

**Hilltop United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present via video conference:** Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Kerry Rausch, Paulette Adams, Stacy Vanderwerf, Jocelin Maine, Mark Wright, Karla Lassonde, and Michelle Behsman.

Don Putzier opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

**Approval of minutes:** Church council reviewed the minutes from October. Stacy made a motion to approve minutes, with a second by Derrick. Motion passed.

**Bible Study:** Pastor Matt asked the council to think about the titles of Jesus, in particular "king". Sunday's sermon is based on Matthew 2:1-5, John 18:33-38, and Revelation 19:11-16.

**Calendaring:** Advent Boxes were delivered and Operation Christmas Child has wrapped up. The Annual Charge Conference will take place Dec. 1. The Carols by Candlelight service will premiere Tue., Dec 8th at 7pm. Hilltop is sharing five worship songs with the MN Annual Conference. Hilltop will be featured in the Dec. 3 MN Connect e-newsletter. Christmas Eve worship will be Thurs., Dec. 24 at 4:30pm.

**Finance Report:** Mark Wright reported that we are in good financial shape through October. Expenses are less than what we are taking in donations. He is unsure of the budget process for 2021 due to COVID-19, but he recommends adopting a budget almost similar to the budget for 2020. Finance will present formal budget at December council meeting. Mark anticipates plate giving to run about \$25,000 less in 2021.

**COVID-19 Update:** There are new recommendations from the Governor and the MN Annual Conference. Matt suggested closing through May 9, 2021, as he believes there is comfort in knowing what to expect. It is better to be certain with the Easter worship. Matt made a motion to plan to resume in-person worship on May 9, 2021, with the understanding that if the situation changes we could resume earlier. There was a second from Karla. None opposed, one abstained. The motion passed. Matt shared on online COVID-19 risk assessment tool. There was discussion about other ministry groups meeting at the church. Paulette had discussed postponing Monday's video group until we return to the orange phase or may try to meet online. The Men's Morning Risers suspended their group meeting. Matt made a motion to suspend all small group meetings during the red phase. There was a second from Kerry. Motion passed. The Drive thru communion service scheduled for Dec. 6 was discussed and it was agreed that this could be done safely and will continue as planned.

**Committee Updates:**

SPRC met this week for pastoral review and staffing discussions. The discussed how we position our church for the future.

**Visioning:** Area clergy joined together to make a statement about racism. There is a proposal to identify as an anti-racism place of worship. Matt asked if anyone would like to be involved in crafting a statement. Matt shared some ideas for Lent and Easter: a text devotional during Lent, a palm branch parade, a virtual choir for Easter, a Good Friday prayer vigil.

**MCCI Updates:**

Don shared that the Sanctuary team met with three architectural firms this past month. Follow-up meetings with presentations by architects will take place in December.

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman