



STATED MEETING OF SESSION
New Hope Presbyterian Church (EPC)

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6 PM
(Combined In-person and Zoom meeting)

Minutes

Teaching Elders:		Pastor Eddie Spencer	EA	Pastor Mike Jones	P
Class of 2020		Class of 2021		Class of 2022	
David Carpenter	P	Bill Ashton	Z	Steve Boutelle	P
Bill Enslin	P	Al Frees	P	Sheldon Church	P
Art Hunkins	P	Randy Hincks	P	Sean Ellis	P
Pat Mehaffie	P	Jeannie Martin	Z	Jackie Elliott	P
Signe Pagel	P			Jerry Franz	Z
				Ken Seim	P
Ed Harger (Staff)	P	Chuck Knox (Treasurer)	P	Bob Welsh (Member)	P
Debbie Norris (Staff)	P			Quorum	Yes
P=Present, EA= Excused Absence, A= Absence, Z=Zoom					

A. Open Session (First Part of our Meeting)

1. Opening Prayer: Signe P
2. Clerk of Session Report:
 - MSC (Al F/Dave C/Unanimous)** to accept the following reports as presented (a-e)
 - a. Session minutes on Sept 22nd (See attached report).
 - b. Special Congregational Minutes on Sept 27th (See attached report).
 - c. Special Executive Session Meeting on Sept 29th (See attached report)
 - d. Approve the revision by consensus (via email/phone) to the Minutes of the Special Session Meeting on Sept 29th. (See attached report)
 - e. Membership Statistical Report (See attached report)
3. Report from our Commissioners on the Presbytery Meeting (Zoom), Sat, Oct 17th. (Sheldon C, Bob W. Bill E and Art H). It was a good way to see and be part of the EPC denomination. Other Elders are encouraged to be commissioners whenever the opportunity presents itself.
4. Presenting Jeffry Alan Eubanks as a Candidate to be under the care of Presbytery/Session.
 - Jeffry is applying for Naval Chaplaincy as an EPC minister. (see attached write-up)
 - a. Jeffry gave his testimony as how the Lord has called him into the ministry. He noted that he is currently attending Liberty University seminary.

- b. **MSC (Bill E/Pat M/Unanimous)** to accept Jeffrey Eubanks as under care as a Student of Theology.

- 5. Financial Ministry (Randy H/Chuck K).
 - a. See attached Monthly Financial Reports
Chuck noted that we are pretty much at a break-even for the month of Sept Also, it is projected that we will maintain a break-even posture by the end of the Year. The Lord's people have been faithful in His work at NHP.
 - b. The 2021 Budget for 2021 was presented with some comment and it will be voted on at our Nov Session meeting. (See attached 2021 Budget)
 - c. Status of the Redford Trust:
After much discussion, it was **MSC (Art H/Sean E/Unanimous)** to distribute all the monies received as follows: 10% to Missions and the balance to go against the mortgage reduction.

- 6. Strategic Planning Committee's Status Report (Pastor Mike): see attached report.
Pastor Mike highlighted a number of considerations as we as a church move forward into and beyond the Pandemic. This discussion will continue at our Nov Meeting

- 7. Status on opening up the Campus (Ed H)
Ed explain the current status and presented to us a NHP phase 3 (which replaces our phase 2 approach). The essence is to balance "an abundance of caution on the one hand with an abundance of wisdom on the other". Therefore, the following guidelines are being presented for approval.
MSC (Pat M/Randy H/Unanimous) to accept the following guidelines which will be implemented and monitored under the supervision of the Dir of Operations/Facilities.
They are:
 - a. **Masks/Shields:** Masks/shields must cover both the nose and mouth and must be worn anytime one is inside any of the buildings at New Hope and not participating in social distancing from all but a family group.
 - b. **Social Distancing:** Social distancing should be adhered to whenever possible.
 - c. **Beverages/Food:** NHP will not provide any beverages (water, coffee, tea, etc.) at this time. Only individually wrapped food may be served. (See Operations for exceptions.)
 - d. **Sanitizer:** All groups are to use and provide their own hand sanitizers.
 - e. **Also,** if someone does not feel well or are uncomfortable joining in with groups (especially our season members),we encourage you to stay away and let us know how we can be of service to you.

- 8. Scheduled and back-up preachers for Worship services (Pastor Mike):
MSC (Randy H/Signe P/Unanimous) to approve the list of preachers as submitted by Pastor Mike. (See attachment)

- 9. Personnel Committee Report (Al F/Bill E):
The following Job description were received.

After some discussion, it was the consensus to vote on these at the Nov Session meeting.

- a. Job Description for Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
- b. Job Description for Director Connections/Communications
- c. Job Description for Director of Digital Production and Technology
- d. Job Description for Director of Family Ministries

10. Session would like to give a grateful and heartfelt thanks to all of the hard work the Deacons and the Building/facilities personnel did to recognize and celebrate Pastor Eddie and Roxanne's faithful service, as unto the Lord, here at New Hope church. Great job. Thanks again.

11. Old Business:

- a. **MSC (AI F/Jackie E/Unanimous)** to approve the following:
 - i. Elder's Handbook (see attachment)
 - ii. Deacon's Handbook (see attachment)
- b. Procedure/Policy to manage the Ministerial Scholarship Fund (Art H). (Tabled for now)

12. New Business:

- a. **MSC (Signe P/Pat M/Unanimous)** to have the November Session Meeting on Tuesday, Nov 17th
- b. **MSC (Dave C/Pat M/Unanimous)** to have the December Session Meeting on Tuesday, Dec 15th.
- c. **MSC (Art H/Pat M/Unanimous)** to approve the following schedule changes:
 - i. Beginning with Sunday, Nov 29th our Worship service times will be going back to 9:30am Traditional and 11:00am Contemporary
 - ii. Beginning with Sunday Nov 8th Common Ground, world changers (Elementary) and some adult programming (Parent Connection, Etc.) will resume classes at the Sunday morning 9:30 hour.

13. Other Council/Ministry Status Updates and/or Reports (See attached reports):

- a. Youth and Student Ministries report: Zack Unkenholz
- b. Children Ministries report: Debbie Norris
- c. Early Childhood Ministries report: Pam Poland
- d. Mission/Outreach Council Minutes: Jim Mayer
- e. Deacon's Minutes: Jill Ritterbusch

14. Closing Prayer: Jackie E.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pastor Mike, Moderator
Art Hunkins, Clerk of Session

New Hope Presbyterian Church of SWFL, Inc.
Balance Sheet
 As of September 30, 2020

	Sep 30, 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
11001 · Busey Operating	216,020.28
11005 · Finemark Checking	239,592.99
11009 · Petty Cash	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	455,813.27
Total Current Assets	455,813.27
Fixed Assets	
13003 · Office Equipment	49,011.94
13010 · Church Organ	736,149.04
13101 · Land Acquisition	2,451,549.32
14101 · Pre-Project Capital Costs	146,401.37
15101 · New Building Costs	7,754,368.97
19101 · Accumulated Depreciation	-72,739.56
Total Fixed Assets	11,064,741.08
TOTAL ASSETS	11,520,554.35
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
22001 · Federal Tax Payables	377.22
22002 · FICA/Medicare Payables	-177.22
22101 · Retirement/IRA Payable	401.17
Total Other Current Liabilities	601.17
Total Current Liabilities	601.17
Long Term Liabilities	
24001 · Capital Building Mortgage	373,493.45
Total Long Term Liabilities	373,493.45
Total Liabilities	374,094.62
Equity	
30001 · General Fund	149,909.07
31001 · Amortized Capital Reserve Fund	50,000.00
31201 · Operational Contingency	4,868.00
31301 · Land/Facilities/Equip/Furnish	9,921,250.09
31302 · Organ Fund	736,149.04
31401 · Campus Debt Reduction Fund	4,784.20
32001 · Worship Fund	
32101 · Worship/Music Fund	2,822.98
32201 · Organ Maintenance Fund	16,531.64
32301 · Memorial Fund	3,429.10
Total 32001 · Worship Fund	22,783.72
33001 · Preschool Fund	199.63
34001 · Kid's Ministry Fund	
34101 · Kids Ministry General	4,800.11
34301 · Kids Special Projects/Events	104.92
34501 · Kids Camp KidJam	705.00
Total 34001 · Kid's Ministry Fund	5,610.03
35001 · Student Ministry Fund	
35101 · Student Ministry General	286.95
35201 · Student Events	1,351.32
35202 · Student Projects	268.35
35301 · Student Retreat	50.00
35402 · Student HS Trip	1,700.00

10:33 AM
10/19/20
Cash Basis

New Hope Presbyterian Church of SWFL, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2020

	<u>Sep 30, 20</u>
35411 · Student Trip Scholarship	2,453.89
Total 35001 · Student Ministry Fund	6,110.51
36001 · Adult Class Funds	
36102 · Adult New Community Class	1,555.42
Total 36001 · Adult Class Funds	1,555.42
36201 · Womens Ministry Fund	
36211 · COF World Mission	2,099.53
36212 · COF Deborah Circle	311.38
36214 · COF Lois Circle	267.07
36215 · COF Rebekah Circle	818.00
36222 · Womens Mission	1,999.81
36231 · Womens Retreat Registrations	425.93
36232 · Womens Retreat Donations	229.43
Total 36201 · Womens Ministry Fund	6,151.15
36301 · MOPS Fund	
36311 · MOPS AM	6,417.44
36321 · MomsNext AM	2,763.64
36331 · Moms @ Night	1,727.86
Total 36301 · MOPS Fund	10,908.94
37001 · Missions Fund	
37121 · Local Brittany Apartments	1,789.68
37131 · Local Dunbar Booster Club	5,354.52
37171 · We Care	200.00
37301 · Supporting Ministry Fund	3,363.71
37321 · Supporting Mission Kid Care	375.00
37501 · Outreach Ministry Fund	2,834.89
37511 · Outreach ECHO	1,710.00
37700 · Mission Trips Fund	
37701 · Mission Trip DR 2020	159.50
Total 37700 · Mission Trips Fund	159.50
37711 · Mission Trips Scholarships	861.14
37801 · Mission Projects	43,662.95
Total 37001 · Missions Fund	60,311.39
38011 · Care & Compassion Fund	34,343.67
38201 · Single Moms Ministry	1,392.00
38601 · Seminary Scholarship Fund	2,704.80
38901 · Memorial Garden Perpetual Care	35,537.94
Net Income	91,890.13
Total Equity	11,146,459.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	11,520,554.35

10:37 AM
 10/19/20
 Cash Basis

New Hope Presbyterian Church of SWFL, Inc.
Session General Fund Financials vs Budget
September 2020

	<u>Sep 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Sep 20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Annual Bud...</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
40000 · General Budgeted Income	111,784.81	173,172.30	64.6%	1,369,335.58	1,399,834.20	97.8%	1,981,161.00
40011 · Interest Income	240.10			1,592.54			
42000 · Worship	175.00			1,140.00			
44100 · Kids Ministry	0.00			4,831.22			
45000 · Student Ministries	0.00			320.07			
46000 · Adult Ministry	0.00			679.00			
46200 · Womens Ministry	364.00			1,429.00			
46600 · Family Ministries	0.00			716.00			
46800 · Hospitality	0.00			1,417.75			
51000 · Missions	0.00			369.00			
58100 · Caring Ministries	0.00			225.50			
58500 · Deacons Ministry	0.00			300.00			
Total Income	<u>112,563.91</u>	<u>173,172.30</u>	<u>65.0%</u>	<u>1,382,355.66</u>	<u>1,399,834.20</u>	<u>98.8%</u>	<u>1,981,161.00</u>
Gross Profit	112,563.91	173,172.30	65.0%	1,382,355.66	1,399,834.20	98.8%	1,981,161.00
Expense							
62000 · Worship/Music	857.36	0.00	100.0%	21,526.45	23,600.00	91.2%	23,600.00
63000 · Christian Education							
63100 · Preschool	443.31	0.00	100.0%	6,503.73	10,200.00	63.8%	10,200.00
64100 · Kids	1,336.94	0.00	100.0%	14,049.63	29,350.00	47.9%	29,350.00
64801 · RightNow Media	745.34	0.00	100.0%	3,545.26	4,200.00	84.4%	4,200.00
64901 · Child Protection Services	0.00	0.00	0.0%	299.00	500.00	59.8%	500.00
65000 · Student Ministries	1,398.49	0.00	100.0%	10,566.22	38,800.00	27.2%	38,800.00
66100 · Adult Ministry	220.84	0.00	100.0%	2,254.18	750.00	300.6%	750.00
66200 · Womens Ministry	81.50	0.00	100.0%	2,144.89	1,000.00	214.5%	1,000.00
66400 · MOPS/MomsNext/MomsPM	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
66500 · Men's Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
66600 · Family Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.0%	1,550.20	7,100.00	21.8%	7,100.00
Total 63000 · Christian Education	<u>4,226.42</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>40,913.11</u>	<u>91,900.00</u>	<u>44.5%</u>	<u>91,900.00</u>

10:37 AM

10/19/20

Cash Basis

New Hope Presbyterian Church of SWFL, Inc.
Session General Fund Financials vs Budget
September 2020

	<u>Sep 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Sep 20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Annual Bud...</u>
66800 · Hospitality/Fellowship	48.70	0.00	100.0%	7,002.82	11,550.00	60.6%	11,550.00
70000 · Missions & Outreach							
71000 · Local Outreach	8,188.05	0.00	100.0%	26,006.33	38,000.00	68.4%	38,000.00
73100 · Supporting Roles	0.00	0.00	0.0%	23,250.00	31,000.00	75.0%	31,000.00
75000 · Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.0%	78,375.00	104,500.00	75.0%	104,500.00
76000 · Missionary Care & Trips	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	15,000.00	0.0%	15,000.00
77001 · Administration	16.75	0.00	100.0%	76.71	1,500.00	5.1%	1,500.00
77011 · Mission General Spending	0.00	0.00	0.0%	1,739.58	5,000.00	34.8%	5,000.00
77021 · Mission Events	0.00	0.00	0.0%	822.28	5,000.00	16.4%	5,000.00
Total 70000 · Missions & Outreach	8,204.80	0.00	100.0%	130,269.90	200,000.00	65.1%	200,000.00
78100 · Care Ministries	2,137.63	0.00	100.0%	19,462.35	29,500.00	66.0%	29,500.00
78500 · Deacons	60.00	0.00	100.0%	918.00	3,050.00	30.1%	3,050.00
79000 · EPC Support	2,858.34	0.00	100.0%	26,317.63	38,000.00	69.3%	38,000.00
88000 · Facilities & Campus	13,195.23	0.00	100.0%	109,489.41	188,070.00	58.2%	188,070.00
88500 · Administration	9,799.46	0.00	100.0%	90,640.39	135,890.00	66.7%	135,890.00
89001 · Mortgage Principal and Interest	14,000.00	0.00	100.0%	87,078.88	168,000.00	51.8%	168,000.00
90000 · Personnel	75,612.18	0.00	100.0%	759,743.51	1,091,601.00	69.6%	1,091,601.00
Total Expense	131,000.12	0.00	100.0%	1,293,362.45	1,981,161.00	65.3%	1,981,161.00
Net Ordinary Income	-18,436.21	173,172.30	-10.6%	88,993.21	-581,326.80	-15.3%	0.00
Net Income	-18,436.21	173,172.30	-10.6%	88,993.21	-581,326.80	-15.3%	0.00

