

Hilltop United Methodist Church Council Minutes

Thursday June 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: Brad Propp, Darrin Galinat, Paulette Adams, Burl Maker, Matt Sipe, Michelle Behsman and Don Putzier.

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

Approval of minutes: Minutes from May approved by consensus.

Devotional/Future Planning: Matt provided overview of Lewis Center video. Matt shared that after much thought and prayer, reaching new people is what we need to focus on first and foremost. This involves changes to worship and music. Many churches are seeing a decline in in-person worship attendance. Online worship is an essential “front door” for outreach. Thriving churches embrace adaptive leadership, prioritize discipleship, use technology effectively, and focus communication with purpose. Discussion followed on moving to one service in the fall and the time of the service. Proposal to move to a single, blended worship service at 10:00 a.m. Plan includes eliminating the organist position and replacing with a volunteer/lay-led blended music team. Commitment to retain traditional hymns in new formats (e.g., piano/guitar). Consensus that reaching new people must be the guiding principle behind all decisions. Joyful and Spirit-filled worship is the primary goal.

Financial Report: Burl presented the May financial report.

General giving: \$15,205.00

Capital Campaign: \$7,204.65

Total Income: \$15,255.00 (does not include Capital Campaign funds received)

Expenses: \$21,474.97

Net Income: -\$6,219.17

Working general fund balance 5/31/25: \$44,949.56

Capital Campaign pledge: \$497,110.00

Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$396,302.86

The financial report was approved.

Calendaring:

a. Moondogs game—July 6

b. Waseca Water Park Fun—August 2, 7-9 pm

Other Business:

Choir remains an important part of worship planning. Considerations discussed around rehearsal times and recruiting new members. Fellowship activities and future adult education possibilities discussed.

Meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor Matt, centered on courage, unity, and the strength found in God’s joy.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman