

Hilltop United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2016, 7:30 pm

Present: Paulette Adams, Pastor Kelly McCuaig, Herb Fast, Karen Frydendall, Kerry Rausch, Judy Argetsinger, Paulette Booker, Bob Berg, Don Putzier, Michelle Behsman, Stacy Vanderwerf, and Holly Aasen.

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting on August 18, 2016 were available for review. A motion was made by Kerry Rausch to approve the minutes as presented. Judy Argetsinger seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor: Pastor Kelly praised the Ad Council for their support and leadership in transitioning to a new way to worship. He said that the worship team will continue to listen to concerns and make changes.

Kelly went on to share about his experience at the World Methodist Council. First he gave some background on this Council, which has been meeting for the past 100 years and involved 250 delegates from 82 Wesleyan denominations which represent 82 million Methodists. Kelly will serve on the Evangelism team for the next 5 years casting vision for world evangelism.

Kelly shared some notes on a session he attended that focused on discipleship/small group ministry. Small groups were the cornerstone of the Methodist movement as Wesley saw them as a way to reform the nation and in particular the church. These groups became a source for identifying societal problems and also a seedbed for evangelism. Wesley saw the grand stumbling block to the spreading of the gospel was the lives of Christians—he witnessed a crisis of solitary Christianity. He noted that one of the reasons that faith was not being shared with others was because Christians were not sharing their faith with each other inside the church.

While Hilltop has been actively promoting small groups with the introduction of Connect Groups a couple of years ago, there are two small groups being launched this Fall that are in the spirit of those early Wesleyan small groups. Stacy launched a trial of The Class Meeting this summer in which participants are asked one basic question each week, “How have you seen God move in your life this past week?” The goal is to add two more Class Meetings in the spring and by next fall have all members in a Class Meeting. Kelly also noted that the decline of the Methodist church in the mid 1800’s coincides with the removal of the requirement to be in a class meeting.

Pastor Kelly will be traveling to the New Room Conference the third week of September. Last year he was the only clergy from MN but this year he is joined by ten other clergy from our district.

Trustees: Bob Berg reported that a group of about ten people would be working on the parsonage garage on September 17th, bringing it up to code. He and Bill were prepping for the work day including adding insulation on the west wall of the garage. The boiler has been installed and is awaiting permanent electrical hook up.

Michelle Behsman presented to the trustees three bids for a new copier to be shared with the district. The trustees authorized Kelly and Michelle to purchase the copier that best suited their needs.

Bob also reported that there was a leak in the roof above the Fellowship Hall near the south hallway by the office. Eric planned to look at the roof on Saturday to see if the leak could be patched. Dan Held did look over the roof and estimated the cost at \$24-25,000, and he stated that the flat roof over the Narthex needed

immediate attention. The trustees are expecting a bid on the roof from Schwickert's.

Finance: Kerry Rausch reported that expenses for August were \$24,111.19, revenue was \$28,122.28, and the general fund working balance was \$42,346.48.

Budgets have been received from the worship, trustees, and technology teams. Any other team's budgets should be submitted immediately to allow for the finance committee to review and suggest any changes that may need to be made. The final draft budget must be voted on by Ad Council at the October meeting so that it can be brought to the Charge Conference which is November 6th.

The finance committee presented a policy for handling inactive designated funds which allows staff to reallocate funds which have not been used in two years. Eliminated fund categories can be re-established if and when the need arises. After review by Ad Council a motion was made by Bob Berg to approve the policy with a second by Paulette Booker. The motion carried.

Kerry met with Pastor Kelly, Michelle, and Shannon to reclassify the budget into categories which reflect Hilltop's mission of Inward, Upward, and Outward, and also general operating expenses. The goal is to simplify the budget and provide a quick overview of how we are allocating our resources. The finance committee reviewed this reclassification tonight.

Stacy Vanderwerf made a motion to approve the finance report and Paulette Booker seconded. The motion carried.

Discipleship: Stacy Vanderwerf reported that registration for Connect Groups opened on Sept. 11th and closes on Sept. 25th. She provided more information about Class Meeting and encouraged all to sign up for this new offering. After participating in Class Meeting this summer she shared that she personally found this to be a life-changing group in which she finally found a place where she could openly share her heart with God on a weekly basis.

SPRC: Pastor Kelly reported that SPRC was meeting a lot discussing the campus/youth minister position and the use of the increase fund for staffing. He said that Dan Rivers has agreed to serve as interim youth director and Shanna Blomquist will assist.

Kids Connection: There was no report but Bob Berg mentioned that on Sunday the west classroom was busting at the seams and he sees the need to plan for growth. Kelly said that in three years Hilltop should plan for a capital campaign. It was also mentioned that due to increased Kids Connection attendance that the opening was now being held in the Fellowship Hall. Bob asked if there was a need for an additional projection screen due to both of these rooms being used for Kids Connection and he stated that the trustees had funds and would purchase an additional screen.

Worship: Paulette Booker reported that the team did not meet but that they had begun to discuss plans for the Harvest Home dinner, Advent, and Christmas. Karen Frydendall had concerns about worship and mentioned that she found it difficult to follow along with the hymns when they are sung in a different tune and she couldn't follow along in the hymnal. Karen asked that the older generation not be forgotten. Stacy shared that there was talk initially of having a contemporary and a traditional worship service, but that both Kelly and Michael did not want to separate the congregation by generation as they valued the older generation. Kelly expressed his

appreciation for Karen's comments about worship and encouraged her to continue talking to the worship team. Kelly said that it was the goal of the worship team to have familiar music for everyone at each worship service. Paulette Adams added that Hilltop has a very music literate congregation and that many members like to read music as they sing. Don mentioned that there are forty musical numbers that Michael is gradually introducing to the congregation and that soon these would become familiar. Kelly added that one parent shared with him that their daughter looked up a worship song on Youtube after hearing in worship so she could listen to it again. He also noted that there were college kids in worship and that this new way of worshipping fits with our calling to reach students on campus.

Parish Nurse: Judy Argetsinger reported that the Red Cross would be here on Thursday, Oct. 6th for a blood drive and that participants could sign up online and also speed up the registration process by reading information sheets online by using the RapidPass on the Red Cross website.

Pastoral Care: Michelle Behsman mentioned that there was a signup created on Take Them a Meal to provide a couple of meals each week for JoAnn Hutchinson as she is recovering from surgery and her mobility is limited.

Technology: Don reported that the Sim Sound upgrade would begin on Monday. He mentioned that camera 2 had malfunctioned and they would take a look at it. He said that Michael would like to purchase ear monitors for the singers, the cost would be \$1,300.

New Business: There was discussion about the prayer chain and whether there was an opportunity for people to be added to this list. There was also concern that some individuals did not have email but would like to be on the list. Kelly said that there was discussion of using a text program to send out prayer requests as many do not check their email regularly.

Paulette closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Next meeting is Oct. 20, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Behsman