

Hilltop United Methodist Church Council Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: Derrick Galinat, Burl Maker, Brad Propp, Pastor Matt Sipe, Barb Keith, and Don Putzier.

Opening and Prayer: The meeting opened with a prayer led by Don.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from February were sent by email. Burl made a motion to approve the minutes, Matt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Devotional: Matt shared a devotional based on Hebrews Chapter 13. Matt will be preaching on Hebrews 13 as part of his Easter message.

Financial Report: Burl provided a review of February finances.

February Summary:

General giving: \$14,857.93

Capital Campaign: \$4,116.93

Total Income: \$14,955.14 (does not include Capital Campaign funds received)

Expenses: \$18,268.69

Net Income: -\$3,313.55

Working general fund balance as of 2/28/26: \$24,981.35

Capital Campaign pledge: \$497,110.00

Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$445,304.73

There was a deposit error at the bank. A deposit from February 15 was missed and the funds were deposited March 12. Therefore, February general giving should have included an additional \$2,625.00, for a total of \$17,482.93.

Burl indicated that we are considering an additional lump-sum payment on our loan, to help reduce interest payments. Overall, finances appear very positive.

Matt made a motion to approve the February finance report, seconded by Brad. The motion carried.

Trustee Committee Update: Derrick indicated that roof repairs were completed prior to snowfall. The contractor report is pending. No leaks in the hallway have been noted as yet.

Youth and Kids Connection: The Youth retreat was cancelled due to insufficient registrations and need for an additional adult leader. Partner churches also withdrew their interest. Additional youth events are in the planning stage with input from the youth. Further discussion will take place in May and June.

Music ministry staffing: Emma Miller is moving to Nashville. The Council expressed gratitude for her work at Hilltop. Further discussions will be held with Michael Olson as his MSU role is changing. Other options include involving church member musicians more. Having a variety of music options each week benefits worshipers and allows for scheduling flexibility. More clarity may be evident by the end of April.

Calendar:

- Mar. 29—Palm Sunday—Service at 10 am—People are also encouraged to participate in the Palm Sunday Faith Action walk from 2-4 pm at Grace Lutheran Church
- Apr. 3—Good Friday—Joint service at Belgrade Ave. UMC at 6:30 pm
- Apr. 5—Easter Sunday—Services at 8 and 10 am
- Apr. 18—Spring cleanup—8 am to noon, primarily outside work
- Apr. 18 —Brad Kraywinkle memorial reception in Fellowship Hall
- Apr. 26—Lunch and games after worship
- May 31—Moondogs game
- June 16-18—Annual Conference
- June 21—Waseca waterpark event
- July 26—Bray Park service/baptism
- End of summer—BBQ event

Pastor Matt encourages prayers for our music ministry and our youth and children programs.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor Matt.

Respectfully submitted and AI notes edited, Don Putzier