

**Hilltop United Methodist Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Don opened with prayer.

**Minutes:** Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from August with a second from Karla. The motion carried.

**Leadership:** Pastor Matt spoke on the state of the United Methodist Church as there have been a couple of questions recently. He shared information from the Minnesota Annual Conference, FAQ: Living and Leading Together that answers questions about the split of the UMC. A small task force from the Annual Conference answered common questions and answers can be found on [minnesotaumc.org/faqs-together](http://minnesotaumc.org/faqs-together). Hilltop shares the identity, vision and values identified by the MAC – our first priority is to follow Jesus and do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. We remain a “big tent” in that we hold a diversity of viewpoints but remain siblings in Christ, grounded in our Wesleyan theology. Matt encouraged everyone to look over this information.

**Finance Report:** Michelle provided a report of August and September finances. In August, general giving was \$19,965.00. Expenses were \$25,448.71 and the net income was -\$5,482.96. Working general fund balance at the end of August was \$27,832.02. September general giving was \$19,708.00. Expenses were \$23,223.95 and the net income was -\$3,415.64. Working general fund balance at the end of September was \$31,673.38. Expenses are \$10,000 higher than last year and this can be attributed to the two transfers to the building improvement fund for trustee initiatives. In past years we have held the money until December, but this year we transferred \$5k after both the 1st and 2nd quarter. General giving is ahead of last year by \$8k. A motion was made by Kerry to approve the finance report with a second from Paulette. The motion carried.

**Committee Updates:** Derrick reported that the Trustees were looking at removing the trees on the west side of the property and the north end by the parsonage.

Jocelin reported kids connection is going great, with 3 FT teachers, 1 who is a sub and 5 youth assistants. The oldest group, Club56, is loving the class transition from Kids Connection to Youth Group. It is a combination where they will do some youth group activities as well.

Matt met with the new pastor at Centenary UMC, Roger Wolfe and there was discussion about the three Mankato UMC churches working together on an event. Matt asked for feedback on having a joint UMC Good Friday worship service. There is planning for a shared mission trip and possibly shared youth activities.

**Calendaring:**

- a. Nov. 1 – All Saints Sunday
- b. Nov. 12—Campaign Sunday, Nov. 12
- c. Oct. 26 to 29 - Men’s Walk to Emmaus was postponed
- d. Nov. 2 to 5 - Women’s Walk to Emmaus, Fairmont
- e. Nov. 12-19 – Operation Christmas Child
- f. Nov. 13, 7 pm - Virtual special session of Minnesota Annual Conference
- g. Nov. 26—Advent begins (one week early)
- h. Dec. 13—Carols by Candlelight after community meal
- i. Dec. 17—Children’s Christmas Program
- j. Dec. 24—Services at 10:30 am traditional and 4:30 pm contemporary
- k. Dec. 31—One service at 10:30 am

l. Jan. 7—District Superintendent Preaching

m. Jan.—Confirmation Sunday first Sunday of February

**Capital Campaign update:** Matt reported that he has had several one-on-one meetings with Hilltop members and has enjoyed these visits. The campaign team is still looking for ambassadors to deliver capital campaign packets. There is a training meeting for ambassadors on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> is the. All packets will be delivered by Sunday, November 12 and picked up the following Sunday, November 19.

Don reported that MCCI building committee needs to reconvene to discuss next steps in building updates.

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman