

**Hilltop United Methodist Church  
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, August 20, 2015, 7:30 pm**

**Present:** Kelly McCuaig, Herb Fast, Aaron Daby, Kerry Rausch, Rolly Utzinger, JoAnn Hutchinson, Paulette Booker, John Phelps, E.J. Scharmer, Fred Vanderwerf, Don Bohn, Terry Berg and Michelle Behsman.

The meeting was called to order by John Phelps.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Paulette to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2015 Ad Council meeting, Jo Ann seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Kelly explained that through conversation with Fred they have developed a proposal to plant a Wesley Foundation at MNSU and have shared the proposal with SPRC. Ad Council reviewed proposal and discussion ensued. A motion was made by Paulette to move the proposal forward. Jocelin seconded. Motion carried.

Kelly also encouraged the council to participate in a Connect Group this Fall.

**SPRC:** In the near future, a church-wide Charge Conference/Town Hall meeting will be held to further affirm recent discussions and plans coming from SPRC. At the last SPRC meeting, Pastor Kelly McCuaig and our D.S. Pastor Fred Vanderwerf presented a "Proposal to Plant a Wesley Foundation at Minnesota State University." This is in keeping with the outward focus plans we've had at Hilltop over the past several years for ministry extension and planting a church in 2016, while at the same time continuing to invest in our own Youth Ministry at Hilltop. The Wesley Foundation, at its core would be a missionary training center – an environment where students can experience and be witnesses to the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ, and be empowered and equipped to become future leaders and Pastors in the Wesleyan tradition. A board of trustees with Hilltop representation would be established to provide loving guidance through their support and governance for students and the foundation program. The board would communicate with other local United Methodist churches in the Southern Prairie District and invite their support and involvement. Day-to-day leadership for the foundation would be provided by a director who would have dual responsibility serving as the Hilltop Youth Director as well. Other leadership for the foundation would be provided by student interns and a core group of college students. Target is to have the director in place by July 1, 2016. Funding for the foundation would consist of: already budgeted dollars for the Youth Director position, dollars from the Increase Fund (roughly \$30,000 pledged and being given in 2015 and included in 2016 budget). Other sources of funding will be ~\$40,000 from the *Reach, Renew, Rejoice* campaign of the Minnesota Annual Conference, which aspires to plant a major campus ministry in Minnesota. ~\$20,000 would come from Southern Prairie District sources. Additional grants may be available from the national organization The Foundation for Evangelism. Future funding sources would include alumni, MN Annual Conference and endowment funding. Initially the Wesley Foundation would meet in campus meeting rooms, with having a dedicated on campus or near to campus location in the near future. Other factors: Pastor Kelly and Stacy Vanderwerf have deep experience in the Wesley Foundation tradition, as they came from one of the strongest programs in the U.S. at Texas Tech. Along with Pastor Fred, they have a strong passion for

the success of our program on the MSU campus. The HUMC Ad Council approved the motion to affirm this proposal and to submit it to Annual Conference for their consideration.

**Trustees Report:** Aaron said that no further landscaping work would be done this year. Trustees submitted a budget to Finance for 2016. Terry asked about the roof over the sanctuary [it leaked in several areas after recent heavy rains]. Aaron said that Eric had done some patching and reminded council that a fund had been started to cover the cost of replacing the roof at a later date.

**Finance Report:** JoAnn discussed a few line items that would need consideration in the 2016 budget: apportionment had been received by the MN Annual Conference (\$24,332.00 or \$2107.67 monthly), Reach Renew Rejoice would be 2% of the 2015 budget (approx. \$5860.00), Ministry Candidate Support should be increased from \$1000.00 to \$2000.00, conference delegate should be increased, hospitality and kitchen for 2015 is nearly spent and should be increased, and Increase Fund to remain at \$30,000.00. John reported that giving trends remain the same as last year. Paulette asked about 2015 worship budget. It was supposed to be \$1635.00, but is listed as \$1500.00.

**Endowment:** John reported that the Education Endowment begin with a \$23,634.00 deposit and is now at \$25,582.00—an 8% increase. The Building & Property Endowment initially \$15,000.00 is now \$16,148.00—also an 8% increase.

**Evangelism:** Peggy was absent but John said that she wanted to know if people were wearing nametags. JoAnn said that there were not any available at the Welcome Center the previous week.

**Fellowship:** Terry called on Kelly to explain the “Back to School Bash”. He would like this event to be a gift to the community and would like to have free food, games, a gift card raffle, etc. Missions, Evangelism, and Fellowship are being called on to host the event on Sunday, September 13th as a end of the summer/welcome back to school party. Terry also announced that Kendra Daby would serve as co-chair of the Christmas Festival.

**Education:** Jocelin reported that Kids Kinection would begin on Sunday, September 13th when we move to two worship services. We have finished the five year cycle of curriculum, but she found that beginning with the 2nd year, rather than the 1st, would better align with the Connect Group topics this fall. It is her hope that parents and students will have an opportunity to discuss at home the ideas that each is learning from Kids Kinection and Connect Groups. She also mentioned that more Adventure Bibles had been ordered and she would like to have Bible Sunday at the end of September so that youth would have their bibles for the start of the Sunday school year.

**Worship:** Paulette reported that worship did not meet, but that Jocelin made a request to both Kelly and the worship team, asking that the worship services be changed to 8:00am and 10:30am to allow adequate time for teaching. Kelly said that it was important that we welcome guests and take the time to show parents and child to the classroom. He thought the time change would encourage this opportunity. Worship affirmed this decision.

**Youth:** E.J. reported that every youth has been involved throughout the summer and that through one-on-ones and small groups she feels better acquainted with the youth compared to last year. She is

grateful for Hilltop and loves being here. She would like to start a bible study on Sunday evenings with the boys meeting from 6-7:00pm and the girls from 7-8:00pm.

**Technology:** Don met with Sim Sound last Thursday, and Pastor Kelly was present for most of the meeting too. We are awaiting their recommendations and proposal for some upgrades, with monitors in the narthex, improved speakers in the narthex, projector and sound system for fellowship hall, and a screen for the back of the sanctuary. We may need to be a bit creative with our budget or fundraising depending on the proposal and how much we decide to upgrade and spend either the remainder of 2015 or 2016.

**Next Meeting/Adjournment:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Kelly closed with prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman