



STATED MEETING OF SESSION
New Hope Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021
(Combined In-person and Zoom meeting)

Minutes

Teaching Elder (Moderator) & Active Ruling Elders:		TE	Pastor Mike Jones		P
Class of 2021		Class of 2022		Class of 2023	
Bill Ashton	EA	Steve Boutelle	P	Gayle Bundschu	P
Jeannie Martin	P	Sheldon Church	Z	Jerry Elliot	P
Dave Carpenter	P	Sean Ellis	P	Jim Glatz	Z
		Jerry Franz	P	Duane Higgins	P
		Ken Seim	P	Carolyn Melton	P
		Bill Enslin	EA	David Milligan	P
				Kathy Orr	P
P=In-person; Z=Zoom; EA= Excused Absence; A=Absent				Quorum	Y

Also Present: Treasurer – Chuck Knox; Early Childhood – Pam Poland; Trustee – Jason Harre; Facilities – Ed Harger; Members – Bob Welsh, Scott Connell, Mark Myers, Steve Shimp

- 1) Convened on Zoom (link) and in Room 206 at 6:00 P.M. Opening devotion and prayer: David Carpenter
- 2) **MSC (Jerry E/Jim G/Unanimous)** gave voice to staff and members present
- 3) **MSC (Ken S/Jeanne M/U)** approved the Minutes of the Aug. 24th Stated Session Meeting with one correction (See attached)
- 4) Pastor’s Report:
 - (a) Nomination Committee numbers
MSC (Gayle B/Ken S/U) approved the Nominating Committee presenting nominations for 5 Elders, 4 – 7 Deacons and 1 Trustee for the Class of 2023 as described in the Constitution and By-Laws
 - (b) Connections – Pastor Mike reported a class of 21 in the Wednesday class. The last class will be on Oct. 13th. He requested at least 4 Ruling Elders to volunteer to be present to give and hear testimonies and to accept new members. One Teaching Elder and Two Ruling Elders are needed to accept new members. Please volunteer to Pastor Mike.
 - (c) Nov. 7th Mortgage Burning – Pastor Mike reported the deacons will assist, but a food truck will be brought in to handle the food at the celebration.
MS (Carolyn M/Kathy O) that Session move the observance of Communion to Oct. 31st instead of Nov. 7th. That motion was defeated.

- (d) Dr. Ben Borsay will preach on Oct. 31st, but his welcome will be rolled into the Nov. 7th celebration. As directed by Session, our church treasurer determined it would be most appropriate to have Dr. Borsay be an employee, not an independent contractor. The contract with Session will be executed with Dr. Borsay by the Moderator and Clerk of Session at the same total compensation and with the same job description as Session approved in August. Dr. Borsay will also be preaching on 11/21, 12/21, 1/2/22 and 1/23/22.
 - (e) Correspondence policy – Pastor Mike announced, after advisement from Jerry lamairi, Assistant State Clerk of the EPC, the policy going forward on any correspondence received by the Clerk addressed to Session will be directed to Pastor Ben (if it pertains to Pastor Mike), or to Pastor Mike as Moderator (for any other issues) to determine how to best communicate it to Session.
 - (f) Thankquet – The Thankquet proposed last Session meeting, after discussion with staff, will be only to serve Deacons. It was determined including all volunteers would be taxing on them and what we would wish to be a blessing might indeed not be.
 - (g) Proposed Missions emphasis weekend will be around the first part of February 2022, with a special guest expected to attend, Andrew Brunsen.
 - (h) The church is hosting a live stream “Church & Culture Conference”, Monday, Oct. 4th, from 10-2. It is also available through Thursday, Oct. 7th if interested and not able to attend on Monday. Sessions included will be: “Defending against deconstruction”, “All things gender”, “The realities of the post-covid church”, and “Building an online campus”.
- 5) Early Childhood Ministry Director – Pam Poland – Addressed Session as a staff member, not reporting on her ministry activities. She asked Session to become more involved with staff, open dialogues, get to know staff, so Session is more aware of the issues when making decisions for the church. Session thanked her for her work and her recommendations.
- 6) Clerk of Session Report:
- (a) Correspondence
 - (i) Letter to Session from Members Ed and Heidi Frost dated 7/24/21 (See attached)
 - (ii) Letter to Session from Member Julie Bledsoe rec’d 9/7/21 (See attached)
 - (b) RptMS01 & Rpt09 G & H – Membership Statistical Reports for August (See attached)
 - (c) On 8/25 the moderator called a joint meeting via email of Deacons and Elders for 9/20. The purpose of that meeting was to meet the transitional pastor and his wife, Dr. Ben and Kathy Borsay, and for the Deacons to meet afterward to plan the Nov. 7th Mortgage Burning Celebration according to the Session adopted plan. No other business was conducted.
 - (d) Report of results of 2 email votes:
 - (i) Aug. 31st email re: Nominating Committee – following up on the action taken at the August meeting, 15 of 16 elders voted in the affirmative to propose 5 nominees to the congregation at a Congregational Meeting at 10:45 AM on

Sunday, Sept. 26th, David Carpenter, Bill Enslin, Candy Engelman, Al Cason and Michaels Scales.

- (ii) Sept. 4th email re: EPC disaster relief fund – 9 of 16 (a quorum) of elders voted, with 8 in the affirmative, approving the moderator’s request, motion by Ken S., seconded by Jerry F, to appeal to the congregation to give to the EPC Disaster Fund during September.
 - (e) The Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, Sept. 26th. The results were that the congregation voted to add two members to the Session proposed committee: Linda Hart nominated by Bob Rae and Dick Grosse nominated by Lowell Hamric. The slate of 7 for the 2021 Nominating Committee, being the 5 proposed by Session (Dave Carpenter, Bill Enslin, Candy Engelman, Al Cason, Michael Scales) and the 2 nominated by the congregation (Linda Hart and Dick Grosse) were unanimously elected by voice vote.
- 7) Standing Committee Reports
- (a) Finance Committee Report - Chuck K/Sheldon C: (see attached)
 - (b) Personnel Committee Report - Bill E – No report. Kathy O led Session in prayer for our staff.
- 8) Property council/finance team report- David Milligan- Capital Reserve Study 9/28/21 attached.
- David described the study process and highlights. Session complimented David and the team for their work on this issue.
- 9) Unfinished Business
- (a) Membership Committee – David Milligan – Report attached.
MSC (Gayle B/David M/U) included in the Elder Handbook the Membership Committee’s “Procedure for Updating Member Status” with the attachments when available of the “A.2. member status call conversation guidelines”, and the “A.3. update reporting form”. And add the process by which Session can remove member(s) who, despite the diligent efforts of Session: (1) have in writing or verbally asked to be removed, (2) have moved away from our area, followed by letter sent by New Hope and returned with no forwarding address or no reply from the member within 30 days, or (3) have been on the inactive role for a period of a least one year. Written notification from the Session will be sent, when possible, to those being removed.
 - (b) Elder Handbook Review/Adoption (previously provided to all active elders)
MSC (Dave C/Jim G/U) adopted the Elder Handbook draft dated 7/30/21 with some modifications from David M’s 9/28 email suggestions #1, 4, 5, and 6 (copy attached).
 - (c) The Moderator asked Jason Harre, a member and participant in the Auxano process to describe how our church developed our mission statement, values, and related processes. Discussion followed of purpose statement versus mission statement as posted on our walls. Pursuant to the motions passed in the August meeting, the website change to include the entire mission statement was directed to be done.

The decision on the hall walls' displays was postponed until the October meeting due to a delay in obtaining the cost from the provider.

- (d) Next Presbytery meeting- Oct. 15th-16th –Bob Welsh will attend as our 4th, but David Carpenter cannot attend. The Moderator asked to be notified if anyone decided to attend.
- 10) Other Reports – Council/Ministries Minutes & Reports
- (a) Property Council – Ed Harger – Reported the porch canopy construction is complete, inspected, and operational. He is working on getting electric and fans bid and installed.
 - (b) Deacons: 6/28/21 Minutes attached
 - (c) Mission/Outreach Council: 8/9/21 Minutes attached. Ken added some information about issues in Ethiopia. Jerry F led Session in prayer for our missionaries and Christians around the world.
 - (d) Children Ministries: Debbie Norris – Report attached
 - (e) Connect Groups – Angel Dobson – Connection Sunday resulted in 2 new groups and 42 new sign-ups.
 - (f) Youth and Student Ministries – Jackie Elliott – No report
 - (g) Care Network – Kathy Orr – No report
 - (h) Youth Director Search Committee – Steve Boutelle – No report
- 11) New Business
- (a) BSA Girl Troop 272 – Steve Shimp request. (See attached.)
MSC (Gayle B/Ken S/U) to transfer the assets of Girl Troop #272, including the Troop's funds held by New Hope to Cypress Lake Methodist Church. Steve Shimp will work with our Finance Director to accomplish the orderly transfer of all Troop #272 assets. New Hope will retain the Girl Troop #272 name for possible future use.
- 12) **MSC (Kathy O/Jerry E/U)** adjourned in prayer by Steve B at 8:45.

Signed by:

Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator

Gayle Bundschu, Clerk of Session