

## Hilltop United Methodist Church

### Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:45 p.m.

**Present:** Don Bohn, Don Putzier, Marcia Wahoske, Mark Wright, Derrick Galinat, Bob Berg, Bill Scherer, Onalee Green, Adela Scherer, Jean Jackson, Bonnie Weingartz, Paulette Adams, Pastor Matt Sipe and John Phelps (via phone)

The meeting was called to order by Don Putzier, who opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of minutes:** Bonnie Weingartz moved, seconded by Mark Wright, to approve the November 2019 Church Council minutes. The motion carried. There was no Church Council meeting held in December, rather, a budget-preparation meeting was held with Church Council members.

**Bible Study:** Pastor Matt presented a study using James 5:13-20, with reading and discussion of the passage.

**Visioning and Leadership Covenant:** These items were tabled until next month.

**Investment proposal:** Mark Wright open discussion of a proposal to invest some of our church cash reserves. We have a savings of \$175,000.00 which is earning negligible interest. The trustees and finance committee have researched investment options and developed a proposal to invest \$100,000.00 in closed-end funds of three types, earning between 6-8% annually. Several questions were answered regarding the investments. They are liquid, and portions could be made available quickly if needed; they have an open-ended time frame; the trustees will monitor these and provide regular reports; associated expenses are \$6.95 per trade; and risk could depend on election outcomes this fall or major world events. Pastor Matt excused himself from these financial discussions and voting. Don Putzier moved to affirm the proposal, seconded by Bonnie Weingartz. The motion carried.

**Calendar:** Men's Walk to Emmaus is January 16-19, Youth Ski event is January 20, Women's Walk to Emmaus is January 23-26, Connect Academy will be starting soon, Ash Wednesday is February 26, Financial Peace University will begin in March, Palm Sunday is April 5, Easter is April 12, and Pastor Mark Teasdale, speaking on Missional Leadership, will be holding a workshop and preach April 25-26.

**Finance Report:** December financial information has not been finalized as yet. The budget for 2020 was presented. Details are available in the church office. Mark Wright stressed the importance that we have a zero-based budget where revenue equals expenses. In the future, funds will come primarily from plate-giving and less from special fundraisers. This overall allows for better Missional giving from our church. A motion to approve the budget, subject to December reconciliation and finance team evaluation, was made by Derrick Galinat, seconded by Onalee Green. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:** Necessary reports were shared via email with no further discussion at the meeting.

Pastor Matt closed the meeting and prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Don Putzier