

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present via video conference: Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Darrin Galinat, Paulette Adams, Kerry Rausch, Stacy Vanderwerf, Rob Cornelius, and Michelle Behsman.

Don Putzier opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of minutes: Church council reviewed the minutes from August. Rob made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Stacy. The motion passed. There were no additions to the agenda. Kerry made a motion to approve the agenda, Rob 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. After discussion, council approved of covering the shipping cost for the boxes collected from Hilltop members.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt shared scripture from the first chapter of Joshua, when God provided instruction to Joshua after Moses died. Matt said that this passage provided encouragement to stay on track in these challenging times. What do we have to do to have courage and strength?

Finance Report: Rob provided a report of June finances. Plate giving in August was \$18,337.66. Total income for August was \$18,939.52. Expenses were \$19,086.39. Net income was -\$146.87. A look at the YTD income and expense does show a net of over \$5,000. A review and comparison to seven year average shows that giving is strong and we are in line to meet budget goals. Matt shared that we have much to celebrate for all that God has provided. Kerry made a motion to approve the finance report with a second from Matt. The motion passed.

Committee Updates: Darrin reported that the trustees cleaned out the garage. Jocelin provided a report of youth activities via email, reporting that the kids were very excited to be together. They reflected on Hebrews 10:23-34 and were asked what RISE means to each of them. They collectively developed this purpose statement: "This year RISE Youth will continue to work on building those **friendships**, strengthening their **faith, fellowship** with one another, having **fun** together...because we are **family**". Jocelin specifically requested that council consider approving of serving a meal for the youth on Wednesday nights. Matt gave an overview of safety protocols that can be implemented and asked council for input. There was a general consensus that we do not want to lose kids because of not serving a meal.

Calendaring: Kerry reminded the council that there is a blood drive at Hilltop on November 12. Confirmation Sunday will be October 3 and there is some concern about having a full sanctuary that day. Connect Groups are starting the first week of October. Matt will be highlighting the Connect Card process (paper and electronic) each Sunday. Prayer Partners is launching the first of October. November 14 is Commitment Sunday and members will receive a letter and commitment card by mail in October. Following worship that day there will be a town hall to discuss the work completed by the MCCI Sanctuary and Facilities Team with Brunton Architects.

Visioning:

Short term – Matt provided feedback on Rally Sunday and overall he felt that the service went very well. He received several positive comments from members about the worship service. The question is when will it feel right to move to two services – council will revisit this discussion in October.

Long term – MCCI Sanctuary and Facilities team meet earlier this week and Don said the group was embracing God's vision for Hilltop. He said they will meet in smaller groups in the coming months to discuss how we can embrace this vision. They will also be thinking on how to share this work with the congregation on November 14.

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman