

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Don Putzier, Matt Sipe, Michelle Behsman, Barb Keith, and Paulette Adams.

Don opened with prayer.

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

Devotion Pastor Matt: Matt asked council if there was something that sticks out about the narrative of the Israelites that has been the topic of the current sermon series. Matt shared that this story relates to our current state of transition.

Finance: Michelle provided a report of last month's finances: In May general giving was \$12,330.87. \$11,010.00 was received in Capital Campaign pledges. Expenses were \$19,502.20 and net income was -\$6,905.87. Working general fund balance at the end of April was \$58,488.78. Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$230,600.24 of the \$497,110.00 pledged. There was discussion about what may have impacted May giving: low attendance, four Sundays, cultural changes and disengagement, high sports teams doing well at the end of the season, and the end of school. Pledges for both annual stewardship and the capital campaign are consistent and the working general fund is healthy. Michelle also shared that Hilltop received \$27,050.36 from a bequest at the end of May and a check has been sent to the Minnesota Methodist Foundation to be added to our general endowment. Also, the church's construction loan request for \$381,000.00 has been approved by Wesleyan Impact Partners Inc.(Foundation). A motion was made by Matt to approve the finance report with a second from Paulette. The motion carried.

Capital Campaign/MCCI Facilities discussion: Don reported that construction is progressing well. Both Don and Matt shared comments about how worship and tech is working in the Fellowship Hall. It was noted that one Sunday there were guests and they had to sit in the hallway. There was discussion about moving chairs forward and asking worshippers to move together to make room.

Flag Policy: Matt shared a draft policy by email and he shared that flags have become extremely political and he would like for Hilltop to avoid this conflict. He thinks it is important for us to consider what we may be unintentionally communicating to worshippers by the flags we display. He thinks a policy will help define when it is appropriate to display the U.S. flag and how to display it properly. Matt asked council to pray about this topic with the intent to vote on a policy by fall. Don shared his experience with Boy Scout events that have been held at a local church and how both the church and the organization have handled this issue.

Calendaring:

- a. June 23—Hilltop BBQ and worship
- b. June 30—Pastor Matt gone—Brad Herman guest preacher
- c. July 7—Outdoor worship—Baseball/Softball Sunday
- d. July 14—Abbie Page preaching
- e. July 21—Worship/picnic at Bray Park
- f. July 28—Valleyfair Youth Event after church service
- g. Aug 4—Outdoor worship—Pie Sunday
- h. Aug. 11—Pastor Matt gone—Conference fishing trip
- i. Aug 18—Worship at Koser's Hidden Silo Farm, Nicollet
- j. Aug 25—Isaiah Forum after church service

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman