

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present via video conference: Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Derrick Galinat, Karla Lassonde, Paulette Adams, Jocelin Maine, and Rob Cornelius.

Don Putzier opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of minutes: Church council reviewed the minutes from May. Jocelin made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Derrick. The motion passed. There were no additions to the agenda. Paulette made a motion to approve the agenda, Matt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bible Study: Pastor Matt shared scripture from James 1:19-27, which is the basis for the June 20 message. Matt spoke on how James helps us turn our faith into action. He has noticed how there are Christians that will use anger to justify beliefs, but this text points us to the importance of listening and teaches us that anger does not produce God's righteousness. There was discussion about what true empathy looks like - that it is *working* to understanding other's beliefs.

Finance Report: Rob Cornelius provided a report of May finances. May plate giving was \$18,060.66 Expenses were \$17,800.28. Net income was \$610.70. Rob stated that giving was a bit behind compared to the 7 year average (2014-20), but an even greater reduction in expenses is keeping us about even. Jocelin made a motion to approve the finance report with a second from Derrick. The motion passed.

Committee Updates: No reports.

Visioning: Matt provided a brief update on present worship experience. The worship and music schedule is set for the remaining eight summer worship services. Connect Circle caretakers have checked in on members and invited members to come to outdoor worship if they haven't yet returned to worship. There has been positive feedback on outdoor worship and weather has been favorable.

Visioning for fall schedule began with the topic of how do we gather in the fall? How many services do we offer and at what time? Do we offer one big service with more people or two services with different styles and fewer people? Matt suggested we continue a dedicated online service rather than streaming the in-person because we lose intimacy and the feel of participation when the message is delivered to those present rather than speaking directly to the camera/online audience. The online service needs to focus on the first time guest. Matt also thought it might be best to do the online and in person back to back, considering the time commitment for worship band and musicians. Don did not think that would be a problem for the tech team to begin live stream at 8:00 am.

Tentative Plan:

Step 1 – beginning after Labor Day, 8:00 am live stream, 9:30 am in person contemporary worship service, 10:45 am Sunday school.

Step 2 - add a second service at 11:00 am, once the 9:30 am becomes full.

Priorities:

1. If we are going to reach new families in Mankato and continue to reach the next generation, having contemporary worship and thriving Sunday school is key!
2. Make as few changes as possible to the start time of worship services.

Matt called on council members to pray about fall scheduling and worship times and said that we should confirm plans at next council meeting. There was discussion on the recording location of the live-stream service, as the sanctuary may be needed by choir and musicians for warm up.

MCCI update from Don: Sanctuary team is meeting with architects on July 19 and all council are invited to attend.

The July 15 council meeting will be in person with a BlueJeans option.

Karla closed in prayer, specifically asking for prayers for Nora who will be in surgery on Friday for ACL repair. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman