

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

Don Putzier opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Bible Study: Pastor Matt shared scripture from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 5, about Jesus calling Levi into ministry. Matt relates this story of making disciples to our mission at Hilltop and Jesus' command to reach new people. He talked about how we don't easily connect to those who are unchurched. It is a challenge that Jesus bridged easily. He did not let anything get in the way when reaching people who needed to hear his message of peace and grace. How do we get ready for our "relaunch" this fall? How do we reach people for Jesus?

Finance Report: Michelle provided a report of June finances. Plate giving in June was \$34,295.49. Expenses were \$20,284.40. Net income was \$15,109.45. Michelle provided a brief overview of YTD comparisons on income and expense to previous years which indicated financial health. Kerry made a motion to approve the finance report with a second from Derrick. The motion passed.

Committee Updates: Jocelin expressed gratitude for being able to gather the youth group for an overnight lock in last weekend.

Visioning: Don referred to Matt's earlier email about ideas for the fall worship schedule and said that now is the time to decide how we will enter into fall. Matt shared his new thoughts on a digital only service and felt that we can live-stream the in person worship and it will be effective and allow us to focus on other important ministries, like youth and children. He still feels strongly about starting with one service, as a way to be unified as one church. He guesses that we will be ready for an additional service by Advent. Paulette added that we should be ready to move to two services when we reach perhaps 150 in attendance. A question was posed about whether we would need to add a second service due to style preference. Council had a very in depth conversation about the naming of services – traditional and contemporary – and there were some who felt that it was important to drop the language as it is believed that it divides us as a church. It was also noted that research shows that families seeking to connect with a church today are looking for a contemporary worship. The discussion moved into the idea of starting with one service in the fall and there was a consensus that this was a good plan.

A question was posed about moving our worship indoors in August as a way to truly welcome members back into the building. It was suggested that perhaps more people would return to worship if we are in the sanctuary rather than outdoors. Matt said that he can talk to the worship and music people and they can pick a date to move entirely indoors. A representative from tech said that it would give them an opportunity to try out the live-stream. There was support of a "soft launch" of being in the building prior to the start of fall worship schedule. Matt said that he will share information in the coming week about "soft launch".

Plan: Step 1 – beginning after Labor Day, 9:15 am contemporary worship service, 10:15-10:45 pm fellowship, 10:30 am Sunday school. Step 2 - add a second service at 10:45 am, once the 9:15 am becomes full.

All of council are invited to meet with architects Mon. July 19 at 7:00 pm. Mon. July 26th at 7:00-8:30 pm OCC Christmas Child meeting.

Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman