

Hilltop United Methodist Church Council Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Devotion: Matt discussed the importance of putting faith into action, citing James 2:14-26 about faith without works being dead. He emphasized that all church ministries should flow from God's love first, not from tasks or traditions, and expressed concern about reaching the next generation with authentic Christian faith. The group discussed how many Christians know about faith but don't actively live it out, with Michelle noting that Hilltop's community demonstrates living faith through quiet actions, though people often don't share these stories publicly. Paulette added that participation in activities like choir can help people grow in faith over time when centered on God's love rather than just personal interests or perfection.

Creation Care and Facility Use Policy: Matt made a motion to accept the Creation Care Policy. Don seconded the motion. Matt provided an overview of how suggested donation for building use was calculated. Don called for a vote - the motion carried.

Financial Management Policies: Matt explained that revisions were still in process and the policy would be presented for vote in September or October and would be effective January 2027.

Youth and Kids' Connection: Confirmation is planned for the end of October. Matt intends to meet with Kids' Connection parents next week to discuss how we might best meet their needs.

Finance Report: Burl provided a review of July finances and a Capital Campaign update. Matt made a motion to approve the July finance report, seconded by Derrick. The motion carried.

July Summary:

General giving: \$19,522.93

Capital Campaign: \$6,741.93

Total Income: \$19,674.82 (does not include Capital Campaign funds received)

Expenses: \$22,634.49

Net Income: -\$1,959.67

Working general fund balance 7/31/26: \$41,885.57

Capital Campaign pledge: \$497,110.00

Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$471,675.69 (94.8% of goal, \$25,434.31)

Committee Updates: Derrick shared that there is a plan to rollout the Living Legacy Tree Project in September.

Calendar:

- a. August 31—BBQ event in the evening
- b. September 2—Youth event at Valley Fair, combined with several other area churches
- c. September 16—Wednesday evening kickoff
- d. September 27—Bible distribution to 3rd graders
- e. October 25—Confirmation Sunday
- f. November 16-23—Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection
- g. November 22—Commitment Sunday

Meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor Matt.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman