

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Pastor Matt Sipe, Derrick Galinat, Karla Lassonde, Rob Cornelius, Michelle Behsman, Kerry Rausch, Don Putzier, Barb Keith and Paulette Adams.

Don opened with prayer.

Minutes: Derrick made a motion to approve the minutes from March with a second from Rob. The motion carried.

Values Conversation: Matt laid groundwork for the discussion and the reasons for clarifying our shared values. Matt shared the list of values that were mentioned at the March council meeting. Responses: welcoming, openness, child and youth centric, we put Jesus first (Jesus led congregation), intentional, thoughtful decision making, data-driven, discerning, experience, wisdom, faithful to Christ, Christian maturity and strong discipleship The discussion began with the question, "What do we do as a church?"

The discussion began with ways in which we express these values through various ministries. Celebrate God, Grow in Christ and Serve Others was mentioned as an earlier mission of Hilltop that is still evident, but now known as Upward, Inward, Outward. It was also mentioned that our MCCI goal of finding a signature ministry is still important, but we have lost our momentum due to COVID. Focusing on families and children is a primary ministry concern and some of current ministries, like Wednesday worship and community meals are intended as outreach to this particular group. Technology, live stream, cable TV, and podcasts are ways that we are being intentional about reaching new people.

Finance Report: Rob provided a report of March finances. General giving was \$22,962.50. Expenses were \$27,965.96 and the net income was -\$2,183.90. Working general fund balance at the end of March was \$54,854.29. A motion was made by Derrick to approve the finance report with a second from Paulette. The motion carried.

Committee Updates: Derrick shared issues found with the fellowship windows and roof, where they discovered some rot around the windows they were planning to replace. He is getting quotes and expects the cost to be around \$10,000. He also discussed the mission of the community garden and asked for input on how we are utilizing this ministry.

Calendaring:

- a. Apr 23 - Bishop preaching at Hilltop, with lunch to follow
- b. Apr 24 to May 1- Pastor Matt gone
- c. Apr 26 service - Recording of Bishop's message from Apr 23 during service
- d. Apr 30 - Katie Menne preaching
- e. Apr 30 - Spring Clean Up rescheduled
- f. May 9 - Feasibility report at 7 p.m.—Church Council meeting to follow.
- g. May 19 - Blood drive
- h. May 31 - Jun 1 - Annual Conference in St. Cloud—Encourage equalization delegates and others to attend.
- i. Jun 4 - Graduation Sunday
- j. Summer events - Jun 28 - Second Annual "Getting Sauced" Barbecue Event, Jul 26 - Bonfire and games, Aug 30 - Hilltop Carnival
- k. July 23 - Faith Night at Moondogs
- l. Fall schedule - Resumes Sept. 10
- m. Walk to Emmaus - Men's Walk Oct. 26-29, Women's Walk Nov. 2-5

Visioning:

- a. Short-term - Update on Fundraising and Feasibility Study May 9. A question was raised about hospitality plan.
- b. Long-term - Continue Mission/visioning discussion in upcoming meetings

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman