

Hilltop United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 19, 2015, 7:30 pm

Present: Pastor Fred, EJ Scharmer, Rolly Utzinger, Paulette Adams, Jeff Adams, Herb Fast, Don Putzier, Eric Mundt, Heather Gowanlock, Paulette Booker, Kerry Rausch, JoAnn Hutchinson, Michelle Behsman, Andrew Bittner, Peggy Phelps, John Phelps.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Adams. Jeff shared a reading of the ISIS beheading and a Christian reaction of forgiveness and opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Following review, a motion was made by Paulette Booker to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015 Ad Council meeting, JoAnn Hutchinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report :

- Fred reminded the council that the Leadership Retreat, taking place on Saturday the 21st, was where they would work on the "big picture" stuff that drives our work. He mentioned that at the retreat they would discuss pastoral transition, boundaries, pastoral care, and increasing leadership.
- Fred will be at Asbury March 8-14th for research, writing, and recruitment. Neil Westby will be the pastor on call that week. District Superintendent Phil Strom will be preaching on March 15th.
- Kevin Schroeder wants to host a Pancake Brunch on March 8th with a freewill offering benefitting the Men's Softball Team and the Women's Retreat. This would be in place of the monthly mission potluck. Fred made a motion to approve this event, Andrew Bittner seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Pork Feed will be held on April 18th and the committee would like to use the proceeds to prepare the parsonage for the new pastor. A motion was made by Fred to approve this action with a second from JoAnn. Jeff called for discussion and Paulette Adams noted our previous practice of advertising events as supporting a mission. Heather stated that UMCOR was the mission focus April-June. Paulette amended the motion to state that 10% of Pork Feed proceeds be designated for UMCOR. Eric Mundt seconded the amendment. Motion was amended. Motion carried.
- In light of Fred's appointment, he proposed that the current confirmation students be confirmed on June 7th.
- Students of the Korean Fellowship of Mankato will share praise music on Sunday, March 1st and will be selling cupcakes in the Narthex to help fund their mission trip.

Trustees Report: Eric Mundt reported that the trustees will work on a 5 year plan for landscaping. Mark and Diane Daby would like to pass the janitorial duties to Aaron and Kendra. Discussion followed with Don Putzier asking about SPRC involvement. Fred noted that Aaron works with Mark and Diane in the family cleaning business and has previously cleaned the church in Mark and Diane's absence. John Phelps suggested that the position be posted to ensure equal employment opportunity and agreed to post an advertisement.

Finance Report: JoAnn Hutchinson noted that the apportionment total was higher than the projected monthly budget and said that Michelle Behsman would check on this. She stated that \$1000.00 will be moved to the Youth group account, as budgeted. \$2,500.00 will be moved to the Increase Fund on a monthly basis, as budgeted. The funds for the Ministry Candidate have not been requested yet. Fred said that he had encouraged JJ Morgan to apply for those funds. JoAnn noted that the amount received for District Reimbursement for the Adm. Asst. position included payment for both the fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015. JoAnn explained that the MN Annual Conference contracted with Hilltop for the District Admin. position and will pay the same amount at the beginning of each quarter. JoAnn praised Hilltop for its faithful giving noting that over the past two years the parking lot had been paid for, the sanctuary loan had been paid, and over \$30,000.00 had been set aside for future building needs, all without taking out a loan. She also shared that over the years 2011-2014, giving had increased an average of \$4000.00 a month. Peggy Phelps made a motion to approve the finance report. Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Evangelism: Peggy Phelps reported that Evangelism met and welcomed new member, Bob Anderson. They reviewed past activities. Nametags were discussed and Barb Keith felt that better communication was needed to help increase the use of nametags. It was suggested that a note about the nametags should be in the Echoes newsletter. Also, nametags are to be used on potluck Sunday only. The team also discussed their need to be in the Narthex on Sunday greeting people. Don Putzier added that the Walk to Emmaus was now offering a \$50 Early Bird Discount.

Mission: Heather Gowanlock reported that the birdhouse painting went so well that they ran out of birdhouses. She also reminded council that Hilltop was serving the noon meal at the Salvation Army on Sunday, Feb. 22 and would be serving again on May 31. The mission focus for April-June is UMCOR and the team was planning to ask for donations to make health and school kits with a family day to help assemble the kits.

Education: Fred mentioned that Jocelin Reynolds had been nominated to chair Education, replacing Karin Gavin.

Worship: Paulette Booker reported that the current worship experience is good, but the team wants to focus on how to make it better. On March 15 the team will visit other churches. They are also looking for feedback on the likes/dislikes of Hilltop worship. They discussed working with Evangelism on greeting.

Youth: EJ praised the youth that helped with the Ash Wednesday service. She said that there had been working on scripture lately and had great questions from the youth. She spoke of upcoming events: the Youth Leader Summit that her and Daniel will be attending and the Acquire the Fire event with the youth. To encourage the future faith walk of the youth, EJ has invited a couple of campus ministry leaders to speak about campus ministry on a future youth group night.

Technology: Don Putzier reported that the new handheld wireless mic is now available for use in the sanctuary. He noted that Easy Worship 6 software has a steep learning curve and he will offer training before fully implemented. The 2009 Easy Worship is still useable and can co-exist with the new version. Aaron Daby will assist Michelle with the installation of Carbonite backup system on church computers.

Old Business: John Phelps reported that input from the Connect Group hosts who were 2-3 weeks into the semester was positive. Jeff added that the connection being made amongst attendees was valuable. John also noted that value of being able to invite new visitors to Connect Groups that are being held during worship services.

New Business: Jeff shared that as we do not know who the next pastor will be, it is an unknown variable which in an equation could be called "x". He asked that we pray for "x" and while we do not know the value of "x", God in his infinite wisdom does know the value of "x". We prayed for our new pastor and their family and for the current and future DS.

Next Meeting/Adjournment: The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Pastor Fred closed with prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Michelle Behsman
Administrative Assistant