

**Hilltop United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Dan Marti, Paulette Adams, Kerry Rausch, Karla Lassonde, Jocelin Reynolds, Rob Cornelius, and Michelle Behsman.

Don Putzier opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of minutes:** Church council reviewed the minutes from September. Jocelin made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Rob. The motion passed. Matt added SPRC pastor approval to the agenda. Kerry made a motion to approve the agenda, Jocelin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Mission:** Paulette shared plans for Operation Christmas Child in November. Precautions and process is similar to last year with a drive up drop off and less staffing in the process area.

**Bible Study:** Pastor Matt is working on embracing surrendering to the Holy Spirit and letting God guide us. He shared that many of our systems are broken as a result of the pandemic and currently our way forward is unclear. We learned much about the life cycle of the church through the MCCI process. He feels that God is inviting us into a moment of discernment. Matthew 9:35-38 "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." He recalled words by Junius B Dotson to rediscover the what, how, and why of discipleship. What is it that we can learn from our pandemic experience? There may be a tendency to try to return to past practices because it is comfortable, but those forms may no longer fit or serve a purpose.

**Finance Report:** Rob provided a report of September finances. Plate giving in September was \$21,075.66. Total income for September was \$21,795.85. Expenses were \$28,005.09. A look at the YTD income and expense does show a net of over \$12,000. Jocelin made a motion to approve the finance report with a second from Dan. The motion passed.

**Committee Updates:** Matt shared that SPRC would be working on pastor review. There will be a charge conference scheduled in November before the next church council meeting to approve pastoral compensation. Karla added some comments about the process.

**Calendaring:** November 7 is All Saints Sunday. November 14 is Commitment Sunday and members were sent a letter and commitment card last week. Jeanette Phillips will make cinnamon rolls and members will be invited to stay for the MCCI town hall meeting. November 22 - need team for loading & praying over OCC boxes. Carols by Candlelight will be on a Wednesday night in December. Children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 19. Three Christmas Eve Services with live stream of one or two of the services.

**Visioning:**

Short term – There has been positive feedback about the one worship service – the music, the children's message. We are not quite to the place of needing to add an additional worship service. We will begin singing this Sunday and will be adding new music in the coming months.

Long term – MCCI Sanctuary and Facilities team is preparing for the meeting November 14.

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman