

Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Matt Sipe, Karla Lassonde, Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Michelle Behsman and Paulette Adams.

Don opened with prayer.

Minutes: Derrick moved to approve the minutes from July with a second from Paulette. The motion carried.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt began a devotional based on the scripture of John 15: 1-12, which speaks of Jesus as the true vine. What is Jesus really talking about in this passage and what does he mean by abide in me? Discussion followed including the meaning of abide. It was agreed that it denotes an intimacy, as the MSG version speaks of abide in this way, "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you."

Finance Report: Michelle provided a report of July finances. General giving was \$22,528.00 with total income of \$23,093.00. Expenses were \$20,984.30 and the net income was \$2,108.70. Working general fund balance at the end of July was \$43,429.82. General YTD giving is strong. A motion was made by Matt to approve the finance report with a second from Derrick. The motion carried.

Committee Updates: Derrick shared the trustee report: upper windows and framing in fellowship hall recently replaced. There are plans to remove most of conifers on the west side of the property, as some are dead and others have grown beyond the property line. The trustees will finish the work of moving the church office this weekend. There are some wall cabinets yet to be installed.

Calendaring:

- a. Aug 30 - Hilltop Carnival
- b. Choir practice resumes Sept. 6
- c. Fall schedule - Resumes Sept. 10 with two services: 9:00 am and 10:30 am; Wednesday programming begins Sept. 13
- d. Fall Connect Groups begin Sept. 17
- e. Oct. 26 to 29 - Men's Walk to Emmaus, Fairmont
- f. Nov. 2 to 5 - Women's Walk to Emmaus, Fairmont

Capital Campaign and MCCI facility update: Matt provided a capital campaign update and shared the theme, "Honor the past - hope for the future." There is a campaign prayer that will be shared on bookmarks and we will pray each day at 1:08 pm. Official launch is September 17. There was a meeting with architects this week and floor plan is almost formalized. The capital campaign team is excited and ready to go – team is led by John Harrington and includes Paulette Adams, Shanna Blomquist, Darrin Galinat, Burl Maker, Jeanette Phillips, and Steph Putzier.

Additional comments: Don noted that there will be a special session annual conference on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 pm. This virtual Annual Conference Session will be to vote on disaffiliations for congregations that did not meet the deadlines for the June Conference. Don and Pastor Matt plan to watch online.

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman