

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Matt Sipe, Barb Keith, Paulette Adams, Derrick Galinat, and Don Putzier.

Don opened with prayer.

Minutes: Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from June with a second from Paulette. The motion carried. (There was no meeting in July.)

Devotion—Pastor Matt: Matt reflected on Nehemiah 1 and its parallels to our changes, emotions, and challenges today. The rebuilding of the temple parallels our sanctuary changes. In spite of God's people failing to keep commandments, God is with us. We still need to be attentive to servants and reverent to God.

Finance: Don Presented the financial report as submitted by Michelle prior to the meeting. For June, general giving was \$18,055.00, capital campaign funds received were \$2,827.65, total income was \$20,385.51, expenses were \$20,066.30, net income was \$319.21, and working general fund balance was \$69,613.00. For July, general giving was \$18,194.00, capital campaign funds received were \$8,399.65, total income was \$18,194.72, expenses were \$20,984.71, net income was -\$2,789.99, and working general fund balance was \$47,854.04. Year to date (YTD) giving is \$149,427.34, YTD total income is \$153,751.65, YTD expenses is \$158,812.98, and YTD net income is -\$5,061.33.

The loan of \$381,000.00 was closed this week, with final approval and recording August 15. Funds will be available next week. Don will begin arrangements for direct funding with contractors. Our Capital Campaign pledges are at \$497,110.00, our funds received to date are \$242,682.81, and our total construction expenditures YTD are \$308,540.12. The building improvement fund savings was use to cover the gap in payments, pending our loan approval.

Matt motioned approval, Paulette seconded, and the finance report was approved.

Capital Campaign/MCCI Facilities discussion: No changes in pledges were noted. The sanctuary renovation is continuing. A number of details are in the works, including completion of carpeting, front entrance concrete replacement, lock-sets for doors, receiving of chairs, mounting and installation of LED monitors, and installation of new AV equipment and chancel lighting. Completion may occur in September, but possibly could continue into October.

Flag Policy: Discussion continued regarding the flag policy draft. Members present are recommending approval of the policy. A vote on the policy will take place in September after more Council members have reviewed.

Wednesday evening programming: There will likely be community meals once per month at 5:30 p.m. These will begin after sanctuary renovation is completed. Programming will begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue until 7:30 or 8:00 p.m., depending on the program. The time alignment should work better for all.

Calendaring:

- a. Aug 18—Worship at Koser's Hidden Silo Farm, Nicollet
- b. Aug 20, 6:30 p.m.—Parent meeting for Kid's Connection, confirmation, and youth programs.
- c. Aug 25—Isaiah Forum after church service
- d. Aug 28—Choir practice starts at 6:30 p.m.
- e. Sept 8—Fall schedule resumes, 9:00 a.m. traditional service, 10:30 a.m. contemporary service
- f. October or November—soft opening of sanctuary when ready; celebration grand opening in November
- g. Nov 18-24—Operation Christmas Child
- h. Dec 1—First Sunday in Advent

Other Business: Paulette asked Derrick to look at replacing the sanctuary fans with black fans. He will present to trustees next week. Paulette also noted that when chair shipment occurs in September, we will need to recruit church members to help unload chairs.

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Don Putzier