

**Hilltop United Methodist Church**  
**Administrative Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 18, 2016, 7:30 pm**

**Present:** Pastor Kelly McCuaig, Jeff Adams, Paulette Adams, JoAnn Hutchinson, Stacy Vanderwerf, Jocelin Reynolds, Paulette Booker, Herb Fast, Eric Mundt, Aaron Daby, Kerry Rausch, EJ Lee, Kari Juni, Kaitlyn Juni, Don Putzier, Holly Aasen, Zac Aasen, Dan Gowanlock, Michelle Behsman.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Adams. Jeff opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting of January 14, 2016 were available for review. A motion was made by Paulette Booker to approve the minutes as presented. Eric Mundt seconded. The motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Kelly continued his teaching on the Simple Church concept. He first shared a case study of two actual churches, First Church and Cross Church. First Church had not grown, but had a packed calendar with lots of programming and announcements. They had several statements of vision, mission and purpose yet the leadership had not internalized the purpose of the church. New ideas failed to get off the ground because of competing schedules and finance restrictions. They hired the "best of the best" in terms of staffing, but overall they lacked a common vision or "big picture" view of their purpose. Cross Church had one simple mission statement, "Love God, love others, serve the world." These three outcomes were achieved in worship, small groups, and service. Announcements were made only that pertained to these three purposes. When asked what their process was, they referred to their mission statement—their purpose and their process were the same. Members were expected to go through the whole process, meaning they were expected to worship, to be in small groups, and to serve. New ideas were filtered through this mission statement and adapted to fit their purpose. Staff were hired based on the mission statement and were unified in a common purpose. Kelly then asked the council to identify which aspects of these two different churches were common to Hilltop. After some discussion about where Hilltop fit on this spectrum Kelly asked why it would be important to have a process. Not having a process is like not having a plan and it becomes easy to lose sight of the goal. A process also simplifies things. Without a process you are likely to stay the same, making statements like, "Wouldn't it be nice if we....." Kelly went on to explain that the programmatic model of the church no longer works. In earlier times a church could be built and offer programs for youth and family and people moving into a community would seek out the church because they were familiar with the form of church. Today we have "Nones", people who are unaffiliated with any organized religion. They do not even know who Jesus is and church is not a place that they seek out. Church today needs to change in a way that we are not a place that people come to in order to find God, but rather we need to be a place that sends people out to reach those who don't know Jesus. We are called to be missionaries and Hilltop is a missionary outpost. As missionaries we are to be witnesses for Christ in our homes, at work, and in our community. Kelly shared that his appointment by the Bishop was not to the church of Hilltop, but rather to the community of greater Mankato. Kelly reminded council to discuss these Simple Church ideas with their ministry teams.

**Nominations:** Pastor Kelly reported that the nominations team was still working on vacancies for some of the committees.

**Trustee's Report:** Eric Mundt reported that furnace filters had been replaced and carbon dioxide detectors had

been installed in the parsonage.

**Finance Report:** Kerry Rausch reported that there were a couple of categories in unbudgeted items that were carrying negative balances; Connect Group books, Financial Peace University, Men's Retreat and Softball registration. Finance decided to clear these balances on the finance report, resetting the beginning balance to zero in order to more accurately reflect the working general fund balance. The amounts had been paid by the general fund last year and leaving the amounts as a negative was overstating the amount in the general fund. Michelle mentioned that she can run an itemized income/expense report on these categories at any time for cost analysis if needed. A motion was made by Paulette Booker to approve the Finance report. Jocelin Reynolds seconded. The motion carried.

**Discipleship Report:** Stacy Vanderwerf reported that the Discipleship team attended the conference hosted Membership to Discipleship workshop led by Dr. Phil Maynard. The team discussed what an intentional discipleship group would look like here at Hilltop.

**Missions Report:** Aaron Daby reported that the Missions team met and expanded on their work as being purposed by Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." They identified their mission field based on this scripture passage; Mankato community is like Jerusalem and the upper Midwest is like Judea and Samaria, the ends of the earth are essentially the entire world. The team will focus on Habitat for Humanity for the months of January, February and March.

**Staff Parish Relations Report:** Kari Juni reported that the campus ministry position has been posted with a deadline of April 1 and they anticipate a regional draw of candidates. Kari and Karla have discussed the interview process and are working on interview questions. They have also reviewed the job duties for the part-time (10 hours a week) office assistant. Kari will be meeting with Michelle on Feb. 19th to wrap up details for job listing. Also, the SPRC felt that in "acting our size" and with our staff growth we should have an employee handbook. Kari mentioned that we should be able to find samples of church employee handbooks from the conference or through other sources. Pastor Kelly was present at the meeting and shared the Simple Church concept which led to discussion on how we create disciples.

**Education Report:** Jocelin reported Kids Kinection was focusing on Matthew 22:36-39 when Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest and Jesus replied: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'<sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The kids made valentines for the congregation as a way of expressing love for their neighbor. Jocelin also mentioned the kids had praying over Kelly before he preaches.

**Worship Report:** Paulette Booker reported that the Worship Team is looking at ways to incorporate the children in the worship services. They have also been focused on details of Lenten worship and Holy Week services: Palm Sunday & Easter. They did discuss the details of Simple Church as taught by Kelly at the last Ad Council meeting and were excited about the possibilities.

**Youth Report:** EJ Lee reported that the youth had completed the book, *Crazy Love*, and she asked Kaitlyn Juni to share her thoughts on the book. Kaitlyn enjoyed the book and appreciated the analogies used by the author. EJ reported that the youth were designing a youth group T-shirt which will be a long sleeve crewneck. EJ also

mentioned that youth need to get registered NOW if they plan to attend camp this summer. She will be sending information about a couple of camps to the youth group.

**Pastoral Care Team:** Paulette Adams mentioned that the team would have meetings as needed. She also reported that Wayne Baumgartner was a hospice volunteer at Keystone where Audrey Key now resides.

**Technology Report:** Don Putzier encouraged Ad Council to continue discussing the Technology upgrades and he emphasized that the existing Technology is outdated and could fail at any time.

**New Business:** Jeff mentioned that Walk to Emmaus funds are available for Hilltop members that want to attend a Spring Walk.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:** Jeff closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Behsman