

Hilltop United Methodist Church Council Minutes

Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 5:47 p.m.

In attendance: Paulette Adams, Barb Keith, Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Burl Maker, Pastor Matt Sipe, and Michelle Behsman

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

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

Devotional: Matt shared a devotional based on Hebrews.

Financial Report: Burl provided a review of December and year end finances. Matt made a motion to approve the December finance report, seconded by Derrick Galinat. The motion carried.

December Summary:

General giving: \$44,759.60

Capital Campaign: \$4,104.65

Total Income: \$46,950.66 (does not include Capital Campaign funds received)

Expenses: \$26,490.64

Net Income: \$20,460.02

Working general fund balance 12/31/25: \$19,960.13

Capital Campaign pledge: \$497,110.00

Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$429,362.87

2025 Year End Summary:

General giving: \$255,554.36

Total Income: \$362,630.55 (includes \$98,545.26 in capital campaign funds)

Expenses: \$272,097.88

Net Income: -\$8,012.59

A payment of \$100,000 was made to Wesley Impact Partners loan on 01-13-2026, reducing the loan amount to 111,000.

The Checklist for the Protection of Church Finances, a required Annual Church Conference form, was presented by Michelle. She noted the need to schedule an outside audit and the need to train an internal audit team. It was mentioned that Jim Sullwold conducted the last audit a couple of years ago and that he offered to train an audit team. The finance team will also need to work on written policies for internal financial control. Matt invited Burl to work on this at Lake Koronis, some weekend this summer. There was another question about bonding, and which church officers would be considered for this type of insurance. Michelle agreed to look into this and report back. Matt made a motion to approve the form. Derrick Galinat seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Summer Discussion: There is a plan to have a church picnic and baptisms at Madison Lake. Other suggestions for summer events included: bringing back a barbecue event, Moondogs baseball game, Waseca Waterpark and outdoor worship. It was suggested to schedule the waterpark earlier in the summer, like June.

Connect Group Discussion: Possibilities for summer Connect Groups: Epic of Eden, The Chosen Season 1.

Committee Updates: The trustees have selected a contractor to address issues with the leak on the flat roof. Paulette reported that the Hilltop OCC shoeboxes were delivered to Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname.

Calendaring:

- a. January 25—DS Woojae Im guest preacher
- b. Feb. 18—Ash Wednesday service 6:30 pm with Comfort & Joy soup supper
- c. Feb. 22 to 28—Midwest Mission Distribution Center trip
- d. Mar. 12-15—Men's Walk to Emmaus in Fairmont
- e. Mar. 22—Lunch and games after worship

- f. Mar. 29—Palm Sunday
- g. Apr. 3—Good Friday—Joint service at Belgrade Ave. UMC
- h. Apr. 5—Easter Sunday
- i. June 16-18—Annual Conference

Meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor Matt.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman