

**Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 7:34 p.m.**

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

Don opened with prayer.

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

Devotion Pastor Matt: Matt read from Ephesians 1:3-14. Matt shared that people, especially those who live a secular life, have little hope today, but as Christians our hope in times of challenge rests in the resurrection of Christ. Lack of hope can affect our relationships with others. Matt asked council to consider how, as a congregation, we can offer hope to others in our community. Matt recommended reading Tim Keller's, *Hope in Times of Fear*.

Finance: Michelle provided a report of last month's finances: In October general giving was \$20,905.21. \$17,249.65 was received in Capital Campaign pledges. Expenses were \$24,630.24 and net income was -\$3,499.76. Working general fund balance at the end of October was \$36,059.36. Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$271,792.76 of the \$497,110.00 pledged. There was a question about the budget planning for 2025 and Matt said that we should complete this work in December. Matt made a motion to approve the finance report, with a second from Paulette. The motion carried.

Capital Campaign/MCCI Facilities discussion: Don reported that we are making the final payment to Brunton Construction and will have a couple of payments to Sim Sound. We have made two payments towards the Wesley Impact Partners. Michelle said that we need to have a discussion about whether we draw on the loan to reimburse expenses for the building project that were paid from our building improvement fund.

Worship team discussion: Paulette gave a brief history of how the worship team has operated historically and how the roles functioned to assist with worship services. She would like to see a revival of this team and Matt provided his blessing to grow this team.

Prayer Group: Matt shared that a member suggested a group on centering prayer. He would like to support this effort and feels that there is a need in our community. There was discussion on what this would look like and he suggested weekly on Thursdays, 12:30-1:00 pm, beginning the first week of December.

"The Table," dinner connections: Matt shared that another challenge we are facing is the relational component of being in a church family. He is hearing from church members that they miss hanging out with fellow church members, outside of Sunday worship. "The Table" is an idea that he borrowed from another church. It is just dinner, nothing more, no curriculum or expectation. The hope would be to have "The Table" about six times a year, every other month, and would begin in 2025.

Calendaring:

- a. Nov. 18 to 24—Operation Christmas Child
- b. Nov. 24—Commitment Sunday
- c. Dec. 1—First Sunday in Advent
- d. Dec. 1—Disaster relief hygiene kit? project to begin. Christmas offering will support this project.
- e. Dec. 18—Carols by Candlelight at 6:30pm
- f. Dec. 22—Children's Christmas Program, one service at 10:30am
- g. Dec. 24—Services at 1:30pm and 4:30pm
- h. Dec. 29—One service at 10:30am
- i. Jan. 5—Celebration grand opening of sanctuary, one service at 10:30am, DS Woojae Im visiting
- j. Jan. 24-26—Youth Ski Trip
- k. Feb. 23 to March 1—Midwest Mission Distribution Center trip

Pastor Matt closed in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm. Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman