

HILLTOP *journey to* 150

DEDICATED TO DISCIPLESHIP 1868 - 2018

NOVEMBER 2018

Top 4 Reasons I'm Excited about our MCCI Report

Typically I would do a "top 5" or even a "top 10" as that just sounds better, but since our final MCCI report was organized into "4 strengths," "4 concerns," and "4 prescriptions," I figured I would stick with the theme of "4." Printed copies of the full report may be found at the Welcome Center.

#1—It's Positive

There is so much in this report that makes me so incredibly proud to be your pastor! I say this all the time, but my belief in it sky-rocketed after reading this report: you are truly the best church a pastor could serve! The way this church welcomes people whole-heartedly, the way you have an undeniable passion to share Jesus with the next generation, and the way you are totally committed to growing in Christ is truly a blessing to behold, and I am so thankful that our MCCI consultants very quickly saw this in you.

#2—It's Honest

As in every church that has ever existed, we're not perfect. There are some exciting challenges ahead of us, and I am ready to tackle them with you. The report is right; we can do *even more* to reach the next generation of children, youth, and college students for Jesus. We can welcome people *even better* than we already do. We can become *even more laser focused* in our mission to Mankato and the world, and we can discover *even greater* ways to utilize this awesome church property that God has provided for us. These are great challenges to have, and I have complete faith we can overcome them together.

#3—It's Clear & Full of Hope

What a gift this report is! In this report we have 4 crystal clear recommendations that we focus on: (1) reaching the next generation and their families, (2) developing thriving church systems that better welcome people and build up new leaders, (3) journeying together in discovering God's

"one big thing" for Hilltop as we discern a signature ministry for our church, and (4) exploring how we can grow to be the best possible stewards of our church land and building. The clarity in these recommendations for us is spotless, yet they are also so full of hope. With each of these areas of focus we're promised expert coaching from leaders who have guided their churches through these exact same hopes and dreams. We are not alone in this journey; we have clear hopes in front of us, and an incredibly hopeful path of making these hopes become a reality.

#4—It's Biblical

As we've been reading through the Bible in a year, I've been going back to the great commission from Jesus in Matthew 28 time and time again since we read it several weeks ago: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you." (Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20a). Could ministry really be that simple? Could following Jesus really be so clear? Could it be so transformational in this world? ABSOLUTELY! And this report of hopes and dreams pulls us even closer to living out this commission more fully in our lives. Ministry is indeed about breakthrough. It is indeed about transformation. It is indeed about making disciples—followers of Jesus—in this world. *Everything* in this report has this command from Jesus at its foundation.

Let's not forget the final thing that Jesus says in the book of Matthew: "Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age" (Matthew 28:20b). The best thing about this report is indeed the best thing that we profess every week in worship. We don't pursue these hopes and dreams alone, we pursue them with the guidance, leadership, love, and grace of Jesus in our lives, because remember: Best of all... *God is with us!*

Pastor Kelly

HILLTOP ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Hilltop United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 25, 2018, 6:30 pm

Present: Allison Bass, Kelly McCuaig, Paulette Booker, Kerry Rausch, Don Putzier, Judy Argetsinger, Michelle Behsman, Ashley Goltermann, Karin Gavin, Shannon McCuaig.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Allison Bass.

Pastor's Report: Kelly asked Don Putzier to share with the council his thoughts on the first MCCI townhall. All council members present were then asked to share any thoughts, concerns or questions about the MCCI report.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from the last meeting on Sept. 20 2018, were available for review. A motion was made by Don Putzier to approve the minutes as presented. Judy Argetsinger seconded. The motion passed.

Youth/Campus: Ashley reported that the Wesley House was open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and she praised Peter and Alyssa for truly being Jesus to the students that stop in to visit. There is a regular group of approximately twenty students that participate in Sunday evening meetings at Hilltop, but they have contact with just over sixty students. The Wesley has developed three leadership teams that were formed around the UMC scriptural imperatives—Grow, Reach, and Heal. The Heal team has already envisioned ways they can heal a broken world by hosting a Teal Trunk or Treat for youth with allergies and serving at the OCC processing center.

The Wesley Foundation worships monthly on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at the Wesley House and Ashley encouraged Hilltop to attend worship or stop by the Wesley House during regular hours.

Ashley reported that there were twenty youth attending each Wednesday night along with five adult mentors. The students chose the name RISE for their group and they have adopted Hebrew 10:24-25 as a theme in creating intentional community.

Upward: Paulette Booker reported that the artistic illustration team is planning for Advent.

Outward: Shannon shared that a team had served a meal at the Salvation Army and they learned that they would no longer be able to cook offsite. The Outward team is in

support of Christmas Festival funds going to the Connections Ministry for the homeless.

Finance: Kerry Rausch reported that YTD expenditures were \$271,006.28 and YTD income was \$260,124.86. Checking balance at the beginning of the year was \$52,053.15. The checking balance at the end of September was \$41,171.73. \$40,490.19 is designated for various missions, leaving a working general fund balance of \$20,681.54. She reported that expenses are higher than income due to growth in staffing and she provided a line chart of income trends and concluded that general giving income has been consistent. Paulette Booker made a motion to approve the finance report. Don Putzier seconded. The motion carried.

Parish Nurse: Judy Argetsinger reported 26 units of blood were collected at the blood drive on Oct. 23rd. She replaced the defibrillator battery and is going to bring in a new first aid kit.

Technology: Don Putzier reported that Holly Aasen would manage the mobile church directory.

New Business: Judy Argetsinger brought up concerns about the change in worship times for MCCI Sundays and the Mankato Marathon. It was followed by discussion Allison Bass closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Behsman.

Administrative Council Meeting

The next Ad Council meeting is **Thursday, November 15, from 6:30-8:00 pm** with the Committee meetings following at 8:00 pm. The deadline for the December newsletter is **Monday, November 19, 2018** - submissions should be sent to Michelle at office@mankatohilltop.org and include "DECEMBER NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

Charge Conference - Clergy Compensation

A charge conference will be held on **Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m.**, during our regularly scheduled Administrative Council meeting to approve 2019 Clergy Compensation for Pastors Kelly and Ashley. Traditional charge conference items such as annual budget, nominations, membership and ministry reports, etc. will take place in the new year.

HILLTOP NEWS

What's Next With MCCI? Town Halls & Congregational Vote

The Congregation has already held two town hall meetings, with another happening on Wednesday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. (NOTE: a previous announcement said that this Town Hall gathering was at 1:00pm; that *was not correct*. The Town Hall is at 7:00pm.) Please take part in this as your opportunity to have your voice heard on the MCCI report and to have any of your questions, concerns, or curiosities addressed. Printed copies of the full report may be found at the Welcome Center.

Once all the town halls are completed, we will vote on the report to either embrace or reject it at an official church conference led by District Superintendent Rev. Fred Vanderwerf on **Sunday, November 11, at 11:15am following a combined 10:00 a.m. worship service.**

If embraced by a 75% or more vote of the official membership present, the MCCI Consultant Team will designate prescription coaches at the Bishop's expense and team with Hilltop to implement these prescriptions. If the prescriptions are rejected, the MCCI partnership process will cease.

Online Giving

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up a one-time or recurring gift and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at:
www.mankatohilltop.com,
2. Click on the **Give Now** button,
3. Click on the **Create Profile** button, then follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your contribution.

"I GAVE ONLINE" cards can be found in the pews and are to be used by those who give electronically by auto-tithe, online giving or text-to-give. This allows members an opportunity to put something in the offering plate as a physical act of worship.

Youth Ministry Action Team

You can support our growing youth ministry, RISE, in a number of ways—through your prayers, your presence and through service. The youth ministry action team meets Monday, Nov. 12 at 6:00 p.m. Contact Jocelin Reynolds at email tamjoc@gmail.com or 507-317-7474 or or Ashley Goltermann at ashley@mankatohilltop.org or 813-504-5100 or to learn how you can care for the rising generation.

Meet our new Youth Ministry Intern

Lydia Jagodzinski recently joined the youth ministry team as an intern. She is currently a junior at Minnesota State University, Mankato, studying Child Development and Family Studies. She has felt a strong calling to ministry and is so excited to be able to respond



to that calling here at Hilltop! She is from Buffalo, MN and said she chose to come to Mankato for college because it is far enough away from home where her parents can't randomly show up, but close enough to where she can go home if she needs to.

What do you enjoy most about working with middle and high school students? I feel like they just have so much to offer and we (adults) often don't give them enough credit. Not to mention, being with them rejuvenates and gives me a sense of energy!

If you could have one super power, what would it be and why? I think I would like to be invisible. I am kind of an introverted person so it would be nice to be able to be in places without anyone knowing that I was there.

If you could choose one verse to meditate on for the next year, what would it be? Psalm 37:5-6 God has worked in my life in crazy ways lately. I need to put my trust in him and remember that he always has a plan. My current favorite bible verse is Hebrews 10:24-25.

HILLTOP NEWS

Operation Christmas Child



God is working mightily through the people of Hilltop -- Operation Christmas Child is now in full swing! Boxes are available in the narthex for you to take home, pack and bring back by Sunday, November 18, or you may donate money to be used for OCC. Sign-up sheets also available to work in the Collection Center during Collection Week, November 12-19. Please sign up to help with this ministry as we receive boxes from area individuals and churches. Workers will also have the opportunity to pack boxes during these hours. Available times are:

Monday, Nov. 12:	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	5-7 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 13:	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	5-7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 14:	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	5-7 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 15:	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	5-7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 16:	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	5-7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 17	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
Sunday, Nov. 18:	12 noon – 5 p.m.	
Monday, Nov. 19:	9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	

A special request: On Monday, November 19, we need people who can lift and move cartons as we pack the truck with the cartons from other area drop off sites. This time commitment would be from 9:30-11:30 a.m., or until all 6 drop off sites have arrived

This year we also have opportunities to work at the OCC processing center in Lakeville. This is the last stop for boxes before they are shipped overseas. Workers at the processing center will have a variety of duties, including checking boxes for inappropriate items, taping boxes, and packing cartons. The processing center will be moving to Chicago next year, so if you are interested in participating in this exciting experience while it is within driving distance, this is the time! Available dates are Friday afternoon, Nov. 23, and Friday evening, Dec. 7. Contact Paulette Adams for more information at: pauletteredman.adams@gmail.com.

Christmas Festival 2018

The Christmas Festival will be held Saturday, December 1st from 9 am - 12pm. We will be continuing favorite traditions—like peanut brittle, tea cakes and gift baskets, but we have some new ideas this year. Holiday wreaths, decorated by members, will join the gift baskets for the silent auction. We are still looking for craft donations, cookies, candies, and baked goods. NEW THIS YEAR for the KIDS there will be face painting, ornament making, a holiday movie and a visit from Santa from 10 - 11 a.m.

Half of the proceeds will benefit the Connections Ministry rotating homeless shelter. This is about \$5,000 on average thanks to your time and generosity. **Please prayerfully consider how you might serve or share your creations and join the team for a planning meeting Thursday, Nov. 8th at 6:30pm.**

There will be information at the Welcome Center regarding the Festival—sign ups to bring cookies or baked goods, and gift basket donations for the silent auction; Donations can be placed in the offering plate; please write Christmas Festival in the Memo Portion of your check. Drop off times for baked goods, crafts, cookies, etc. will be Friday Nov. 30th from 8 am - 8 pm.

If you have any questions, contact Kendra Daby at 507-382-5202 or kensdaby@gmail.com

Gift Basket Silent Auction

Yes, baskets are needed for our Hilltop Christmas Festival (December 1st)! Hilltop family, do you get together with family or friends to exercise, scrapbook, bowl, play cards, or do you belong to a Connect Group, church choir, Sunday school, Bible study, book club, etc.? Would you and your group consider making a basket or monetary donation to be used for making a basket? A list of suggested themes and directions for making a basket can be found in the narthex. Please consider helping with this event. Proceeds from the festival will support the Connections Ministry as well as other designated missions & needs within the church. For more information, please contact Paula Peterson at 317-5794.

HILLTOP NEWS

Calling All Designers

Decorate a wreath for the silent auction! We have 12 FREE wreaths to give to the first twelve people who volunteer their time and talents to decorate it and submit it for the Annual Christmas Festival Silent Auction.

Step 1: Sign up for a wreath on Sunday, November 4. Or, text Sue Anderson at 507-382-3244 to put your name on the list.

Step 2: Pick up your wreath on Sunday, November 11 in the Narthex. Check your name off the list when you grab your wreath.

Step 3: Choose a theme for your wreath. Christmas themes are wonderful but you can do anything! Consider other holidays like New Year's Eve, Easter, 4th of July or Halloween. You can also do hobbies like Fishing, Crafting, Sports Teams, Northwoods, etc.

Step 4: Pick up materials and start decorating. You can look up some tutorials or just dig right in! Common methods for attaching decorations are by floral wire or hot glue gun.

Step 5: Return your fully decorated wreath by noon on Friday, November 30. Fill out a silent auction form when you drop it off.

Hilltop Choir

If you enjoy Christmas music, you have an opportunity to immerse yourself in the sounds of the season! Come and join the choir for the next couple of months as we prepare to sing during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:40 p.m. in the sanctuary. November rehearsals will be held on Nov. 14 and 28 (no rehearsal November 7 or 21). Contact Paulette Adams if you would like to know more or have questions – 507-345-6097 or pauletteredman.adams@gmail.com.



Walk to Emmaus - An Invitation

The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity for you to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as He is revealed to you through other believers. It is an experience that begins with prayerful discernment, followed by attending a three-day experience of God's grace.

There are fifteen talks regarding various aspects of Christianity, small group discussions, communion, lots of food, and fellowship during the weekend. Following the three days, you are encouraged to participate in small groups, connect groups, and class meetings. You can continue to share in God's grace in a variety of ways, while supporting others in our ongoing walks with Christ. Emmaus is a terrific part of our discipleship development at Hilltop.

The purpose of Walk to Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church. Walk to Emmaus will inspire, challenge, and equip participants for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work. Walk to Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Upcoming Walks are January 17 to 20, 2019 for men, and January 24 to 27, 2019 for women. These walks will be held at Good Counsel here in town this fall! Transportation to and from the walk will be taken care of, and scholarships are available to cover the cost of the walk. Over 60 members from this church have attended the Walk to Emmaus or another three-day or Fourth Day Christian event, such as Cursillo, Tres Dias, or Unidos en Cristo. If you are interested in attending a Walk, or if you want more information, please contact Barb Keith, Jeff Adams, Adela Scherer, Don Putzier, or Pastor Kelly for more details. They can put you in touch with other members from this church who have also attended a Walk.

Cost: The cost of the Walk is \$200.00 for the entire weekend, which includes meals and lodging. Do not let finances be a barrier to going. The local Emmaus Community and Hilltop can help with scholarships if needed.

HILLTOP NEWS

Green Bag Day

Hilltoppers continue to bless the hungry by donating generously to the ECHO Food Shelf each month. Watch for the green bags the third Sunday of each month and bring them back filled the following Sunday with non-perishable donations to ECHO. If you are not able to visit the grocery store but would like to contribute, you can also put a check in the offering plate (write Echo Food Shelf on the memo line).

Salvation Army

Eleven Hilltop members served 82 guests at the Salvation Army on Sunday, September 30th. Thank you to all who donated food, cooked and served.

Africa Uplifted

A team from Hilltop is going on a medical mission trip to Sierra Leone in the beginning of November. Thank you to everyone who knitted or crocheted caps for kids, assembled birthing kits, or donated vitamins, antacids, or money for other medications. Your blessings will go very far!

Poinsettias

The Upward Team will be providing an opportunity for you to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of loved ones to adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. Watch the November worship bulletins for poinsettia order forms. You may also call Paulette Booker at 507-469-3218 or email worship@mankatohilltop.org to order a plant.

Red Kettle Campaign

Come join in the fun and ring the bell for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 8th at Shopko (indoors!) from 9:15 am until 1:15 pm. Please sign up for a 1-2 hr. shift at the Welcome Center.

Fourth Day

The Hilltop Emmaus community is hosting monthly Fourth Day gatherings at Hilltop on the first Tuesday of each month. Please join us Tues., Nov. 5, at 6:30pm for worship and fellowship.

Happy Birthday!

Ashley Goltermann	11/01	Jean Hohenhaus	11/22
David Reynolds	11/01	Stacy Zierdt	11/23
Lucy Lamphear	11/01	Stephanie Maday	11/23
Karen Daniel	11/02	Brayden Bass	11/25
Diane Zimmerman	11/08	Carl Kiewatt	11/25
Jacori Ross	11/08	Deborah Jesseman	11/25
Phillip Daniel	11/09	Kent Bass	11/26
Lana Glynn	11/11	Chris Eckert	11/27
Jodi McDonough	11/13	Chris Schroeder	11/27
Everett McDonough	11/14	Kay Svobodny	11/27
Perry McDonough	11/14	Rachel Ward	11/27
Nattie Harmon	11/16	Raegan Daschner	11/27
Mike Roozen	11/18	Rose Prosser	11/27
Daphne Janzen	11/21	Adam Peterson	11/29
		Karen Frydendall	11/30

Happy Anniversary!

Harry & Judy Argetsinger	11/02
Sandy & Gary Cooper	11/14
Kelly & Shannon McCuaig	11/19
Luke & Kristin Andrews	11/19
Shannon & Kelly McCuaig	11/19
Wayne & Connie Baumgartner	11/22
Jeff & Paulette Adams	11/27

Christmas Festival Planning Meeting

Please consider joining the Christmas Festival team. There will be one planning meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8th at 6:30pm. If you cannot attend but would like to help, contact Kendra Daby at 507-382-5202 or kensdaby@gmail.com.

Piano Recital

Organist Jo Breckenridge cordially invites all Hilltop members to a Piano Recital of her students on Sunday, November 18th at 3:00 pm.

November Calendar at Hilltop

Details for calendar events can be found at <http://mankatohilltop.org/calendar/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12:30p Peanut Brittle 6:00p Connect Group	2 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	3 9a-12p Organist Practice 2-5:00p Argetsinger 50th Wedding Celebration
4 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 10:30a Connect Group 6p WF Let's Get Real	5 5:30p Peanut Brittle	6 10:30a Staff Meeting 1:30p Women's Group 6-7:30p Connect Group 6:30p Fourth Day	7 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Connect Academy 7:00p MCC Townhall 9:00p KTV Broadcast	8 6:00p Connect Group 6:30p Christmas Festival planning meeting	9 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	10 9a-12p Organist Practice
11 10:00a Worship 11a MCCI Vote Day - All Church Conference 6p WF College Night	12	13 1:30p Women's Group 6-7:30p Connect Group	14 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 6:30p Connect Academy 9:00p KTV Broadcast	15 4:30p Wesley Brd. Mtg. 6:00p Connect Group 6:30p Charge Conference / Ad Council 8:00p Committee Mtgs	16 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast 6:00p Emmaus team mtg.	17 9a-12p Organist Practice 7:30a Emmaus team mtg.
18 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 10:30a Connect Group 3p Piano Recital 6p WF College Night	 19 8:00a Newsletter Deadline	20 10:30a Staff Meeting 1:30p Women's Group 6-7:30p Connect Group	21 9:00p KTV Broadcast	22 THANKSGIVING	23 7a Men's Group 12:30p KTV Broadcast	24 9a-12p Organist Practice
25 9:00a Worship 10:30a Worship 10:30a Connect Group 6p WF College Night	26	27 1:30p Women's Group 6-7:30p Connect Group	28 6-8p Youth Group 6:30p Choir 6:30p Connect Academy 9:00p KTV Broadcast	29 6:00p Connect Group	30 7a Men's Group 8a Teacakes for Christmas Festival 12:30p KTV Broadcast	1 9a-12p Christmas Festival



www.mankatohilltop.org

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Hilltop United Methodist Church

MN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hundreds gather for 'Way Forward' conversations across Minnesota

More than 800 Minnesota United Methodists gathered in seven locations across the state in late September and early October to learn about the possibilities for a way forward for The United Methodist Church around the issue of homosexuality and to share their hopes, dreams, concerns, and questions.

In February 2019, at a Special Session of General Conference (the denomination's top law-making body), United Methodist delegates from around the world will decide how to move forward as a denomination, specifically related to whether to allow clergy to perform same-sex weddings and whether to ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough and members of the Minnesota delegation to the 2019 General Conference led the series of "Way Forward" conversations. Part of the goal behind them was to help build resiliency in churches so that regardless of what the denomination decides, they can

continue to focus on their shared mission and be the church together.

Ough pointed out that this was one of the earliest "us and them" stories in the Church. While talking about the sin of "us and them" divisions, he shared a question he said has haunted him for some time: "Does the world need The United Methodist Church to teach it how to divide, or does the world need The United Methodist Church to teach it how to live together with its different theological perspectives and its different ministry contexts?"

Ough told attendees that the way for us to be the church now and in the future is to stay in love with union. And he said unity is more closely related to the way of the cross than to the way of our worldly power and politics; it is more closely related to Christ's brokenness and humility than it is our correctness.

Read more at:

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/hundreds-gather-for-way-forward-conversations-across-minnesota-12265004>