

## Hilltop United Methodist Church

### Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Pastor Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Michelle Behsman, Barb Keith, Kerry Rausch, Paulette Adams, and Stacy Vanderwerf.

Don opened with an advent prayer.

**Minutes:** Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from November with a second from Kerry. The motion carried.

**Finance: Capital Campaign, Stewardship, and 2024 Budget:** Michelle provided an update on 2024 stewardship and the capital campaign. We have received 83 pledges for a total of \$243,480.00 for annual stewardship. We also received 53 pledges for a total of \$485,170.00 for the capital campaign and initial gifts total \$161,610.00.

She also provided a report of November finances. In November, general giving was \$ 21,869.27. Total income was \$23,384.62. Expenses were \$ 21,344.34 and the net income was \$2,040.28. Working general fund balance at the end of November was \$36,052.11. A motion was made by Stacy to approve the finance report with a second from Derrick. The motion carried.

Michelle provided an overview of the proposed 2024 Budget. The total budget amount is \$317,843.37, \$1,314.30 less than 2023. Trustee expenses were \$84,100, \$2,100 more than 2023 due to increased utility and insurance cost. Major repairs were \$1,500 less, as 2024 is an off year for carpet cleaning. Overall program expenses were 23,788.00, \$4,000 less than 2023. There was an increase in worship, Kids' Connection and community meals. Youth group was reduced to \$4,000, as we have not ever fully spent the budgeted amount for youth group. Summer Family Outreach was reduced to zero for 2024, as we have budgeted for VBS for the last few years and have not seen this come to fruition. Staff salaries remain the same as 2023. There was a brief discussion with comments that it looked good, but also that we are budgeting for more than what we expect in income. Michelle explained that this has been past practice – the budget is mission minded – and there are always cuts that can be made. She said that overall we have always spent less than what is budgeted. A motion was made by Matt to approve the 2024 budget with a second from Kerry. The motion carried.

#### Calendaring:

- a. Dec. 24—Services at 10:30 am (traditional with choir) and 4:30 pm (contemporary)
- b. Dec. 31—One service at 10:30 am (traditional)
- c. Jan. 7—District Superintendent Preaching
- d. Jan. 7—SPRC meeting after second service
- e. Jan. 7—New member class 2 p.m.
- f. Jan. 19-21—Youth Ski Trip
- g. Feb. 4—Confirmation Sunday

**MCCI facilities update:** Don presented an MCCI update. He met with Brunton Architects and Construction earlier today. He will be sending out a summary of some details for the MCCI Master Facilities Committee and Church Council within the week. Brunton is moving into the construction diagram phase now. Don will set up a meeting with Brunton and the MCCI Master Facilities Committee in mid-January to discuss some details. Their construction manager felt it would be possible to begin construction as early as April if we are able to approve the construction phase by January. Pastor Matt and Don will discuss the project with DS Woojae Im when he visits Hilltop January 7.

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman