

Hilltop United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7:30 pm

Present: Pastor Kelly McCuaig, Jeff Adams, Paulette Booker, Bob Berg, Herb Fast, Aaron Daby, John Phelps, Kerry Rausch, EJ Lee, Kari Juni, Don Putzier, Dan Rivers, Holly Aasen, Michelle Behsman.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Adams. Jeff opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of December 17, 2015, were available for review. A motion was made by Paulette Booker to approve the minutes as presented. Bob Berg seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kelly shared with council that Hilltop began the year with an average of 182 in worship and closed 2015 with that average at 191.

Pastor Kelly is planning for council members to attend the Southern Prairie District Day, to be held in Windom Saturday, February 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., as a leadership retreat. He is also encouraging all Hilltop members to attend.

Pastor Kelly will be at Asbury Theological Seminary next week for a class, departing January 19th and returning on the 27th. He has lined up a pastor to be on call during this time in case of an emergency. He also noted that there will now be child care available on Ad Council meeting nights.

Pastor Kelly then began a visioning exercise by asking council members, "What are we known for?" and the answers were written down and collected. Kelly shared a powerpoint presentation that explained a culture shift towards simplicity, using several examples of successful businesses like Apple, Google, Southwest Airlines, Papa John's Pizza, and Real Simple magazine. Churches have also caught on to the simple revolution and a recent study of 400 churches by Rainer & Geiger found a very high statistical correlation between the simplicity of a church and it's vibrancy. Churches with a simple process of reaching and maturing people in faith are the same churches that are growing. The researchers stated, "Many of our churches have become cluttered. So cluttered that people have a difficult time encountering the simple and powerful message of Christ. So cluttered that many people are busy doing church instead of being the church." Kelly added that simplicity and clarity is biblical, that Jesus brought simplicity to the 613 commandments that grew out of Mosaic Law by naming just two commandments—as told in book of Matthew, "...one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Jesus also states in Matthew 11: 30 that, "...my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Kelly explained that the only thing that simple churches are concerned with is making disciples. He said this does not mean changing doctrine or conviction, but rather simplifying the process of discipleship. He challenged the

Ad Council to be “Discipleship Designers”; to design a clear, simple process for moving people to a mature faith in Jesus Christ, a process that is fully integrated in the life of Hilltop church.

Nominations: Pastor Kelly reported that Mark Oachs would like to remain on the Trustees although his term ended in 2015. He asked for a motion to add Mark to this committee. The motion was made by Kerry Rausch. Bob Berg seconded. The motion carried.

Trustee’s Report: Bob Berg reported that the Trustee’s were holding off on a couple of projects until the weather warms up.

Finance Report: Kerry Rausch reported that all Christmas Festival proceeds had been transferred to the designated funds as follows: \$500.00 to Mary Martha Circle, \$500 to OCC Shoeboxes, \$5035.00 to Backpack Food Program, \$1,722.0 to 2016 Festival Fund, and \$4,655.00 to Technology fund. She also noted that the \$6,784.54 in the Pork Feed fund offsets the parsonage maintenance overage of \$5,599.09 leaving a balance of \$1,185.45 for 2016 Pork Feed expenses. Remaining balances in budgeted initiatives for future maintenance and increase fund have been transferred to savings accounts and all mission dollars collected in 2015 had been paid out to respective charities by year end. We currently have a working balance of \$57,000. Kerry said that the finance committee discussed memorial giving and the need to write a letter to the families acknowledging receipt of a monetary gift.

Missions Report: Aaron Daby reported that the Missions team will focus their work on Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Staff Parish Relations Report: Kari Juni reported that the committee will be meeting Feb. 4, 2016 to discuss performance reviews and job descriptions for the campus ministry position and the office assistant.

Worship Report: Paulette Booker reported that the Worship Team will be meeting to discuss future worship services.

Youth Report: EJ reported that the youth were halfway through reading the book, *Crazy Love*. Once finished they plan work through a booklet on emotional purity. EJ plans to attend the Youth Leaders Summit in February. Kari added that EJ was doing a wonderful job communicating with the parents, keeping them informed about events and activities.

Education Report: Michelle read Jocelin’s report. Jocelin provided an overview of the Kids Kinecton lessons and praised the teachers she has the privilege to work with asking that they be lifted up in prayer as they are a blessing to Hilltop: Tammy Milbrandt, Kari Juni, Jan Lange, Connie Baumgartner, Aaron Daby, Sarah Schroeder and shepherds: Rose Adams, Lacy Kietzer, Angie Marble, Ella Gavin, Cheryl Emery, and Dan Rivers. Jocelin shared that she has been praying and asking God how she might expand and build the program in 2016.

Technology Report: Don Putzier reported that Sim Sound assessed camera one and determined that there was electrical interference affecting the signal. It was also discovered that both high and low voltage lines were running in the same conduits and we should consult with an electrician as this is not up to current code. Also a new microphone earpiece connection for one of the wireless microphones was purchased to replace an old one that was producing static.

The technology team met with Pastor Kelly January 5th to discuss the technology upgrades. Kelly emphasized that it is important for us to utilize the church spaces we have and technology will help with this. It was also noted that the current technology is nine years old and has become outdated and is prone to more failure in the near future. Possible upgrades include (1) tech booth upgrade, (2) narthex video display and speaker upgrade, (3) confidence monitor/projector in back of sanctuary, (4) fellowship hall projector and sound system, (5) add'l narthex video displays, (6) new HD cameras in sanctuary, (7) new HD projector and screen in sanctuary, (8) other minor upgrades. These are high ticket items with costs of \$30,600.00 for upgrades (1), (2), and (3), and additional cost of up to \$58,000.00 depending on what other upgrades are selected.

The technology team would like Ad Council to ponder these necessary upgrades over the next few months, anticipating active fundraising in the spring with plans to move ahead with items (1), (2), and (3) as initial upgrades. Don stressed that he does not want fundraising for technology to detract from other Hilltop missions, especially support for the campus ministry, but he feels that Hilltop has always risen to the challenge when needs arise. The team also discussed gradually adding to a technology fund anticipating future technology needs as this is an important ongoing ministry as we seek to reach our community.

New Business: Jo Breckenridge requested the use of the sanctuary and fellowship hall for a piano recital on May 14-15, 2016. A motion was made by Bob Berg to approve the request. Kari Juni seconded. The motion carried.

Adjournment/Next Meeting: Dan Rivers closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Behsman