

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Apr. 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present via video conference: Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Kerry Rausch, Paulette Adams, Jocelin Maine, Dan Marti, Karla Lassonde, Rob Cornelius, Jean Jackson and Michelle Behsman.

Don Putzier opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of minutes: Church council reviewed the minutes from March. Derrick made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Dan. The motion passed. There were no additions to the agenda. Kerry made a motion to approve the agenda, Derrick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt read scripture from 1 John: 1-10. Matt felt that these verses point to the nature of God and how we are called to be and share that light. He felt that this is a good message for the time in which we currently stand. There has been much darkness in this past year, but God is the light and he is always calling to us – to step into the light. Don called attention to chapter two of 1 John in which we are called to love one another. “Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.”

Finance Report: Rob Cornelius was introduced as the new finance chair. Rob shared a little bit about himself and said that he would be focusing on adopting financial policies. He provided a report of March finances. March plate giving was \$24,225.66. Expenses were \$26,716.95. Net income was -\$1,814.95. He also shared the first quarter (Jan.-Mar) report: plate giving was \$61,514.32, total income was \$68,056.15, expenses were \$66,196.99. Matt made a motion to approve the finance report with a second from Stacy. The motion passed.

Committee Updates: Jocelin reported that the youth group discussed racism this Wednesday in light of the recent events in Brooklyn Park. The youth made cards and sent a check to Brooklyn UMC. Don drew attention to the letter posted by Bishop Bard about racial injustice and encouraged council to read it. The link was included in this week’s newsletter and is also on our Facebook group. Matt shared in the chat that a Hilltop Spring Cleaning will be held on Saturday, April 24th from 8:00am-12:00pm. Paulette reported that we are committed to Operation Christmas Child in 2021 and collection week will be November 15-22, the week before Thanksgiving.

Visioning: Matt said that we need to decide on a time for our summer worship service and he shared that he thought 9:30am was optimal. The online service would remain at 10:30am. A question was posed about the length of the service and Matt said that it would be around 40 minutes. Don shared that Derrick and Darrin looked over the outlets that were outside so we have electricity on the east side of the sanctuary where we plan to hold services. Michelle provided a brief overview of plans for this service. John Harrington has a team to assist with set-up and take-down. Worshipers will be asked to bring their own chairs but we will have some available. Three tents will be left up on the East side of the sanctuary. Matt said that he will be contacting the neighbors on South Manitou so they are aware of our plans.

Don shared that the MCCI sanctuary team had met and reviewed the architectural drawings. They have sent their comments to Brunton Architects and are awaiting a second round of drawings.

Don asked if there was additional discussion about worship plans for the fall and the time of those worship services. Matt shared that there were very few responses to the worship survey. He felt that we will likely continue with the one 9:30am service in the Fall. He is certain that it will become apparent in the coming months how we will proceed. Discussion turned towards the online service. Matt discussed options for two services: perhaps we live-stream one or both, maybe one service is held on Saturday night and that one is live-streamed with one or two in-person services on Sunday. There were suggestions about using other

spaces for the live-stream service. It was noted that splitting attention between an in-person and an online audience can be difficult to manage. It was also shared that we do have many options, surprisingly, and that this can sometimes be crippling. How does Hilltop want to be defined as we move into a post pandemic world? Matt asked Paulette to contact the choir members to see if they were comfortable returning to singing as a group during worship. Paulette learned from the Reach webinar there is a school of thought that churches should be planning for “welcome back” activities for Fall in June/July. Matt said that we should look at it as a “season of welcome”, as not all members will feel comfortable returning all at once. Don shared that vaccinations may be offered to children down to age 12 in the coming months. Matt asked if it was appropriate for us to develop the Fall plan at our May meeting.

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman