

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 at 6:35 p.m.**

Present: Jeff Adams, Allison Bass, Shannon McCuaig, Terry Berg, Paulette Booker, Bob Berg, Kent Bass, Kari Juni, Kerry Rausch, Judy Argetsinger, Rhonda Friesen, Stacy Vanderwerf, Margaret Beaty, Michelle Behsman.

Jeff Adams called the meeting to order and opened with a devotional and prayer. Jeff called for a motion to affirm the vision of the founders of Hilltop and the United Methodist Church. The statement of affirmation is as follows: The Administrative Council of Hilltop United Methodist Church affirms the vision of the Founders of our congregation, as reflected in the mission statement of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, that it is the purpose of Hilltop United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Kerry Rausch made a motion to adopt the affirmation. Kari Juni seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: After reviewing the minutes Bob Berg made a motion to approve the minutes and Karen Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Upward Team: Paulette Booker reported that the team will meet Sunday, Oct. 1st after the 10:30 worship service. She praised the artistic illustration team for the awesome job they did creating a photo booth for confirmation.

Inward Team: Stacy Vanderwerf reported that registration has begun for fall Connect Groups and the Connect Academy.

Outward Team: Shannon McCuaig reported that the team is working on narrowing their focus to fewer mission organizations in order to invest more heavily in those needs. The team delivered school supplies to Kennedy Elementary and the school was very grateful for our support. Shannon also mentioned that Hilltop will be serving the Salvation Army noon meal on Sunday, Oct. 1st.

Trustees: Bob Berg reported that the trustees have completed several projects in the last month: installing automatic sprinkler system in the garden by the entryway, radon remediation at the parsonage, installing a projection screen in the conference room, ordered 50 more padded folding chairs, and had the carpets cleaned (sanctuary, narthex, fellowship hall, and Sunday school room). They plan to install air conditioners in the west rooms next spring. They are looking for volunteers to help remove a dead tree at the parsonage.

Finance: Kerry presented the August finance report – the year to date revenue is \$266,825.11 and year-to-date expenses are \$251,715.04 with an ending checking balance of \$60,304.14. Working general fund balance is \$30,979.61. Kerry reported that she and Kelly had met to discuss allocation of the increase funds that have been set aside for staffing. It is recommended that staffing be no more than 50% of the budget and currently Hilltop's budget for staffing is 60% of the total budget. Kelly suggested that the 10% difference be supplemented with dollars from the increase fund and finance felt that this was a responsible use of the funds. Paulette Booker moved to accept the finance report and Bob Berg seconded. Motion carried.

SPRC: Kari Juni reported that the SPRC interviewed a candidate for Children's ministry/Nursery Coordinator last week and they have another interview scheduled next week. SPRC is also planning for annual staff and pastor evaluation.

Parish Nurse: Judy Argetsinger reported that the first aid kit has been stocked and the AED battery replaced. She has scheduled a blood drive for Thursday, October 5th.

Endowment: Jeff Adams shared a report sent by John Phelps. The Education and Leadership Development Endowment is currently valued at \$32,455.90. The fund started at \$23,644.57 in 2014. The Property Endowment is currently valued at \$17,568.05. The fund started at \$15,000 in 2014.

Technology: Jeff Adams read Don Putzier's report. The new version of Easy Worship is now being used and Don asks for patience as people learn the new software. In the future, we may still move to Proclaim. Last month, Ad Council approved an audio upgrade with the total cost of the project \$17,398.23. Donations to the tech fund are welcome, and another option which Pastor Kelly suggested was to provide people with a special tech fund option combined in the 2018 pledge drive. This would also allow for gradual accumulation in an ongoing tech fund as outlined in the technology proposed budget. Don is hoping we can still receive enough donations (50% of the cost of the project) in the next 30 days to allow us to move ahead with scheduling the audio upgrades.

New Business: Paulette Booker gave an overview of the Higher Education Action Team grant that requests \$3000 in funding for campus ministry programming. She shared that there were other grants available for future funding of campus ministry. Allison Bass made a motion to approve the grant submission and Judy Argetsinger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Karen Frydendall provided a member at large report. She said that a contingent of members who worship at the 9:00 am service had gathered a week prior to share in conversation their reactions and feelings concerning the changes in the worship service. Karen summarized the outcome of the meeting before sharing with the council a signed letter from some of the members present at that meeting. She said the benefit of the meeting was simply getting together to talk and that the consensus was that those gathered no longer felt that they were a part of Hilltop – that they felt forgotten, ignored, disrespected, and pushed aside. The signed letter also indicated this feeling of being socially cutoff due to lack of communication and not being involved in decision making. The letter requested that the first service remain strictly traditional and include preferred elements (familiar traditional hymns, organ, choir, special music by members and the volunteer praise band) that the group felt had been excluded. The letter also mentioned that the noise and activity level in the narthex at the end of the service was distracting and interfered with the benediction. It was suggested that the worship service be changed to 8:30 am or move fellowship to the fellowship hall.

Kari Juni stated that she has relied on scripture to guide her during this difficult time of transition and read from James 1:19, *"Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry."* Kari acknowledged that the roll out of the worship changes could have been better and she has apologized for this several times and apologized once again. She stressed the importance of practicing biblical conversations as Jesus has instructed – that concerns should first be discussed one on one with the person with whom you have a disagreement. Kari has been discouraged to see hateful words being directed at leadership and she stated that words should be used to build people up. She is concerned to see negativity lingering and suggested that individuals need to offer and seek forgiveness.

Jeff Adams expressed his disappointment that the reason the 9:00 am worship had been restored to traditional was solely because there had been one insult too many. He shared that the leadership were in agreement that the worship band should not be subjected to hostility and rude insults. Jeff called for a motion to make a formal apology to the worship band. Karen Frydendall made the motion and Judy Argetsinger seconded the motion. The motion carried. There was more discussion about how to move forward in healing and it was suggested that there be a service of forgiveness.

Jeff closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Behsman