

Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Matt Sipe, Kerry Rausch, Don Putzier, Rob Cornelius, Michelle Behsman. Dan Marti, Derrick Galinat, Paulette Adams, Stacy Vanderwerf, and Jocelin Reynolds.

Dan opened with prayer.

Approval of minutes: Church council reviewed the minutes from December Don made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Rob. The motion passed. Add Don's name to December minutes.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt read from I Corinthians: 4, in which the Apostle Paul talks about his identity and role as a disciple. Pastor Matt shared this passage and asked the council to consider their role as a leader in the church. He reminds council that our identity in Christ is a gift and not something that is earned. God has loved us so tenderly that we are called to serve humbly with love and a gentle spirit. There was discussion amongst council about phrases or words that "shimmered" or stood out for them. Other themes mentioned were avoiding being judgmental towards others and ourselves and acting with compassion.

Finance Report: Rob provided a report of December finances. Plate giving in December was \$36,937.50. Expenses were \$22,860.03. Net income was \$14,440.78. For 2021, we were \$17,000.00 ahead. Two gifts were received for MCCI future building, one for \$75,000.00 and one for \$20,000.00. It was also noted that a year-end gift of \$9,000 was also received for the general fund. These MCCI future building monies are designated and appear on the balance sheet, not the P & L report. Matt made a motion to approve the finance report, with a second by Stacy. The motion passed.

Leadership Covenant: There was a brief explanation about the leadership covenant that was approved by council members via email.

Committee Updates: February Walk to Emmaus events have been postponed due to Omicron variant and increased COVID-19 infection rates. Connect Groups will be postponed until March or April for the same reason. There are a few groups that are currently meeting: Men's Morning Risers and Tuesday afternoon Women's bible study.

On Wednesday, March 2, there will be an Ash Wednesday worship service. The MCCI Youth, Children and Family team plans to launch something new that evening, a Hilltop community meal which will be followed by youth group, confirmation, young parents group, and possibly another connect group. It was mentioned that a free-will donation can be collected to cover some of the cost.

On April 14, there will be a Maundy Thursday worship service at 7:00 pm, followed by a 24-hour prayer vigil. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on April 17.

Visioning:

Short-term: There was discussion about having two worship services on Easter Sunday, April 17 and consideration of continuing the two service format following Easter through the end of the school year. This would be a six-week period and we would move to one service during the summer time. Matt provided clarification on the worship styles for these two services and suggested that the 9:15 am be a blended style, as it is now, and the 10:45 am be more contemporary in style. A question was posed about whether both services would be live-streamed and Don said that it was not an issue for the tech team. Matt invited council to consider guest welcome activities, like greeting, hospitality and nursery staffing.

Church conference will precede the February council meeting with the purpose of approving church conference forms. Don Putzier and Art Keith will share a presentation on the MCCI Sanctuary/building project at this meeting with the expectation that church council will provide feedback about the presentation. This presentation will be shared at a later date with the congregation in a town hall format.

Long-term: Outdoor service(s) this summer? Thoughts on a church celebration, perhaps a BBQ or ribfest?

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm. Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman