

Hilltop United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Matt opened with prayer.

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

Church Council Governance: Matt began a conversation about moving to single board governance as a way to increase engagement. He suggested that we explore what this might mean for Hilltop by talking to other churches that are using this form of governance, and consult with DS Woojae Im.

Finance: Michelle provided a report of December and year-end finances: Last month general giving was \$31,219.52. \$49,087.20 was received in Capital Campaign pledges. Expenses were \$28,778.10 and net income was \$2,651.91. Working general fund balance at the end of December was \$76,726.55.

Year-end general giving was \$259,037.47 with total income of \$407,740.92. Total expenses for the year were \$285,243.83 and the end of the year net income was -\$5,158.29. Capital Campaign funds received to date: \$329,717.61 of the \$497,110.00 pledged (66%). Paulette made a motion to approve the finance report, with a second from Don. The motion carried.

Prayer Groups: Centering prayer began on December 5th and has been meeting weekly on Thursday. There is talk of moving Centering Prayer to another day of the week.

“The Table,” dinner connections: There was discussion about beginning “The Table” in February, promoting over the next five weeks, and trying to schedule every other month. It is just dinner, no agenda, building connections with other Hilltop members.

Small groups: There was discussion about using the sanctuary for viewing season 4 of *The Chosen*, a small group that Paulette has led in the last couple of years.

Committee updates: Matt shared that he has a concept of a plan for replacing trees on the property, perhaps a March/April campaign with tree planting in May.

Calendaring:

- a. Jan. 24-26—Youth Ski Trip canceled
- b. Jan. 26—Jocelin Maine preaching
- c. Feb. 23 to March 1—Midwest Mission Distribution Center trip
- d. Feb. 9 and 16—Pastor Matt gone
- e. Mar. 5—Ash Wednesday, service “in the round” at 6:30 pm
- f. Mar. 10-23—Michelle vacation
- g. Mar. 30—Pastor Matt gone
- h. Apr. 13—Palm Sunday
- i. Apr. 17-18—Passion trek for youth
- j. Apr. 18—Good Friday—Hosting ecumenical service at 6:30 pm
- k. Apr. 20—Easter Sunday

Pastor Matt and council closed in the Lord’s prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman