paran's Emergency Fund
- Night of Peace Shelter (local community service)

Corresponded with the organizations we are partnered with.

## **Evangelism Ministry Elder Dickson Esakenong**

### **Evangelism Ministry**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PLANS FOR 2023**

- The Evangelism Ministry works in conjunction with our Mission and Nurture ministry to provide opportunities to share the gospel message.
- Planning on restarting visits to Nursing Homes and convalescent centers as the Covid Pandemic restrictions are eased in 2023.
- Re-start of the website is scheduled for March 2023.
- In collaboration with the fellowship ministry, two Bring a Friend Sundays were organized in the Spring and the Fall.



### **Nurture Ministry**

### **Duties & Accomplishments:**

- Promote more involvement for Church members in the life of the church through the Health Fair and related events.
- Health Fair for Summer 2022 Postponed and rescheduled for May 2023
- Education provided concerning Covid virus and need for vaccination
- Helped organize vaccine administration at the church
- Inside Edge provides support for a church program on Kidney disease \$1000 given to church
- Partnered with Mission's Ministry to help develop a plan to send medical aid to Cameroon. Medical Supplies are sent with partnership of Mission Ministry
- Insight on future Healthcare facilities that could be targeted for Medical Aid

## **Christian Education Ministry Elder Tanwani Akum**

### **Christian Education Ministry**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- 2022 was another slow year for the Church as activities were slowing coming to normal due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were unable to carry out some activities as we were still monitoring positivity rate of Covid. However, Christian Education ministry was able to have Sunday school and SMORES classes, the adult Sunday school class met every Sunday prior to the worship time with everyone taking a turn teaching the lesson. The children's Sunday school class also met with Ms. Mitzi prior to worship time on the Sundays that the kids show up. Both classes were always small, but it was full of joy, questions and Scripture readings. The SMORES classes met every Friday evening from 7-8pm.
- Christian Education met as a group every 2nd Sunday of the month during the ministries meeting.
- In 2023 planning a trip open to the congregation to attend the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. Plans are being made now and we should expect to see flyers soon.



### **Youth Ministry**

The **purpose** of the Youth Ministry: passing the joy of the word onto our youth and equip them to be effective Christian disciples.

### The Duties:

- Coordinate all youth activities
- Plan and provide for youth group curriculum and advisor
- Support and oversee the monthly youth Group activities
- Plan and distribute calendar to youth and Parents
- Plan and provide for the smores program and leader
- Plan and provide for the puppet ministry and leaders
- Encourage the youth to actively involve in all church activities
- Encourage parent involvement in all youth activities

### **Youth Ministry**

### **Accomplishments:**

- Youths continue to take leadership roles in teaching during SMORES and Bible study
- A very active and effective SMORES program is held on Friday evenings
- The very active youth choir practice at 6pm
- Adding "Fourth Friday Movie Night" for families
- Youth continue to serve on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays in all capacities

### Children's Church

Under Session guidance and partnership between Youth, Christian Education, and Worship Ministries

**Elder Beatrice Muma** 

### **Children's Church**

Children's Church continues to grow and expand. There is an average of 30 or more children in regular attendance. Children continue to participate in the Worship service until dismissed for Children's Church prior to Prayer For Illumination. Children rejoin the worship service during the Joys Of The People.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Children continue to learn the stories of the Bible and life of Christ, utilizing the Answers for Kids Bible Curriculum
- Children are encouraged to know the books of the Bible and to discover and share the love of Jesus.
- The Curriculum is designed to help kids answer questions about their faith.
- Our children have greatly grown spiritually We thank all the parents who are instrumental in teaching the scriptures at home in support of their spiritual journey.

### **Fellowship Ministry Elder Nelly Enone**

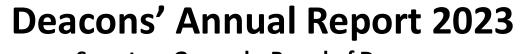
### **Fellowship Ministry**

Fellowship Ministry in 2022 has begun to slowly come back to service of meal time after worship service. Covid impacted food service in places where people congregate. Out of an abundance of caution we are returning to special fellowship times.

Other accomplishments include: reorganizing the kitchen area to make service and clean up easier. This was done with the CWF and the Fellowship Ministry during the Building Beautification.

In 2023 we anticipate to returning to a more regular time of connecting with our members over a bite to eat. We encourage every member to bring in food on the occasions that are asked for and to volunteer to serve and help in the clean up

The Fellowship Ministry is thankful for the CWF who consistently reach out and help to fill this vital service to our ministry.



