

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Pastor Matt Sipe, Derrick Galinat, Karla Lassonde, Rob Cornelius, Michelle Behsman, Kerry Rausch, Don Putzier, Barb Keith and Paulette Adams.

Don opened with prayer.

Minutes: Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from February with a second from Rob. The motion carried.

Bible Study: Matt led a brief study based on the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, John 13:12-20.

Finance Report: Rob provided a report of January finances. General giving was \$23,851.00. Expenses were \$20,145.90 and the net income was \$3,975.53. Working general fund balance at the end of January was \$54,373.21. A motion was made by Kerry to approve the finance report with a second from Derrick. The motion carried.

Church Council Meetings: There was a discussion about changing the day and or time of the monthly council meetings. It was decided that the meetings would remain on the third Thursday of each month, but would start 30 minutes later, at 7:00 pm. This change will begin in April.

Summer Worship Service: Beginning May 28 and continuing through September 10, there will be one worship service on Sunday at 10:15 am. The last Wednesday service will be on May 24 and will resume on September 13. We will have a community event the last Wednesday of each month during the summer; June, July and August.

Calendaring:

- a. Mar. 17-19 - Marriage Retreat
- b. Holy Week - Palm Sunday Apr 2 (Michael Olson leading); Apr 5 Wednesday service (foot washing)
- c. Apr 9 - Easter Sunday - 8:00 service (Michael/Matt leading, with communion); 10:15 service (mix of music, choir, no communion)
- d. Apr 15 - Spring Clean Up
- e. Apr 23 - Bishop preaching at Hilltop, with lunch to follow—can Church Council assist with this?
- f. Apr 24 to May 1- Pastor Matt gone
- g. Apr 26 service - Recording of Bishop's message from Apr 23 during service
- h. Apr 30 - Katie Menne preaching
- i. May 31 - Jun 1 - Annual Conference in St. Cloud—Encourage equalization delegates and others to attend.
- j. Jun 4 - Graduation Sunday
- k. Jun 28 - Second Annual "Getting Sauced" Barbecue Event
- l. Jul 26 and Aug 30 - Ideas for events

Visioning:

- a. Short-term
 - i. Don said the Mark Davy & Associates feasibility study is underway. All members have received an invite to complete a survey and come for an in-person interview. Matt will speak on this on Sunday, March 19.
- a. Long-term
 - i. In the near future there is a plan to have a mission/visioning discussion. Matt asked council what they see as a core value of Hilltop – (what are we known for?) Responses: welcoming, openness, child and youth centric, we put Jesus first (Jesus led congregation), intentional, we take our time making decisions, decisions are data-driven, decisions come through discernment, experience and wisdom, we emphasize being faithful to Christ in a way that is unique, Christian maturity and strong discipleship

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman