

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Pastor Matt Sipe, Kerry Rausch, Karla Lassonde, Don Putzier, Jocelin Maine, Darrin Galinat, Stacy Vanderwerf, and Paulette Adams

Don opened with prayer.

Minutes: Jocelin moved to approve the minutes from June with a second from Stacy. The motion carried.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt began a devotional based on the scripture of Romans 15: 1-13-20, specifically verse 13 which reads, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." This verse can revolve around the upcoming capital campaign, building improvements, what we are and what we want to accomplish as a church. Hope is what people are looking for and what we the church have to offer.

Finance Report: Don provided a report of June finances. General giving was \$18,185.60 with total income of \$18,586.06. Expenses were \$20,071.20 and the net income was -\$2,485.14. Working general fund balance at the end of June was \$46,723.32. General YTD giving is good. A motion was made by Matt to approve the finance report with a second from Jocelin. The motion carried.

Committee Updates: Jocelin presented a proposal for youth programming stating that God has been prompting her to continue her work in this area. This proposal can be communicated to new families and with campaigning for space and is a vision for the youth program. Four objectives are listed in a flyer that Michelle created, a brochure to give to new parents. A draft Wednesday night schedule was presented which includes band practice, Kids' Connection, adult group, connect group, choir practice, confirmation and youth group. Pastor Matt stated the need to look at the big picture, including that Sunday is the worship life of church with two expressions of worship offered. Wednesday evenings would be a "go deeper" night. Jocelin presented the operational needs. A goal would include having information by the August 30th carnival available to families and to have them and their children come in to see where their Wednesday classroom will be located and meet their teacher. Paulette would like to see something for parents on Wednesday nights since some only able come on Wednesdays and this would give parents something to do while children are attending programming. A possible name discussed was Wednesday Connections. The presented schedule would allow for flexibility.

Darrin stated that Derick Stevens is starting to do siding on fellowship hall. Paulette stated that around August 1st Operation Christmas Child will deliver a couple of pallets of red and green boxes and that room will be needed in the shed to store them. The Trustees are looking at a fall clean-up day.

Calendaring:

- a. July 23 - Faith Night at Moondogs
- b. Jul 26 - Bonfire and games
- c. Kowakan trip – is up in the air at this time
- d. Aug 30 - Hilltop Carnival
- e. Fall schedule - Resumes Sept. 10
- f. Oct. 26 to 29 - Men's Walk to Emmaus, Fairmont
- g. Nov. 2 to 5 - Women's Walk to Emmaus, Fairmont

Worship Days and Times: Two services on Sunday with two styles of worship will include a 9:00 a.m. (blended or traditional) service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service. The desire to have kids participate in Sunday worship areas was expressed.

Capital Campaign: The first capital campaign meeting will be held July 27th at 6:30 with seven people committed to being there. There may be a couple of potential alternates if needed. This group provides a good cross section of the membership. The campaign will begin in the fall and events will be planned. This team will run for about six months.

MCCI and facility: A smaller group is working with the architect on a remodeling plan within the current foot print of the building. Don explained that they are looking at remodeling the entire south side of the building and some remodeling of the larger room on the west side. The sanctuary remodeling needs has also been reviewed and this area will be a bit tougher to remodel for both a better worship experience and flexibility. More information from the technical people and architects will be needed. The goal is not to have everything finalized but to have a general direction for the capital campaign. We are improving church, youth/families, and sanctuary areas.

Pastor Matt stated he is very encouraged by what God is doing and the work that is happening. The Holy Spirit has been up to a lot of good work.

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kerry Rausch