Secretary General Board of Deacons: Waters Musi Denis Chawchang

### Deacon's

### **Deacon Defined**

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

### **Accomplishments 2022:**

In 2022 a number of Capital Improvements, major maintenance, and works of ministry items were completed. These included but were not limited to:

- Provided oversight for the beautification of the Fellowship Hall
- Organized several all-church work parties.
- Grounds were maintained several trees were cut after storms
- New Roof installed on Historic Chapel (Down Church)
- Ministry: We provided Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families in our community

### Deacon's

### **Action Plans - Implementation & Accomplishments:**

INVEST: We shall continue developing a strategic financial plan that positions the church for effective ministry in the present and future. For instance, on-going thanksgiving celebrations.

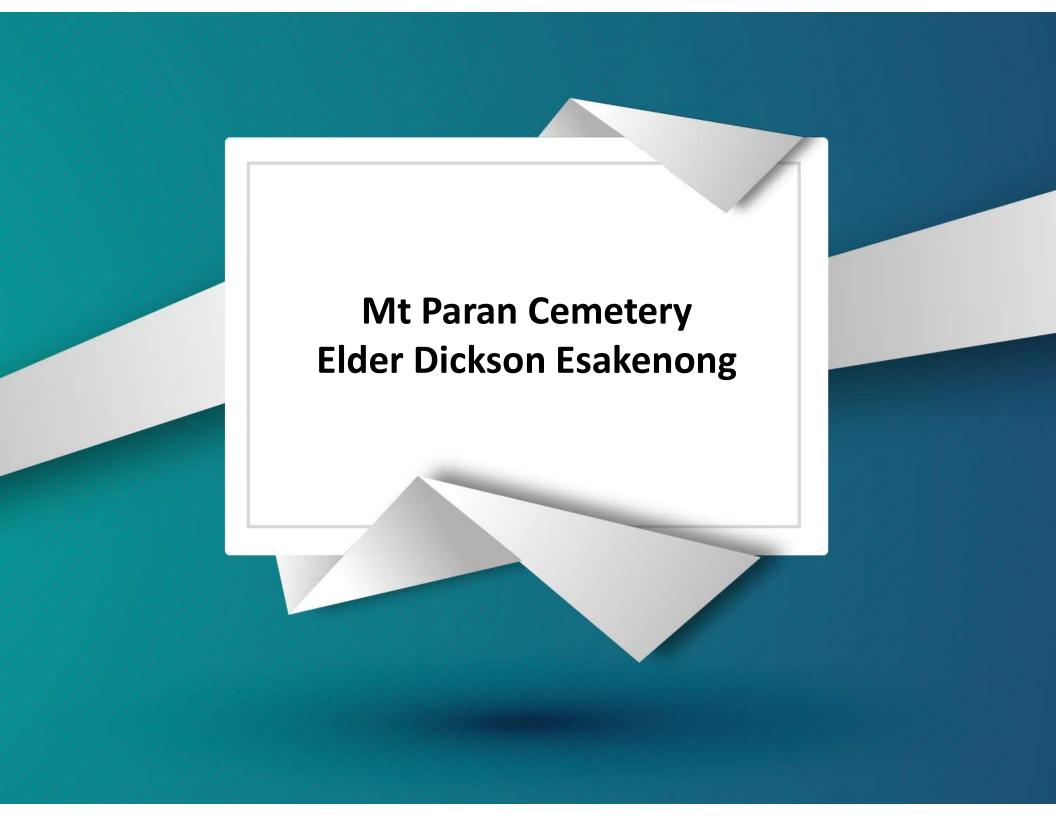
IMPROVE: We shall continue developing a capital improvement plan that proactively addresses needed repairs and renovations, as well as considers how to use facilities for ministry needs. For instance, Up-grading sound system in the fellowship hall and microphones for children to use during church activities.

INVOLVE: We shall continue the process of preparing the church for expanded ministry by encouraging increased involvement from the congregation and preparing for attendance from the surrounding community. For instance, operation brings a friend every Sunday in church.

