

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:42 p.m.**

Present: Matt Sipe, Kerry Rausch, Jocelin Reynolds, Rob Cornelius, Michelle Behsman. Derrick Galinat, Paulette Adams, and Stacy Vanderwerf.

The church council opened the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Approval of minutes: Church council reviewed the minutes from October. Paulette made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Rob. The motion passed.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt explained discernment. He explained that we can lose sight of our vision when we do not take time for discernment. He feels that it is important for us to take time now to discern what God is calling us to do now in this season. He shared scripture from Acts 15 that spoke of a time of discernment about whether the Gentiles were to be called as disciples of Christ. Some of the disciples expressed their belief that they would be saved by grace, not acts. They took time to discern and they felt that the Holy Spirit was guiding them to reach these new believers. Pastor Matt sees that Hilltop is also in a time of discernment about the direction of our ministry concerning children, youth and families. There was time for discussion. Pastor Matt talked about the Holiday Heroes program that we are focusing on this Christmas and how that could potentially grow into our signature ministry.

Finance Report: Rob provided a report of October finances. Plate giving in October was \$18,534.07. Expenses were \$18,047.45. Net income \$924.85. Michelle shared that Jeanette Phillips will be managing the endowment moving forward. Jocelin made a motion to approve the finance report with a second from Paulette. The motion passed. Matt shared an update of the commitment cards received to date. Currently we have received 44 commitments for a total of \$139,740. It is early and more will trickle in, but there is an anticipated decrease in general giving in 2022.

Committee Updates: Derrick said that the trustees will be submitting a 2022 budget request to finance this week.

Calendaring: November 21 - Jocelin will lead youth in praying over OCC boxes. Hanging of the greens will take place following worship. November 27 - Salvation Army Red Kettle bell ringing at HyVee. Carols by Candlelight will be on a Wednesday, December 15 with the kids and youth singing. Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 19. Three Christmas Eve Services at 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm, and 6:30 pm with live stream at 4:30 pm. Sunday, December 26 will be a Christmas carol hymn sing.

Visioning:

Short term – There is a meeting Monday, November 22 with MCCI Children, Youth and Family team to discern new Wednesday night programming for families, maybe a Community Meal. There was discussion about when is the right time to add a second service. What is going to work best to reach people? There was sharing of ideas about what Wednesdays could look like.

Long term – nothing to report

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman