

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

New Hope Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, July 25, 2023



Our mission: To glorify God and make disciples by living out the gospel together.

| Teaching Elders | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|--------|----------------|-----|
| | | Pastor Mike Jones | X | | |
| | | | | | |
| Active Ruling Elders | | | | | |
| Class of 2023 | | Class of 2024 | | Class of 2025 | |
| David Carpenter | P | Doug Keno | P | Candy Engelman | P |
| Jerry Elliott | P | Sandy Knipe | E A | Jim LaRue | P |
| Carolyn Melton | P | Mark Myers | P | Jon Witenko | P |
| David Milligan | P | Ken Walker | E A | | |
| | | Rodney Woosley | Z | | |
| P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; EA=Excused Absence; =Absent | | | | Quorum: | Yes |
| Others | | | | | |
| Chuck Knox – Treasurer; Signe Pagel – Clerk of Session | | | | | |
| Flo Antuono, Sheldon Church, Jim Mayer, Steve McKinnon, Bob Welsh, Judy Welsh | | | | | |

MINUTES

- Pastor Mike opened with prayer as an introduction to:
 - Recap video (35 minutes) from Dean Weaver at the 2023 General Assembly, highlighting the vision and progress towards meeting the EPC strategic objectives – in lieu of “A Season of Prayer.” Pr. Mike noted that Dean Weaver will visit New Hope the weekend of August 27, 2023.
- Carolyn Melton opened the Session with prayer.
 - Motion: LaRue/Carpenter/Unam. – This evening’s guests will be allowed to speak, if they so desire.
- Moderator’s Report – Pastor Mike Jones

- a. Motion: Myers/Elliott/Unam. – New Hope will hold just one Sunday morning service, at 10:00, on December 24; Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.
 - b. The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean will be October 20 – 21 in The Bahamas. A valid U.S. Passport is required for entry to The Bahamas. Any active elder who has a Passport and is available to attend is to communicate that to Angel Dobson as soon as possible so we can compile our list of attendees for submission to the Registrar and make the appropriate travel reservations.
 - c. A mission trip to Cuba, to train pastors of new churches, will take place October 13 – 20, in advance of the Presbytery meeting (see 3.b. above). Pr. Mike, Pr. Paul Pepin, and Jim Mayer will be attending.
 - d. Motion: LaRue/Elliott/Unam. – Approval is given for infant Henry Chiklakis, son of Jason and Allie Chiklakis, to be baptized in the faith in September.
4. Clerk of Session Report:
- a. Motion: Keno/LaRue/Unam. -- to approve the May 23, 2023, Stated Session Minutes. (Side note: There was no meeting in June, thus there are no June Minutes to approve.)
 - b. Motion: Witenko/Milligan/Unam. -- to approve the Minutes of both the June 27 and June 28 Called Session Meetings (printed copies were available at Stated Meeting of Session on July 25).
 - c. Motion: Elliott/LaRue/Unam. – on June 15 via email vote by elders. Dave Carpenter is not able to make it to General Assembly in Denver and so the following motion was passed by the elders: “Ruling elder Candy Engelman will join ruling elders Jim LaRue, Bob Welsh and Carolyn Melton as commissioners from NHP.”
 - d. Motion: Witenko/Keno/Unam. – on July 9 approved via email vote by elders: “that the Sacrament of Baptism be offered to Aaron and Jenelle Castella on Sunday, July 30, at the 11:00 worship service.”
 - e. David Milligan, chairperson of the Membership Committee, sought people to serve on said Committee. Session elected David Carpenter and appointed Signe Pagel, and Angel Dobson (advisory capacity) to the Membership Committee.
 - f. Motion: LaRue/Keno/Unam. – The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be Jon Witenko; David Carpenter shall serve as a member of the Nominating Committee.
 - g. Communication received by the Membership Committee from Carol Millward to remove her from the active member roll.

5. Executive Director of Operations Report – Flo Antuono

- a. Motion: Engelman/LaRue/Unam. – This meeting shall move to an Executive Session for the purpose of hearing and responding to the report from Flo Antuono. Guests (Church, Mayer, McKinnon, B. Welsh, J. Welsh) were dismissed from the room, to be invited back at the conclusion of the report from the Executive Director of Operations. Knox remained for the Executive Session to provide information pertinent to his role as Treasurer, if needed.
- b. Motion: LaRue/Keno/Unam. – The Executive Session shall be concluded, and the Stated Session Meeting shall resume. Guests were invited back into the room: Church and Mayer re-joined the meeting; the others did not.

6. Treasurer's Report – Chuck Knox

- a. New Hope had a deficit, through June 30, of \$85,000. There is presently approximately \$100,000 in spendable reserve funds. The staff are diligently finding ways to cut expenses but the end-of-year balance between expenses and income is expected to be tight.

7. Finance Committee Report – Jerry Elliott

- a. Last Sunday, Elliott reported to the congregation that income was approximately 4% lower than what was budgeted; further analysis, however, suggests that the number is closer to 2% (est. \$16,000 shortfall).
- b. Director of Missions, Jim Mayer, has made the decision to move to voluntary, unpaid status to help address the church's financial concerns. Elliott expressed his praise for Mayer's commitment to New Hope, noting that this will likely be a difficult transition for Mayer. Numerous comments of "thanks" were made by various elders, and Pr. Mike gave Mayer an opportunity to address Session.
 - i. Mayer shared his heart for the power of prayer and the hope that New Hope can become more engaged in opportunities of corporate prayer. He lifted up scripture from 2 Chronicles 7:14: *" . . . if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

8. Membership Committee Report – David Milligan

- a. Milligan referred to the statistical report that shows inactive members and said these names will be presented for removal from membership at the next Stated Session Meeting.

9. Personnel Committee Report – Candy Engelman

- a. Pr. Paul Pepin will begin part-time employment with New Hope on August 1.
- b. Motion: Elliott/LaRue/Unam. – New Hope authorizes Presbytery to receive Rev. Paul Pepin, “Assistant to Pastor – Stated Supply.”
- c. Engelman referenced her written report (attached) and emphasized that the changes noted therein were absolutely needed, were made prayerfully and with the unanimous agreement of the Personnel Committee.

10. Sr. Pastor Search Team Report – David Milligan

- a. Sarah Harre, Search Team member, is moving to the Sarasota area in the near future. She has committed to remain a member of New Hope and as a member of the Search Team. It is the recommendation of Milligan that Session voice its support for Sarah Harre to remain on the Search Team. There was no objection to this recommendation.

11. Unfinished Business

- a. Status on the review/update of the Elders’ Handbook, By-Laws, etc. – David Carpenter distributed a revised Elder Handbook. He requests that all elders read it carefully, noting any changes he/she thinks are necessary, so that it can be placed on the Agenda for approval at the August Stated Session meeting.
- b. Once finalized and approved, it is intended to be shared with the membership and, specifically, will be given to all persons nominated for the office of Ruling Elder at New Hope. This will enable them to familiarize themselves with the requirements, expectations, and responsibilities of the role for which they have been nominated prior to their election to office.

12. New Business

- a. Carolyn Melton would like there to be more emphasis on corporate prayer in the Session meeting. Pr. Mike stated that he felt it was appropriate to spend time watching the video from General Assembly tonight in lieu of an extended prayer time, but that approximately 15 minutes of corporate prayer time will be on the Agenda next month and in the future.
- b. Moderator Jones called for an executive session meeting to be convened on Thursday, Aug. 10 at 6:00 at NHP. He will send a reminder with the agenda to the active members of Session.

13. The following reports from Committees/Ministries are attached for reference, but were not discussed:

- a. Deacons – Sue Morton, Secretary
- b. Family Ministries – Michelle Myers, Director

- c. Facilities – Ed Harger, Director
 - d. Finance – Brad Starner, Director
 - e. Missions/Outreach (no report for June; however, May report is attached as it was not included with Session's May meeting materials) – Jim Mayer, Director
 - f. Worship Attendance (Files OL05 & OL08) – Angel Dobson
 - g. Sunday School Attendance (File SS00) – Angel Dobson
 - h. Membership Reports (File MS01, RPT09H, RPT14P, RPT09F, RPT09G – Angel Dobson
14. Motion: Keno/LaRue/Unam. – The Stated Session Meeting shall be closed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m., with prayer by Carolyn Melton.
15. Future Meetings to Note:
- a. Tuesday, August 1, 6:00 p.m. -- Rick Clapp – “Beyond Survival”; for Elders and Staff
 - b. Thursday, August 10, 6:00 p.m. – Executive Session Meeting
 - c. Tuesday, August 22, 6:00 p.m. -- Stated Session Meeting

Submitted by:
Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator
Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session