### Deacon's

### **Deacon's Fund and other ministry:**

- After compassionate and prayerful consideration, the Deacons have disbursed huge sum of dollars to help those in need around us.
- Solicited volunteers to clean our church and its surroundings, greeters, and ushers.
- Reach out to church members, prayers, talk to some new members each week.
- Serve the people in the Mt. Paran family
- Pick and drop some members who need a ride.
- Assisting the Sunday school kids morally and spiritually to enhance God's work.
- Thanksgiving Baskets: We donated the sum of \$700 gift cards to Deer Park Middle Magnet School families and Randallstown Elementary School.
- Finally, the Board takes the lead in preparing the Budget for 2023 and looks forward to presenting the actuals and budgeted amounts next week to you.



### **Mt Paran Cemetery**

The cemetery is part of Mt Paran's ministry to its members and to the community. This means that our church has a moral and a financial obligation to provide perpetual care, easy access, as well as accurate records. It also means anyone can be buried in our cemetery as long as there are available spaces. We have sold/transferred two plots for 2023

In 2022 the cost of caring for our cemetery was \$ 3500. This included lawn care, plowing snow and salting the driveway, electricity for security lights. We were blessed that Helen Sandusky left a substantial financial trust to insure that the church had the necessary funds to properly care for the cemetery. The terms of the trust allow us to use the interest for the cemetery. In addition all the funds from the sale of cemetery plots go into the cemetery fund.

### • . CEMETERY ACCOUNT

- Interest Income Reinvested (Cemetery Expenses Paid Out Of Account-40%)
  - Wells Fargo Advisors (Money Market XXXXX25)
  - Balance 01-01-22 \$19,948
  - Balance 12-31-22 \$22,631

### **Mt Paran Cemetery**

At this time there are around 140 plots available for sale. Currently lots in Mt Paran's Cemetery sell for \$550. This fee includes the land and perpetual care. There is no opening or closing fee paid to the church. (There is an additional cost paid directly to the gravedigger for his services) The \$550 cost Mt Paran charges for the plot is a little lower that the other church cemeteries and is substantially lower than the commercial cemeteries in the area. This is intentional because we view the cemetery as a ministry to our members and to the community. Please see one of your Deacons if you are interested in purchasing a lot or if you are interested in obtaining more information of the cemetery.

# **Partners In Care**

### **Partners In Care**

"Partners In Care" is a program where local churches partner with The Maryland National Guard in providing pastoral counseling and assistance to soldiers and to the families of deployed National Guard members.

As you can imagine deployments are very stressful when a family member is away from home for extended periods of time. Mt Paran continues to participate in this program because the members in The Maryland National Guard are our neighbors and they are fighting for our freedom. In addition the National Guard is called in to assist us in natural disasters.

Referrals are made to our church through the Chaplain's Office. Referrals are people in our neighborhood who do not have a church home. So as you can see this is an excellent way for Mt Paran to reach out and help people in our neighborhood. This is truly a win —win situation for Mt Paran and for members of The Maryland National Guard faced with problems.

Mt Paran provides pastoral care and financial assistance when contacted by PIC.

## **Immigration Ministry** Contact: Elder Tanwani Akum

### **Immigration Ministry**

Mt Paran started an Immigration Ministry in 2006. Each successive year we have refined the process and added funds to the Immigration Fund as needed. We started an Immigration Ministry to address the needs of some of our members. As you know the Immigration Laws in this country are very intimidating. It is not easy to get a Work Permit or a Green Card. It takes time and money to upgrade a person's status and it is extremely difficult for a person to be here and their spouse and children to be in another country. It takes patience and a lot of prayer to deal with these issues. It is for these reasons that Mt Paran seeks to help members of our Church family deal with Immigration issues.

Immigration Funds may be used to help members of the Mt Paran family pay the cost of filing immigration forms with The INS and to help with the cost of legal advice. The Immigration Committee, under the capable leadership of Elder Tanwani Akum, has established policy guidelines for accessing these funds. In addition Mt Paran donated funds to the Immigration Ministry at St Matthews Catholic Church so members of our church could receive legal advice and legal help with any immigration issue. We chose Matthews Church since they have a large on-going immigration ministry.

### **Immigration Ministry**

The big blessing in 2022 was the blessing God provided for our ministry to host a TPS Workshop and TPS Clinic for Cameroonian TPS. We were aided in our journey by Just Neighbors. 17 families in Mt Paran were blessed by this.

In 2023 we are planning a Cameroonian TPS Adoption Clinic and Workshop. Please look for information on dates coming in the next weeks.

