

**Hilltop United Methodist Church**  
**Administrative Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 18, 2016, 7:30 pm**

**Present:** Paulette Adams, Jeff Adams, Pastor Kelly McCuaig, Kari Juni, Kerry Rausch, Judy Argetsinger, Herb Fast, Stacy Vanderwerf, Bill Scherer, Aaron Daby, Don Putzier, Beverly Cox, Michelle Behsman and Paulette Booker.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Adams. Jeff opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting of July 28, 2016 were available for review. A motion was made by Kerry Rausch to approve the minutes as presented. Judy Argetsinger seconded. The motion carried.

**Pastor:** Pastor Kelly provided a brief overview of his upcoming schedule. At the end of August he will be traveling to the World Methodist conference in Houston. At the end of September, he will be attending the New Room Conference in Tennessee. He mentioned that he will also be busy with nominations, the 2017 budget, and preparing for the annual church conference.

**Trustees:** Bill Scherer reported that the trustees would like to move forward with landscaping around the entryway but that the idea of adding scripture verses to the pavers may take more time to complete. The trustees would like to use these honorary/memorial bricks as a fundraiser to help cover the cost of the landscaping project and they seek the approval of Ad Council. Paulette Adams made a motion to approve of the trustee's plan to raise funds for landscaping by selling engraved bricks to be used in the paving of the alcove. Herb Fast seconded the motion. After further discussion about the timing of the fundraiser, the motion was amended by Paulette to state that the fundraiser would begin after the first of the year (January 2017). The motion carried as the Ad Council voted in support of the fundraising project.

Bill also reported that the electrical work in the parsonage was complete and next steps included insulating and installing sheetrock in the garage and adding a stairway. He mentioned that the trustees did not yet approve their 2017 budget proposal but expected to do so via email and would forward their budget to the finance team. Judy Argetsinger asked Bill about the west wall and whether there were plans to fix the crumbling concrete. Bill said that they still do not know what is causing the moisture problem and they want to avoid work that is primarily aesthetic. He said that there is money set aside to repair the west wall but until they determine the cause of the moisture they simply cannot move forward.

**Finance:** Kerry Rausch reminded committee chairs to turn in their proposed budgets by the end of August. Kerry presented the July finance report noting a general working fund balance of approximately \$46,000. July income was approximately \$13,000 more than then July expenses. The finance committee has looked at reorganizing the budget in four categories: general operating, upward (worship), inward (discipleship), and outward (mission). The intent is to provide a cleaner and easier to understand finance report. Kelly added that by organizing our budget according to our mission statement we can clearly see if we are accomplishing our mission. Kerry also reported that finance is looking at writing policies to determine how inactive line items are handled in unbudgeted designated funds. Bill Scherer made a motion to approve the finance report and Paulette Booker seconded. The motion carried.

**Discipleship:** Stacy Vanderwerf reported that Hilltop will partner with Ashley & Cody Swoboda of Lake Crystal/Beauford to help them launch Connect Groups in their congregations. This fall, they will host Epic of Eden at Lake Crystal and it will be advertised in our Connect Group brochure. She said that work would begin on the fall brochure next week.

**Mission:** Aaron Daby reported that the Missions team had been discussing their budget proposal. He also mentioned that Echo Food Shelf was very excited about the non-food items that were included in our donation in July. Aaron will check with Echo before our next Green Bag Day to see if there are some greatly needed items and will include an updated list. Aaron also reported that we served approximately 90 people at the Salvation Army and we prepared 200 hotdogs.

**SPRC:** Kari Juni reported that SPRC has been busy with interviews. She sadly reported that a candidate for the campus ministry position, who was very well liked by both SPRC and Pastor Kelly, had declined an offer of employment. In a follow-up meeting SPRC and Pastor Kelly discussed restructuring this position and possibly redefining the position as an associate pastor in order to broaden the candidate pool. SPRC has also met several times to gather feedback on the two worship services that were led by Michael Olson. They also interviewed Michael and planned to interview him again in the coming week. A discussion followed about plans for changing the worship music and Kelly shared that the congregation wants to keep much tradition. He felt that by blending new music, which are actually hymns but sung in a new way, with a traditional style of worship, Hilltop could have a more inclusive emphasis in worship. Kelly stated that he and the worship team would be deliberate about planning and preparing the congregation for change. SPRC expects to have a 3-month plan with goals for how we gracefully, yet effectively, continue to evolve in our worship. Kelly also mentioned that through interviewing the candidate for campus ministry he saw that it was fortuitous that Hilltop has this opportunity to hire a worship leader. He feels that a change in the style of worship music will also help any future campus/youth minister do their job more fruitfully. Discussion moved back to the campus ministry position and Kari said that SPRC wants to fill this position soon and to ensure they have someone in place who wants to be here and who will provide consistency with our youth programming. Kerry Rausch mentioned that Kelly and SPRC should not hesitate to ask for help with the youth group. Paulette Booker added that she has faith that the right person for the youth will come along in God's time.

**Worship:** Paulette Booker reported that the worship team discussed that last two worship services that were led by Michael and they met with individuals who had concerns. She shared her personal experience with being a member at a dying church and she did not want to see that happen here at Hilltop. She said that transformational worship reaches across generations and was essential to welcoming a younger demographic. There was discussion about a number of instances in which kids were singing at the last two worship services and shared comments by parents who were overjoyed at seeing their kids enjoy the worship service. Paulette said that the Worship Team's role is to support transformational worship and stressed that compromise was vitally important to making a change to the worship style. She shared feedback from the musicians who worked with Michael and they said that he had a very gentle approach. He has high standards but he helps them get to that level. It was also said that he helped the musicians to be excellent.

Bev Cox commented that the volume of the music was upsetting to her due to migraines. She said she did like

the lively music, but that it was too loud. She was also concerned that Hilltop might lose members if the volume stays that loud. Jeff Adams addressed the issue of volume and he said that they did use a decibel meter following the first service and they made adjustments. He said that Michael is dedicated to getting the sound right.

Kelly added that introduction of newer-sounding music may cause some to fear that worship would become nothing more than a show of loud music, strobe lights and an absence of liturgy. That is not at all Kelly's plan - he loves scripture, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and he promised that these elements of worship will not go away. Kelly added that worship should change as it has always changed through 2000 years of church history. The world has changed - we change not to adapt to the world, but rather we change in response to it.

**Youth:** Pastor Kelly reported that he and the youth group had been watching portions of The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe followed by study of a related scripture passage. He said that he is having fun and the youth have enjoyed it also.

**Tech:** Don Putzier said the team has reviewed their budget and not much has changed since they received a proposal in the spring from Sim Sound. He asked for suggestions on the depth of their budget request. Kelly suggested that all teams should prayerfully dream big.

Jeff closed with a devotional and prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting is Sept. 15, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Behsman