

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Putzier, Matt Sipe, Michelle Behsman, Barb Keith, and Derrick Galinat.

Don opened with prayer.

Minutes: Barb made a motion to approve the minutes from August with a second from Matt. The motion carried.

Devotion Pastor Matt: Matt read a couple versions of Matthew 11, in which there was discussion of the ministry of John the Baptist. In the Message bible in verses 25-30 it speaks of the unforced rhythms of grace, which is the basis for the next sermon series. Matt spoke on how the fundamental aspects of our faith become forgotten when we get busy with life. Matt said that he was called to preach this message when he heard from church members who speak of being busy. Matt stated that there are two things that can distract us from our mission as a church and as individuals; one is fighting with other Christians and the other is taking so much upon ourselves that God becomes less and less in our lives. How is God's grace remaining alive in your daily life? Discussion followed.

Finance: Michelle provided a report of last month's finances: In August general giving was \$16,845.00. \$6,787.65 was received in Capital Campaign pledges. Expenses were \$20,512.37 and net income was -\$3,666.72. Working general fund balance at the end of August was \$38,452.47. Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$249,235.46 of the \$497,110.00 pledged. Michelle provided an overview of building renovation expenses to date that have been covered by the building savings fund and capital campaign pledges received to date. The trustees will take a look at the numbers to determine whether we want to utilize the Wesley Impact Partners loan to cover some of these expenses. Matt made a motion to approve the finance report, with a second from Derrick. The motion carried.

Capital Campaign/MCCI Facilities discussion: Don reported that LED display mounts would be ready in about a week. He shared his disappointment about delays with Sim Sound, as they are waiting on AV equipment. Sim Sound is planning tech install for early November, but said they would plan to come earlier if the equipment arrives sooner. The LED displays could be installed by end of September. Chairs will be delivered on Monday, September 23. There is discussion about moving into the sanctuary prior to all AV being installed. Matt also shared that there has been discussion about a play area in the sanctuary with soft toys.

Flag Policy: Don asked if there was further discussion about the flag policy. All council members responded previously by email. Don made a motion to approve the policy as is, with a second from Matt. The motion carried.

Committee updates: Derrick reported that a Trustee work day has been scheduled for Oct. 6th to plant grass seed in the areas where trees were removed.

Calendaring:

- a. First week of October—Stewardship letter and sanctuary update
- b. October 6—Trustee Work Day
- c. October—soft opening in sanctuary when ready
- d. November—Celebration grand opening of sanctuary
- e. November 18-24—Operation Christmas Child
- f. December 1—First Sunday in Advent
- g. February 23-March 1— Midwest Mission Trip in Pawnee, IL

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman