

Hilltop United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Present via video conference: Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Stacy Vanderwerf, Kerry Rausch, Paulette Adams, Karla Lassonde, Mark Wright, Jocelin Reynolds, and Michelle Behsman.

Charge Conference – Matt explained the purpose of the charge conference, to approve Lydia Jagodzinski for candidacy. Matt asked if there were any questions and opened for discussion. Matt called for a vote to affirm the SPRC endorsement of Lydia's call to ministry. The approval was unanimous. Paulette made a motion to conclude the conference with a second from Don. The motion passed.

Approval of minutes: Church council reviewed the minutes from May. Jocelin made a motion to approve minutes, with a second by Paulette. Motion passed. No additions to the agenda.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt led a bible study on Acts 17:16-34.

Calendaring: Don made a note that all of the summer events are on the website and Connect Group registration has begun.

Finance Report: Mark provided an overview of the May finance report. Giving for May is modestly ahead and expenses are below what we have budgeted. The finance team met last week and they decided that we were in a positive financial state and should fund the trustees initiatives for the first five months of the year. Mark opened to any questions about the finance report. Derrick made a motion to approve the finance report, with a second by Jocelin. Motion carried.

Committee Updates: Derrick added that there would be a work day at the parsonage on June 27 from 8am-2pm and the trustees would also ready the church for re-opening that day.

Reopening plans: Matt opened with prayer. Don explained the conference recommendations for opening during the yellow phase. Matt reviewed options for soft re-opening on July 19, following guidelines, with one in-person worship service and one live stream service. Don referred to the worship survey results and then opened for comments. Paulette felt that with the infection numbers dropping that it was a good time to try re-opening. She also recommended a blended service, rather than sticking with the same format of traditional. Matt then shared some data on live-stream viewing habits. Matt was concerned that two blended services may overtax the musicians by requiring them to play for both. There was discussion about whether the band should sing for in-person worship or would instrumental music only be safer. Paulette encouraged some creative thinking about how we can do music differently. There was discussion from several individuals on managing risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection. The comment was made that we can pull back from the plan if infection rates increase between now and July 19. There was a consensus to do a soft opening on July 19. All felt that we cannot require mask wearing, but felt that we should strongly suggest the use of a mask to protect our fellow members who are high risk for infection. We will send a postcard by July 1 to announce a tentative re-opening. Derrick suggested providing a guideline document for attendees. Council will communicate over email in two weeks to check in on the status of re-opening.

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman