

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Jeff Adams, Wayne Baumgartner, Bob Berg, Paulette Booker, Shannon McCuaig, Karen Frydendall, Kelly McCuaig, Paulette Adams, Allison Bass, Don Putzier, Michelle Behsman and Kerry Rausch.

Jeff called the meeting to order with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: After reviewing the minutes Karen Frydendall asked to amend the minutes by adding to the New Business that she had been told that the use of trailers had been considered as an option for more space. Jeff Adams made a motion to amend the minutes and Kerry Rausch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Allison Bass made a motion to approve the amended June Ad Council minutes and Karen seconded. The motion carried.

Visioning: Pastor Kelly shared that he had been thinking about the Annual Conference session and that one particular Acts 2 talk resonated with him. He played the video of Cullen Tanner's talk about failure.

Kelly spoke about plans for the coming year, our "Journey to 150" and the celebration of our 150th Anniversary next October 2018.

Committee Reports

Upward Team: The team will meet on Sunday, July 30th to discuss its evolving role in evaluating worship services, supporting Pastors Kelly and Ashley in their ministries, and coordinating the visual illustration of worship themes.

Outward Team: Shannon reported that the team will meet on Sunday, July 30th.

Trustees: Bob Berg reported that various projects had been completed: the parsonage garage interior painted and storage shelves installed, the prayer garden pavers and plantings completed, and a new lock on the Associate Pastor's office.

Members of the trustees and technology met via video conferencing with Laura Miles from the MN Annual Conference to clarify the proposal to use Hilltop as a video conferencing center. Bob said that the questions they had about responsibility of cost and usage were answered. The MN Annual Conference would be responsible for all costs incurred in installing the high speed internet and video conferencing equipment. They anticipate using the sanctuary for larger training events twice a year and would be flexible with our schedule. We would have at least six month notice in scheduling such events. They would also cover additional cost of hospitality and janitorial for these events. There would be a portable system that could be set up in the smaller rooms for district/conference business which we primarily be used by the District Superintendent. There was some discussion and questions about the specifics of how this equipment would be used. The trustees agreed that this was a good opportunity for Hilltop, being a leading church in the district, and while they were concerned about losing "Hilltop" space they felt that this would not impact our scheduling/space needs. Bob Berg made a motion to accept the proposal from MAC to become a video conferencing center. Karen Frydendall seconded. In a call for discussion it was asked whether this would impact Michelle's duties in the office to which Michelle responded that the training events would not be her responsibility. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Finance: Kerry Rausch reported that she had met with Kelly to discuss budget processing for 2018. Since Harvest Home Dinner will be held at the end of October, she is glad that finance can present a budget that will be based on actual pledges. Kerry presented the June finance report – the year to date revenue is \$208,197.47 and year-to-date expenses are \$180,590.40 with an ending checking balance of

\$67,049.59. Allison Bass moved to approve the finance report and Paulette Booker seconded. Motion carried

Kids Connection: Kelly reported that he and Jocelin had met and she will be stepping down as Coordinator, but plans to stay involved in Kids Connection. They have a couple of leads on filling the position. They also discussed plans for the coming year and talked about the need to try something new. They discussed the idea of having the kids involved in worship then transitioning to a learning opportunity during the sermon.

Youth/Campus: Ashley was in the building meeting with the youth, but she did share a detailed report of her current goals and the actions she is taking to strengthen and develop our discipleship process for youth and young adults.

For our youth, she is actively seeking to:

- Establish and develop relationships with current middle and high schoolers and their parents as well as those who have stopped participating in the life of Hilltop UMC.
- Identify, recruit, and train men and women of faith to serve as mentors to our youth within the context of small group ministry.
- Research and plan for meeting the discipleship needs of our middle and high school students via intentionally selected topics for teaching and discussion, outings and events, as well as local and statewide missional engagement options.
- Create ample and varied opportunities for youth, their parents, and the larger Hilltop family to garner pivotal information surrounding upcoming topics for teaching and discussion, outings and events, as well as local and statewide missional engagement options.

For our young adults, she is actively seeking to:

- Establish and develop relationships with those undergraduate and graduate students as well as Minnesota State University faculty and staff members with whom the Hilltop community is already connected.
- Connect with new and current students and also various faculty and staff on MSU's campus by capitalizing upon previously established relational connections as well as strategically placing herself within their public gathering spaces, to include the on-campus student union as well as local coffee shops and restaurants near campus.
- Identify and recruit men and women with a passion for supporting campus ministry; these persons would participate in reaching college students on and near MSU's Mankato campus by serving as a committed board member of the Wesley Foundation at MSU and/or a mentor to our young adults.
- Research the step-by-step process required for becoming a registered student organization on the Minnesota State University Mankato campus as well as a recognized Wesley Foundation in full connection with the United Methodist Church.
- Uncover the specific discipleship needs and opportunities of Minnesota State University's undergraduate and graduate students by making connections with new and returning students, faculty, and staff as well as preexisting on- and off-campus ministries and religious student organizations.

Brief breakdown of what's happening in the coming weeks:

- Confirmation Trip. Our group of eighteen (7 youth + 11 adults) will be partnering with the staff of KoWaKan Adventures to canoe the boundary waters during our confirmation retreat. We'll depart on July 28th and return on August 1st.
- End of Summer Bash. We'll grill out, play yard games, and perhaps enjoy a few other little surprises along the way. More than simply a chance to gather as a group outside of church, this

is a chance for Ashley to continue forming pivotal relationships with our youth, young adults, and the whole of our Hilltop family!

- Mentoring Workshop. She is in the process of discovering who within our community is gifted with a passion for loving on and perhaps ministering to our youth and/or college students. No matter a person's age, occupational experience, and spiritual training, all who long to participate in Kingdom work through youth and/or college ministry are invited to attend a Mentoring Workshop to be held on Saturday, August 19. Here we will learn how we have each been gifted for the work of ministry, what it might look like to serve in one or more of these discipleship opportunities, and how we might live out our faith through a mentoring relationship. More information to come...
- Welcoming MSU. Move-in weekend for MSU's residence halls is August 26-28th. In an effort to participate in God's work of welcoming His children into arms of grace, she is actively seeking to gather a group of Hilltoppers to assist her in welcoming students to campus (and the greater Mankato area) that weekend!

Technology: Don reported that a new tech booth computer will be installed by Sim Sound the week of August 1st with its appropriate connections and interfaces. Thanks to Josh and Jeff Adams for obtaining the new computer.

Easy Worship 2009 has outlived its use, so Easy Worship 6 is loaded on the new computer and should have a minimal learning curve for set up and operation. He is exploring Proclaim, a worship software used by Ashley and Cody Swoboda in Lake Crystal, which may have advantages over Easy Worship. This program integrates with the Planning Center, which is the software our church is using to put together elements for our weekly services, links to music, documents, presentations, etc. We will continue to evaluate this over the next few months as an option.

Aaron Daby has a proposal for upgrading our wireless system in the church for roughly \$850.00. Don recommended very strongly that the church upgrade the system now so that great access will be available throughout the church, especially with Sunday school programs coming.

We have some options for sanctuary audio upgrades, including new sanctuary speakers and a new sound board, which will greatly improve the quality of sound, as our current system is 21 years old. The cost is high for this next step, and Don asked for ideas on budgeting or fundraising.

Jeff made a motion approve the \$850.00 wifi upgrade using trustee funds leftover from black dirt used on the parking lot project. It was also suggested that the new wifi not require a password for guests. Kerry Rausch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business: Karen Frydendall asked why the worship attendance was no longer in the bulletin. Michelle responded that there simply was no room in the bulletin to print these each week and while the newsletter typically has this information it sometimes is cut to make room for other articles. Kelly said that we will endeavor to print these stats in the monthly newsletter but reminded the Ad Council that numbers are not why we gather together on a Sunday.

Paulette Adams added concern about the lack of communication to the congregation about the potential outcome of efforts to reach college students. She thought perhaps we have not prepared are members for a possible influx of college students at Sunday morning worship. Kelly said that Ashley will be talking about this in upcoming sermons and she is also hosting a mentor workshop that intends to help us welcome college students.

On the topic of communication, Karen asked that we be mindful of those who did not use email.

Allison Bass moved to adjourn and Bob Berg seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Behsman