New Hope Presbyterian Church of SWFL, Inc.
Session Restricted: Transactions
 September 2020

	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
46400 · MOPS Funds Income	
46401 · MOPS	851.45
46411 · MomsNext	255.60
	1,107.05
Total 46400 · MOPS Funds Income	1,107.05
49101 · Building Fund Pledge	4,041.70
51000 · Missions	
51100 · Local Missions Income	
51011 · Colonial Elementary	188.05
	188.05
Total 51100 · Local Missions Income	188.05
57000 · Missions Misc	
57011 · Missions General Income	101.10
	101.10
Total 57000 · Missions Misc	101.10
Total 51000 · Missions	289.15
58100 · Caring Ministries	
58101 · Care & Compassion	1,625.50
	1,625.50
Total 58100 · Caring Ministries	1,625.50
Total Income	7,063.40
Gross Profit	7,063.40
Expense	
62000 · Worship/Music	
62001 · Worship Administration	
62011 · Worship/Music General	464.01
	464.01
Total 62001 · Worship Administration	464.01
Total 62000 · Worship/Music	464.01
63000 · Christian Education	
64100 · Kids	
64101 · Kid's Ministry General	2,152.72
	2,152.72
Total 64100 · Kids	2,152.72
66400 · MOPS/MomsNext/MomsPM	
66401 · MOPS	1,362.74
66411 · MomsNext	57.12
	1,419.86
Total 66400 · MOPS/MomsNext/MomsPM	1,419.86
Total 63000 · Christian Education	3,572.58
70000 · Missions & Outreach	
71000 · Local Outreach	
71011 · Colonial Elementary	200.00
71091 · Local Discretionary Expenses	719.27
	919.27
Total 71000 · Local Outreach	919.27
75000 · Outreach	
75021 · Edwards/New International	300.00
	300.00
Total 75000 · Outreach	300.00
Total 70000 · Missions & Outreach	1,219.27
78100 · Care Ministries	
78101 · Care and Compassion	8,092.64
	8,092.64
Total 78100 · Care Ministries	8,092.64

10:38 AM
10/19/20
Cash Basis

New Hope Presbyterian Church of SWFL, Inc.
Session Restricted: Transactions
September 2020

	<u>TOTAL</u>
78601 · Seminary Scholarship Grants	1,290.00
89101 · Mortgage Reduction Fund	5,000.00
Total Expense	<u>19,638.50</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-12,575.10</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-12,575.10</u></u>

Oct 12, 2020

From: Pastor Mike Jones
To: Session
RE: Fill-in pulpit supply

I do want to add my initial list of fills in preachers since I have to get going on bookings soon to cover. When I arrived at New Hope, my preaching schedule was to be every third week and many fifth week Sundays as well. I would like to continue that expectation, even though it will be flipped! (I'll be every week and supply will cover the third and some fifth weeks.) So, based on that assumption, I am submitting the following names for Session consideration.

Draft list and schedule of potential preachers:

- Nov. 22- Rev. Jerry Iamurri- Assistant Stated Clerk, EPC General Assembly. (Already booked and will travel and lodge at EPC expense.)
- Dec. 13- Rev. Michael Smith- EPC and FL and Caribbean Presbytery Church planter in Jacksonville.
- Jan. 17- Rev. Jim Stephenson- PCA church planter and pastor. Former traditional music pastor at Mitchel Road Presbyterian, Greenville SC. The Jones' pastor while in SC.
- Jan. 31- Michael Smith (Fifth Sunday missions ...)
- Feb. 21- Rev. Wayne Frazier- Retired ARP pastor, preached at my installation service, Eddies former pastor.
- March 21- Rev. Paul Pepin- retired ARP Pastor, church planter and itinerant missionary to Cuba and India (indigenous Pastors training ministry)

Within New Hope: (I want to save these for if I get sick!)

Rev. Bill Enslem

Others?

EPC:

Rev. Michael Smith- EPC and FL and Caribbean Presbytery Church planter in Jacksonville.

Rev. Jerry Iamurri- Assistant Stated Clerk, EPC General Assembly.

Rev. Jeff Jeremiah- Stated Clerk, EPC General Assembly

Dr. Mike Gloto- RTS Orlando

ARP:

Rev. Paul Pepin- retired ARP Pastor, church planter and itinerant missionary to Cuba and India (indigenous Pastors training ministry)

Rev. Wayne Frazier- Retired ARP pastor, preached at my installation service, Eddies former pastor.

Other.

PCA: Rev. Jim Stephenson- Retired PCA church planter and pastor. Former traditional music pastor at Mitchel Road Presbyterian, Greenville SC.

Rev. Mark Gonzales- Southern Baptist exec director of mission for SWFL convention. Has preached at New Hope in the past.

Rev. Lucas Tanner- RUF (PCA)- Campus Ministry FGCU



Mission Council Meeting
New Hope Presbyterian

Minutes for
September 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Attendance					
Aston, Bill	P	LaRiviere, Pam	P	Schreiber, Elly	P
Hunkins, Art	P	LaRue, Jim	P	Seim, Ken	P
Hunkins, Bonnie	P	Mayer, Jim	P	Varble, Jordon	P
Towe, Veronica	A				

The Purpose of the New Hope Mission Council is to glorify God and Grow His Kingdom by empowering the people of New Hope to participate in God's mission locally, and world-wide. We accomplish this through prayer, participation, evangelism, discipleship, sending, partnering, going, and education.

1. Opening Prayer and devotional: Bill A.

(6th chapter in "Across the Street and Around the World)

Good discussion, found it very meaningful, especially the topic on the unreached people groups.

2. Approval of August Minutes.

MSC (Jim L./Art H/Unanimous) to accept the August minutes as presented

3. Old Business

a. Mission Council Monthly financial review (Ken)

All commitments have been paid to-date.

b. Follow up on possible needs of farm people (Jim LaRue)

Jim needs to gather more information. He will report back to the Council next month

c. Purchase of meat slicer for We Care Ministries–

Meat slicer was purchased by Jim and is being used by We Care Ministries regularly.

We Care is very appreciative of the purchase.

d. Visit to Path2Freedom site

Jim/Judy M. and Bonnie/Art H. visited the girl's residence. More information is needed before any decisions are made in terms of what, if anything, we can do to help.

4. New Business

a. Bob White is moving to TX and, therefore, withdrawing from the Mission Council

Jim M. will chat with Bob on his status

b. Partner Reviews – Update and review

All the partner reviews are available in ELI. There are still 4 more that need to be done.

We are encouraged to read each one of them in order to gain a better understanding of what we as a Council can do to better assist them.

c. **Budget for 2021**

After much discussion, as Ken took us through the proposed budget by each line item. MSC (Pam L/Jim L/Unanimous) to accept the proposed 2021 budget as presented. The proposed budget will now go on to Session for final approval.

d. **Expansion of ministry to We Care Ministries (Jim) –**

Jim is looking forward to a Meeting with Tonya to discuss what NHP can do to further assist them. Note: Scott Reese and Tom Ashwil will also attend this meeting)

e. **Path2Freedom (Jim)**

See above comment.

f. **ESL Start up- When, how-**

Jim updated us on his discussion with Nancy Booher (ESL coordinator for Mission to North America- PCA)

It was agreed that the ELS program at NHP should be continued.

Jim M will talk with each of the ESL teachers and see if anyone is interested in leading this important ministry.

Debbie Fransway was commended for her leadership and will be missed.

5. **Next meeting** will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020 7:00 pm.

Jim LaRue will be our next month's Devotional & prayer leader

6. **Closing prayer- Art Hunkins**

Report of the Strategic Planning Team – 10/27/2020

Addressing the Post-COVID “Ice Age” at New Hope

Introduction

The Strategic planning team was asked to consider what New Hope might look like after COVID-19, and to make appropriate recommendations. The dire predictions that were offered early in the crises may have been a bit of hyperbole. However, it is apparent that the Christian church has moved into an “Ice Age” that reflects a loss of influence and a radical change in how to engage the Great Commission.

Our thinking was guided by a simple maxim: Even if it is possible to eventually return to “normal,” we must become **more intentional about relational and digital ministry**.

These recommendations were developed to reflect the Mission and Core Values of New Hope* and the findings of the Auxano team. The pandemic, and the larger issues it has brought to light, have made us acutely aware that now is the time to move from aspirational to operational as quickly as possible.

Summary

Through our work and research, the team has identified two key realities:

1. **Relational ministry is paramount in a post-COVID culture**
 - In order to morph to optimal post-COVID ministry, we must open wide the doors of assimilation for all.
 - We must create opportunities for relationship building that significantly increase the actual connections within New Hope and successfully integrate all who seek to join and participate.
 - Digital church attendance often creates a consumer mindset - the strength of the local church is her **community relationships and local mission impact**.
- 2) **Digital ministry is an ongoing reality:**
 - We must approach it with excellence, intentionality and verve.
 - We must see and use it as an effective mission field.

Additionally, we noted that:

- **Culture and COVID have engendered a “squishy middle” - the 40% of the pre-COVID church population that must be pursued and wooed, and soon:**
 - Their return is not a given
 - We must quickly return to as much pre-COVID programming and “routine” as possible while supporting safety and, where possible, providing digital support.
 - We have already realigned staffing in family ministry and connections to maximize personal contact ministry and assimilation.

Discussion and Recommendations

We cannot overstate the gravity of an intentional relational ministry as a cornerstone of New Hope’s ongoing (post-COVID and post Eddie) ministry. Based on 1 Thess. 2:8, “*so we*

cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well,” the model for and benefit of relational ministry includes:

1. An intentional and purposeful connect group ministry: our goal is to form groups that form connections. (We must build a connection process that **circulates** relationships. We noted that currently, only Eddie comes close to knowing everyone at New Hope)
2. Effective relational “on ramping” for all the people at New Hope.
3. An intentional relational ministry based on interests. (Walking clubs, reading clubs, biking, golf, fishing...)
4. Broader development of intentional service/local missions ministry opportunities that are short term and project oriented.
5. We noted that while we have a smattering of age 19-25 (Gen Z) population at New Hope, it is not reflective of our community. **

In order to accomplish this, the relational culture of New Hope must become even more intentionally relational and include:

1. Establishing expectations that raise the awareness and value of broad relationships across the entire New Hope family:

1. All leaders at New Hope will be encouraged to participate in a “connect group”. These groups are not to supplant existing opportunities for teaching and discipleship but will have an intentionally relational atmosphere.

2. Reformatting the Connections “New Member” process

- a. Change to 6 weeks: 4 instruction with two weeks of connect group experience
- b. Coordinate these activities with launching new small groups - as other groups are redistributed and starting a new cycle.

3. Implementing the connect group discipleship and relational ministry ASAP

- a. Urgency must be considered because as things begin to return to normal, people are creating their new schedules. It is important to have them build their weekly rhythms around these connect groups.
- b. The team proposes a 4-week beta connect group and training process.
- c. The team has set a goal of up to 40 connect group leaders (up to 20 couples)- trained, equipped and ready to start in early 2021.
- d. Needs:

- i.LOTS of prayer!
- ii.Host homes and leaders/facilitators
- iii.Administrative support
- iv.Funding for publication of promotional material and mailing costs
- v.Funding to supply in-home childcare for those with young children. ***
- vi.Excitement and success stories within New Hope!
- vii. Full buy-in by leadership as to the validity, importance and strategic values of connect groups for New Hope.

4. Principles for the success of relational ministry:

- a. Since one of the primary goals is to open the relationship networks of New Hope to one another as well as new folks, we propose the length of each group to be about 12 weeks.
- b. The goal is to expand New Hope by using groups to create physical and spiritual space outside the physical campus for relating, serving, learning, authentic accountability, open handed hospitality, and corporate spirituality.

- c. At the end of each 12-week session, release the groups to form new relationships.
- d. Size of groups: 6-8 family groups.
- e. Prioritize developing intentional ministry to the full spectrum of 19-34-year-old people and their unique interests.

The coming together of the physical and digital ministry, the ‘phygital’ church, has been in the making for at least a generation. COVID 19 simply sped up the inevitable. **New Hope must continuously create and evolve digital access that is attractive, interactive and effective in bringing the virtual attender into the actual community of faith and in real relationships with other believers.** To enable the phygital, the team noted that the digital culture of New Hope must progress to include:

1. Appropriate staffing levels and roles
2. Sufficient operational funding
3. Allocated capital funding for required technology (hardware and software)
4. Widespread utilization and alignment of the gifts and talents of all elements of the New Hope community

We currently offer multiple ways to digitally connect with people as New Hope church during this COVID season and predict a continuation beyond:

1. Since starting use of the virtual friendship pad in August, we’re getting a clearer picture of who is watching us online and the ability to record specific attendance
2. The virtual friendship pad has also afforded the opportunity to collect specific prayer requests and praises from the church body. When these requests come in, they are passed to the Telecare Team, led by Jim Mayer, who then calls each person to personally pray with them. Requests come from visitors and regular attenders as well as New Hope members.
3. The virtual friendship pad also allows people to let us know if they are a guest or worshipping online or on campus with us. When a guest is identified, Michelle contacts them and encourages them to complete a connection card to obtain a bit more information from them. She then, enters them into ELI and enters them into our assimilation process.
4. We are adding QR scan code stickers to the sanctuary chairs to capture first time guests with a paperless option.
5. We also are including a virtual connection card on our “New Here” page of the website
6. We are redesigning our connection follow-up process to better capture and hopefully retain first time guests
7. Using our ELI software, we’re designing an app that will be exclusive to New Hope and streamline event registrations, attendance, check in and more in the coming months.

Conclusion

The above plan is meant to address our present reality of reemerging after an unprecedented season of ministry and to address the ongoing concerns revealed through the Auxano process. These concerns are only heightened by our imminent pastoral transition. By embracing a robust assimilation-oriented culture at every level of New Hope and by our continued commitment to phygital quality and excellence we will, prayerfully, align New Hope for years of Kingdom impact and Gospel community building.

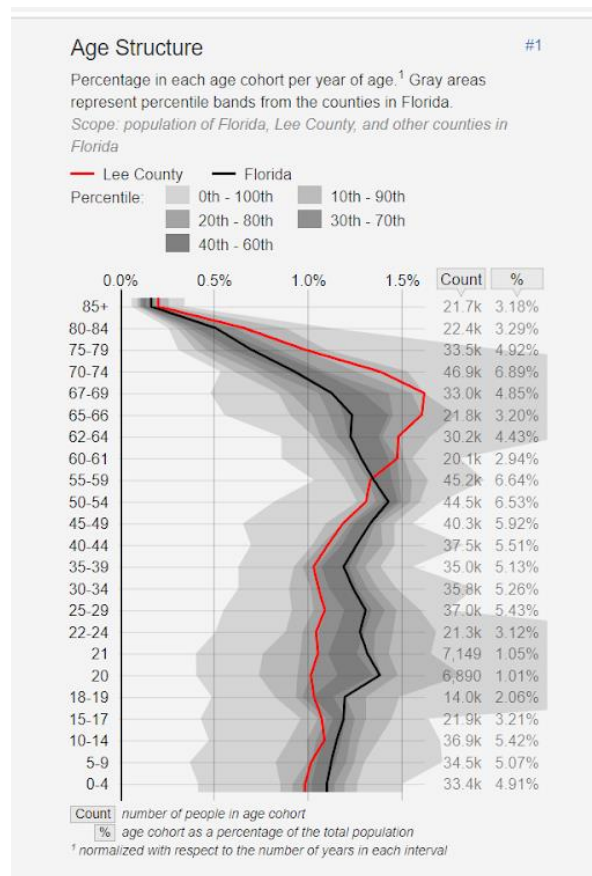
Requested Actions

1. That the Session consider:
 1. Endorsing the findings of the Strategy Team
 2. Directing the Strategy Team to prepare a “one pager” to communicate a summary of the report to the staff, ministries and committees of New Hope
 3. Encouraging the staff, ministries and committees of New Hope to prayerfully and enthusiastically develop intentional relational and digital ministries
2. That the Session support the staff recommendations to return to as much pre-Covid programming as seems prudent.
3. That a learning/discussion module on relational and phygital ministry be included as part of the January 2021 Session retreat

Notes

* <https://www.newhopefortmyers.org/purposeandbeliefs/>

** The demographic split of Lee County is as follows:



- 21.9% under 19 years of age.
- 29.2% over 64 years of age.
- **49.9% are between the ages of 19 and 64.**
- Roughly 32% are between the ages of 35 and 63
- Thus, 18% of Lee County residents are 19-34. This is a vulnerable and underrepresented age group at New Hope.

*** In order to create the type of space needed for young families to connect, we feel it's important to consider offering to reimburse childcare (babysitting) services for connect group participants. Knowing that your child is at home, cared for and put to bed in their own bed on schedule has proven invaluable for community building in this age group. (This is a strategy employed since the beginning of Northpoint church in Atlanta as presented in Deep and Wide)

Children's Ministry Report October 2020

Remix at 11:00 am has been going well although attendance has leveled off as happens this time of year. Distractions are many with sports, theme parks, boating, etc.

Our kids are great at wearing their masks. Following the school district's experience, our teachers are letting them participate in group activities with masks on.

We are sad for Roxanne Spencer's last Sunday teaching the kids. Praying God will bring us gifted teachers to serve at 11 am, plus loving volunteers for our front desk.

X-Factor at 9:30 am – council talked through reopening the Large Group/Small group ministry at 9:30 am. Drawing on the public school experience, it should be possible to have 50+ children plus leaders in our large group room in 216 with masks on. Refer to revised Addenda for protocol.

Small groups will meet in individual classrooms before and after to apply the Bible lessons to life. November's series is about Gratitude which is "letting others know you see how much they helped you." We need it.

November 8th is the date we would like to begin. This is very timely because many families experience a lull between Halloween and Thanksgiving so we may be able to get a little traction on attendance before December starts.

Mission – we discussed ideas for mission projects for the kids. In November, we are supporting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We have also been supporting PBJ sandwiches for We Care Outreach.

There is a need to collect new and gently used polo shirts and uniform bottoms for Colonial. We deferred this collection until the end of the school year as a better time to ask families.

The decision was made to incorporate a family mission with the Advent devotion booklet we selected. *Prince of Peace* is a different kind of devotion than what we have done before. Each day has a "Think, Pray, Act" section which follows the Scripture reading with an action. One example is planning and making Blessing Bags for the family to give to homeless or elderly people. It is our hope that this focus on others will help families to find peace that comes from reaching outside our own concerns.

Plans are underway for Confirmation, plus we are looking into a new summer camp option for July 11-14, 2021 since Camp Kid Jam is cancelled.



Minutes of Deacon Meeting

October 19, 2020

Deacons present – Sue Bova, Al Cason, David Childs, Judy Clarke, Linda Daniels, Mark Dillehay, Candy Engleman, Christine Glatz, Doug Keno, Steve McKinnon, Kathy Orkowski, Karen Pultz, Sandra Raak, Mindy Rutherford, Alan Staffon

Pastor Mike Jones attended the meeting.

Unable to attend – Chris Bundschu, Pam LaRiviere, Marlys Norve, Emily Reese, Jill Ritterbusch, Moderator, Doug Keno, opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed us to the meeting.

Minutes approval - The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report – The deacon financials remain the same as last month. We had no new expenses. The Deacons have a \$3000 budget for 2020 and have spent \$558.

Old Business

Continue to mail encouragement cards to those on our lists. We need more names on the list, so let Doug know about people who would benefit from our card ministry.

Let Mindy Rutherford and Steve McKinnon know of anyone who would like to be a deacon or elder.

New Business

The next Blood mobile is November 15th and this will be the last one for this year. The six dates for 2021 have been set.

Member contacts: Mindy Rutherford contacted Jack Delaney who is now in the assisted living at Discovery Village.

We Care

The peanut butter and jelly drive on October 15th was well supplied.

Walmsley Service

The memorial service for Sandy Walmsley on October 11 at 2:30pm was very nice. Doug Keno has reached out to Jack Walmsley to meet for lunch.

Sutton Service

The memorial service for Dave Sutton will be on October 24th at 2:00 PM.

Other church news

The annual church bake sale will be chaired by Signe Pagel. It will be done using online orders and pickup. It will benefit missionaries in Syria.

There will be a mission dinner for the Nykamps on Saturday October 24th from 6 to 8 in Room 212. Contact Jim Mayer to pre-order a sandwich for a light supper.

Property Council

There was no report this month.

Prayers and Praises

Roxanne's Dad does not have Covid.

Kay Tabern lost her sister in Chicago.

The next Prayer meeting will be Nov 21st from 10 to 11:30.

The weekly Prayer List will be handled by Pastor Mike Jones and sent out on Mondays.

Spencer celebration

The celebration will be outside on Sunday October 25th. It will be an Open House from 4:30 – 6:30

There will be two food trucks to buy meals. Three cakes and cupcakes have been ordered.

There will be \$2 coupons to be handed out to use at the food trucks.

There are Deacons signed up to serve cake, setup and cleanup.

There will be bounce houses to watch over for safety.

Judy Clarke made a nice card for the Deacons to sign.

Candy has made a nice card box.

Sandra and Steve are organizing the gifts.

Steve McKinnon closed the meeting in prayer.

The next deacon meeting will be November 23rd. If you are going off the board, please turn in your notebook. Some snacks will be provided by Judy Clarke and Karen Pultz plus any others who wish to bring something. This will be our last meeting of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Bova



New Hope Blood Drive 2020

Committee report for Deacon mtg. 10.19.20

Blood Drive Dates:

November 15, 2020 will be the last of the 6 New Hope Blood Drives in 2020.

The dates for the six New Hope Blood Drives in 2021, from 8am – 1pm:

Jan. 10, March 14, May 16, July 18, Sept. 19, and Nov. 21.

There will be pre-registration through the New Hope website: newhopefortmyers.org scheduled every 10 minutes. The Blood Mobile will be parked on the Northside of church.

Thank you note cards are sent to all those participating. We appreciate the talents of Meg LaRue & Katie Hamric who make and provide the note cards to the Blood Drive Committee for distribution.

Respectfully submitted,

New Hope Blood Drive Committee

Sandra Raak, Emily Reese & Al Cason

SKRdesign@comcast.net or cell 239-247-2304.

Dear Church Family, on Tuesday night, Sept. 22, with a sad and heavy heart I shared my intention with to leave New Hope. Please know this has been a very an agonizing decision. This will sadden and shock many of you and for this I am deeply sorry. Below is my attempt to honestly and clearly share why I am leaving a beloved church family which Roxanne and I have poured our lives into for 7 and a half years.

From my first day at New Hope, I have loved pastoring the people of New Hope. In my seven plus years, I have worked diligently and sought to be devoted to serve Christ and His kingdom in and through New Hope Church. But for over a year, while I have continued to work hard, I have been serving and leading spiritually, emotionally, and mentally worn out.

My pastoral and leadership priorities, such as spiritual passion, capacity and compassion to bear people's burdens, enthusiasm and joy in daily ministry, and a drive to lead a local church to be a Kingdom-driven body of believers have diminished. It is deeply discouraging not to have the energy to love and lead consistent with my convictions for pastoral leadership.

Please be assured I am not leaving New Hope because I am going to another church, disillusioned with church, having marital problems, committed some secret, ministry-ending sin. Neither am I upset in any way with our church family, staff, leadership or denomination. I have loved serving alongside Pastor Mike. He is not only a gifted pastor, leader and godly man but a good friend as well. Currently, I believe New Hope has the best Session, Diaconate and most united staff with whom I have served.

I am leaving simply because I am very weary. I am not weary of the work of ministry but in the work of ministry. Following a 3 to 6 month time away from church ministry, my hope and prayer is to serve Christ and his Kingdom for years to come.

I will be with you through October 31 and then our plan is to move to Greenville, SC to be near our son, Andrew and his family. Roxanne will hopefully begin a new real estate business. I will look for a non-church job and seek to spiritually, emotionally and mentally prepare for a ministry assignment in the future.

For seven and a half years, it has been an honor to share the gospel, my life and heart with you. Roxanne and I love you dearly.

Great Peace in the Lord, Pastor Eddie