# **Pastoral Counseling**

### **Pastoral Counseling**

**Pastoral Counseling** is just another of the many benefits of being a member of the Mt Paran family. Your Pastor is available for Personal Counseling, Family Counseling; Pre-Marital Counseling, and Marriage Counseling for couples having difficulties.

Everybody and every family has problems. The first step in solving any problem is to admit there is a problem. Then the next step is to define the problem. Problems are always easier to face and problems are easier to solve if we have someone to talk to and somebody to pray with us. That is what Pastoral Counseling is all about. You pastor does not have any magic answers but when we talk together honestly, apply God's Word to the situation, and bring our problems before The Lord in prayer we have the assurance that The Lord will come beside us and help us through our problem. There is never any charge for your Pastor talking and praying with you and there is always strict confidentiality.

# **Christian Men's** Fellowship (CMF)

### **Christian Mens Fellowship**

### CMF 2022 Accomplishment

- 1. Continuous Bible study every Saturday
- 2. The following CMF members were called to lead in our church from CMF in 2022. The are: Henry Tanwani Co-Clark of session, Dickson Esakenong Elder, and Walters Musi Deacon
- 3. CMF Mt Paran visited CMF Hope presbyterian Church for Evangelism
- 4. Invited the Gideons, pray and study the Bible together with them as part of our continuous partnership with the Gideons.
- 5. Organized a work party at Pastor Ed residence to help clean his surroundings.
- 6. Participated in the CMF/CWF Annual world day of Prayers and Rally
- 7. Supported silver spring presbyterian church CMF new members dedication.
- 8. Supported three CMF members financial when they loss their loved ones.

### **Christian Mens Fellowship**

### CMF Mt Paran 2023 Mission

- 1. Bible study
- 2. Evangelism
- 3. Continue our partnership with the Gideons.
- 4. Work with the youth Ministry to support our youths in any way we can.
- 5. Continue to encourage CMF Members and their families to be engaged in Church contributions.
- 6. Organize summer activities in coordination with the church.

## Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) President Cathy Saboh

### **Christian Men's Fellowship**

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

### **Membership -22**

### **Activities**

- 1. Bible Study "What my grandmother taught me": Women in Matthew, Genealogy of Jesus. The lessons are presented by the members.
- 2. Some members officiate in the Worship Service as readers of Lessons, lead praise songs etc.
- 3. Sing special music during worship services on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.
- 4. Supports Fellowship Ministry (food)
- 5. Share sorrows and joys of members through prayers, get well cards, visits etc.
- 6. The group joined other sister groups to celebrate the World Day of Prayer (Jer. 29:1-14)
- 7. Participated in the CWF/CMF Annual Rally 2022 at Hope P.C Mitchellville MD, on the theme, "Where you go, I will go; Where you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people and your God shall be my God". (Ruth 1:16)
- 8. Sent two representatives to NATCOM Meeting in Houston, Texas June 24-26, 2022.
- 9. Wrote the Bible Quiz under the supervision of Pastor Anita on Dec 18, 2022

### **Christian Men's Fellowship**

### Finances:

The group gets its funds from yearly dues and sometimes donations from some members. The Statement of Account is not yet available. Our able treasurer will provide details after her recovery.

### **Challenges**

- Absenteeism, even though group reaches out to them for a change and encouragement
- Work Schedules of some members is a hindrance.
- -Transportation difficulties of some members as much as they want to do the work of God, hinders their ability to do so.

### **Christian Men's Fellowship**

### PLAN OF ACTION 2023

- 1. Bible Study- "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's rest and delight".
- 2. Group Retreat by Pastor Anita Johnson
- 3. Supply some items to the Church Pantry
- 4. Outreach to the Community through the Evangelism Ministry
- 5. Talk on Nutrition etc.
- 6. Visit Retired Pastor ED and Elder Lady Terry
- 7. Keep the church clean on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month. This was not effectively done. We hope to do better this year.

Our gratitude goes to Pastor Anita for making time to attend some of our meetings to give Pastoral Guidance, making sure we have the study book and always ready for any eventualities. To our CMF, thank you for providing transportation to and from the Rally ground. And to the Congregation and those who responded to our invitations, we say thank you for your support. May the Lord continue to strengthen us as we journey together in the service of the Lord our Savior.

President Catherine Saboh Vice Secretary Ziporah Enoni



## PART II CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY March 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 After The Offering

### GOD BLESS HAVE A GREAT WEEK

PART II OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY March 5<sup>th</sup> 2023