

**Hilltop United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present via video conference:** Matt Sipe, Don Putzier, Kerry Rausch, Paulette Adams, Stacy Vanderwerf, Jocelin Maine, Karla Lassonde, and Michelle Behsman.

Don Putzier opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

**Approval of minutes:** Church council reviewed the minutes from November. Stacy made a motion to approve minutes, with a second by Kerry. Motion passed. No additions to the agenda.

**Bible Study:** Pastor Matt shared a devotion from Melissa Kruger.

**Finance Report:** Matt presented the 2021 budget for approval. He reiterated that we are essentially using the 2020 budget with a few minor changes in staffing and trustees. Matt made a motion to approve the budget. Karla seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Committee Updates:** Jocelin reported that 31 youth participated in a virtual Christmas gathering last night and it was awesome. The youth continue to meet every other week. Matt reported that the Connect Circle ministry is starting to come together and will be launched in the beginning of the new year.

**Visioning:** Matt reported that his clergy covenant is putting together an experiential Ash Wednesday worship service to be shared. The sermon series in January up until Lent will be based on Galatians and the idea of freedom. The Lenten series, "Lo-fi" will be about how God uses our brokenness for his purposes. Matt asked if anyone would like to be involved in crafting a statement. Other ideas for Lent and Easter: a palm branch auto parade, drive-thru communion event for Maundy Thursday, a Good Friday self-guided stations of the cross, drive-thru for Easter Sunday. There was agreement that having events during Holy Week would be good. Matt referred to the article that he sent from Carey Nieuwhof about tempering expectations for returning to normal. He suggested that council begin thinking about worship times and styles for when we reopen. There was discussion about how small groups and youth group will return to in-person based on state, conference, and school district recommendations.

**MCCI Updates:**

Don reported that the Sanctuary team will meet on Monday, Dec. 21 to make a decision about contracting with an architectural firm.

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman