

## **Hilltop United Methodist Church**

### **Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Allison Bass, Paulette Adams, Stacy Vanderwerf, Don Putzier, Onalee Green, Kerry Rausch, and John Phelps (via telephone)

**Approval of Minutes:** Don Putzier moved, seconded by Stacy Vanderwerf, to approve the October 2019 Church Council Minutes. Motion carried.

**Devotional:** The song "Yes I Will" was played for the devotional.

**Leadership Focus Question:** This month's leadership focus question is, "What have I done in this past month to deepen our own faith?" Council members shared the following: attend District Day Leadership Breakout sessions, mentor/coach by going to older members for advice, succession planning, leadership development, watching Operation Christmas Child videos, doing the Jonah Bible Study is making the Bible real, looking back and being able to connect the dots where God has been active in my life. Next month's leadership focus question will be: What do I/we need to do in the next month to be more outward/outreach focused?

**Leadership Covenant:** Council members were asked to review draft covenant for the December Church Council meeting which Don Putzier will email to members.

**Church Council Update:** Allison Bass stated that as of January 1, 2020 she will be stepping down as Church Council Chair due to family and personal life.

**Calendaring:** There will be three Christmas Eve services - 1:30, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. The Children's Christmas program - Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m., Christmas Festival -December 7 from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m., Operation Christmas Child is taking place now, and Christmas Cookie Delivery will be December 24, 2019. Walk to Emmaus – Men's Walk January 16-19 and Women's Walk January 23-26, 2020. Council members were encouraged to invite people to attend the Walks.

**Finance Report:** Mark Wright presented the October financial report stating that plate giving is strong and he estimates giving for 2019 will be around \$282,000-\$290,000. Operational spending is under budget mainly due to staffing and budget cuts. It is anticipated that revenue and expenditures for 2019 should break close to even. 2020 budgeting is slow to start and will be worked on in December. Church Council members were asked to base budget requests on actual need. The funding of capital improvement initiatives has yet to be funded for 2019. October revenue was \$25,748.69 and expenditures were \$21,175.49. Don Putzier moved, seconded by Stacy Vanderwerf, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Pastor Matt Sipe's 2020 compensation package was approved at the November 16, 2019 District Day Charge Conference. Compensation for newly appointed pastors typically remains the same for the first 18 months. Council members asked if the church will be receiving any reimbursement in 2020 for the increase in pastoral wages. Michelle Behsman would be the best person to ask about this.

**Committee Reports:** Committee reports were emailed in advance of the meeting and there were no questions related to those reports.

Don Putzier stated that as Lay Delegate, he will be communicating the *Living into Our Inclusive Vision* plan, which was adopted at the Annual Conference session last June. Don will email this to the church council. The Bishop is encouraging churches to talk about this plan within our congregation and Don would like for the council to pray about this adopted vision.

John Phelps reported for SPRC stating that the committee will be meeting with Pastor Matt in December regarding staff wages.

John Phelps reported for the Wesley Foundation stating that Kristina (Tina) Mari has been hired to fill the Campus Ministry position and will start November 18, 2019. Karla Lassonde has been coordinating meals and Jeff Adam stepped in for the interim. Tina was an elementary teacher and is the owner of a music studio in Eagle Lake. It was also stated that the Christmas Eve plate giving will be given to the Wesley Foundation. Members of the finance committee expressed concerns with gifting the entire Christmas Eve offering and will speak with Pastor Matt directly.

Stacy Vanderwerf closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Rausch