

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:13 p.m.**

Present: Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Michelle Behsman, Kerry Rausch, Barb Keith, Stacy Vanderwerf and Paulette Adams.

Don opened with prayer.

Minutes: Barb made a motion to approve the minutes from January with a second from Stacy. The motion carried.

Finance: Michelle provided a report of January finances - general giving was \$20,817.65. Other income received was \$125,436.53 for Capital Campaign. Expenses were \$25,063.54 and the net income was -\$4,245.28. We did pay for church insurance for the year in January, which was \$6,822.00. This is primary reason for negative net and it will balance out in the coming months. Working general fund balance at the end of December was \$50,378.21. A motion was made by Kerry to approve the finance report with a second from Paulette. The motion carried.

Capital Campaign/ MCCI facilities/Brunton contract: Don had sent out the contract with Brunton via email and all council members approved. Don had explained that we have an opportunity to apply for a builder's grant again this year and the application does ask for formal council approval of the construction project. Council had previously empowered the building group authority to approve the project and they did, which includes only renovation of the sanctuary at this time. Once Brunton receives the signed contract, they will begin receiving bids from various sub-contractors. The hope is that construction will begin after Easter, sometime in April. The AIA contract between owner and Construction Manager as Constructor was approved online by Church Council members Paulette, Stacy, Kerry, Karla, Derrick, Barb, Matt, and Don from February 13-14. This approves the renovation project of the sanctuary. Don will deliver the signed document to Brunton Construction LLC on February 16.

Church photo directory: There was a brief discussion about the need for updated photos or a pictorial directory. There was a general consensus that it is nice to have pictures of members, but Don noted that Lifetouch no longer provides this service. Council talked about having members send in their own digital picture or setting up a backdrop and taking photos before and after worship on Sundays and perhaps on Wednesday evenings.

Summer worship discussion: With construction beginning on the sanctuary remodel as soon as April, there is an opportunity to worship in different locations throughout the summer. Worship will primarily be in the fellowship hall, and possibly outdoors, weather permitting. Pastor Matt had asked in an email for suggestions for alternate locations for worship. Generally, it was agreed that Hilltop is the most convenient and expected place for worship, but that it could be fun to worship in a different place a couple of times throughout the summer. Some suggestions were Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm in Waseca, the Eagle Lake Picnic Shelter, the Birr family farm and Bray Park. Michelle agreed to look at availability and have information at the next council meeting.

Calendaring:

- a. Feb. 18—Pastor Matt gone, Katie Menne preaching
- b. Mar. 10 and 17—Pastor Matt gone, Greg Ciesluk preaching
- c. Mar. 15-17—Youth Ski Trip or alternative activity
- d. Mar. 24—Palm Sunday
- e. Mar. 23—Trustee Spring clean-up day
- e. Mar. 29—Good Friday—Mankato/North Mankato United Methodist joint service at Centenary UMC
- f. Mar. 31—Easter Sunday

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm. Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman