

Hilltop United Methodist Church Council Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Burl Maker, Brad Propp, 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 January were sent by email. Brad made a motion to approve the minutes. Matt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Devotional: Matt shared a devotional based on Hebrews Chapter 6.

Financial Report: Burl provided a review of January finances. There was brief discussion of growth in church membership and a consensus that the move to one worship service has contributed positively to this outcome. Matt made a motion to approve the December finance report, seconded by Brad Propp. The motion carried.

January Summary:

General giving: \$22,369.18

Capital Campaign: \$11,824.93

Total Income: \$22,389.95 (does not include Capital Campaign funds received)

Expenses: \$28,439.93

Net Income: -\$6,049.98

Working general fund balance 1/31/26: \$28,227.48

Capital Campaign pledge: \$497,110.00

Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$441,187.80

Loan Update: The \$100,000 principal payment reduced the loan balance to \$111,000.31, resulting in a monthly interest-only payment of approximately \$612.78. This reflects an estimated monthly savings of \$530.14, or approximately \$6,361.68 annually. We continue to pay interest only through August 1, 2027, at which time principal and interest payments will begin. We should be able to make another payment towards principal in March and should plan to pay it down quarterly throughout the year. There is no penalty for paying off early.

Summer Discussion: Moondogs baseball game confirmed for May 31 and Waseca Waterpark booked for June 21. Bray Park reservation open March 1 and Michelle will check on availability of picnic shelter for July 26. There are thoughts on having the "Gettin' Sauced" BBQ in August.

Calendar:

- a. Mar. 12-15—Men's Walk to Emmaus in Fairmont
- b. Mar. 20-22—Youth Group Retreat
- c. Mar. 22—Game Day Sunday after worship
- d. Mar. 29—Palm Sunday
- e. Apr. 3—Good Friday—Joint service at Belgrade Ave. UMC at 6:30 pm
- f. Apr. 5—Easter Sunday—service at 8:00 & 10:00 am
- g. Apr. 18—Spring Clean Up
- h. June 16-18—Annual Conference

Other business: Brief discussion about the documents in the safe. Matt noted that there will need to be a discussion about the direction of Kids' Connection programming in the future.

Meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor Matt.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman