



STATED MEETING OF SESSION
New Hope Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 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	Z	Steve Boutelle	EA	Gayle Bundschu	P
Jeannie Martin	P	Sheldon Church	Z	Jerry Elliot	P
Dave Carpenter	P	Sean Ellis	P	Jim Glatz	P
		Jerry Franz	P	Duane Higgins	Z
		Ken Seim	P	Carolyn Melton	P
		Bill Enslin	EA	David Milligan	Z
				Kathy Orr	P
P=In-person; Z=Zoom; EA= Excused Absence; A=Absent			Quorum	Y	

Also Present: Treasurer – Chuck Knox; Guests – Bob Welsh, Rev. Ben Borsay

- 1) Convened on Zoom (link) and in Room 206 at 6:00 P.M. Devotion and opening prayer: Rev. Ben Borsay
- 2) **MSC (Jerry F/Kathy O/Unanimous)** gave voice to the treasurer and guests present.
- 3) Minutes of the Sept. 28th Stated Session Meeting were unanimously approved as written (See attached)
- 4) Pastor's Report
 - (a) Announced, unless the perceived need arises, we will not be offering the 8:00 worship service due the lower number of attendees in winter 2021 with COVID issues and the expected continuation of that low in-person attendance in the winter season 2022.
 - (b) The transition pastor will be a member of our Session and will serve as vice moderator of Session as of his start date of 10/31/21, according to EPC guidelines. He will remain a member of his former Presbytery and may attend our Presbytery with voice, but no vote.
 - (c) The Nov. 7th Mortgage Burning celebration has been well-planned by staff and the 10 AM one combined worship service should end by about 11:10 when the congregation will move outside to a small stage for a 7–12-minute ceremony, then have a lunch party on the lawn.
 - (d) On Oct. 13th 22 new members were accepted into church membership in the presence of Pastor Mike and four elders: Jeanie M, David C, Ken S and Gayle B. Those elders commented on the value of meeting and hearing the testimonies of the new members. A list of these new members and how they joined was distributed. (See attached.)
 - (e) Noted that a catalog of the missions we support is now on our website.
 - (f) Thanked Jerry F for doing such a good job of pulpit supply last week on short notice.

- 5) Rev. Ben Borsay - Rev. Ben stated he intends to make appointments to meet with each Session member, deacons, staff and would also like to get names from the elders of church members, both current and former, with whom to meet. He would specifically like to learn what each think are our church's "Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats".
- 6) Clerk of Session Report:
 - (a) Congregational Meeting Sept. 26th Approved Minutes (See attached)
 - (b) RptMS01 & Rpt09 G & H – Membership Statistical Reports for September – (See attached)
 - (c) Report results of email vote:

October 1st email re: Nominating Committee – The email request to approve Elder Jim Glatz to replace Elder Bill Enslin, who had resigned from the Nominating Committee, was approved with 12 of the 16 active elders responding, all voting in the affirmative.
- 7) Standing Committee Reports
 - (a) Finance Committee Report - Chuck K/Sheldon C: (See attached) – Chuck added that the 4th quarter is usually the second-best income quarter, and he expects that the current operating deficit will be erased or balanced at year end.
 - (i) Proposed 2022 Budget (See attached) – Sheldon/Chuck K reported this budget was for review and next month the final budget, possibly with some adjustments, would be in final form for voting on by Session. Any questions, comments or suggestions should be directed to Brad or Sheldon. We will receive this budget and vote whether to refer it to the congregation at our November Stated Session meeting.
 - (b) Personnel Committee Report - Bill E – No report. Bill was absent due to his wife's recent knee replacement surgery. Gayle B prayed for them.
- 8) Unfinished Business
 - (a) MSC (Jerry E/Ken S/U) After discussion, unanimously approved removing the words "OUR MISSION" on the hall wall above the partial mission statement of "LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL TOGETHER". Discussion continued about how and where the mission statement could be better used, from adding it to the weekly bulletins, which Pastor Mike said he would have done, to posting the whole mission statement somewhere, possibly in the church office reception area. The web site now has the full mission statement.
- 9) Other Reports – Council/Ministries Minutes & Reports
 - (a) Presbytery Meeting Report – Carolyn M, Bob W

Carolyn M reported that she has been a church elder before, but this was the first time she had been able to go to a Presbytery meeting and how impressed she was with the specific prayers, the candidate examination, and how churches were helping churches. She said it was a holy experience and not a "business as usual" event.

Bob W. appreciated going as one of our commissioners and reported that the EPC is changing how the denomination will be funded by churches, moving from a per capita donation to 1% of the church's budget. He also encouraged all elders to attend the next Presbytery meeting on Feb. 18th – 19th, 2022, as it will be held at First Presbyterian in Fort Myers.

- (b) Nominating Committee – David C – Reported the committee’s first meeting was held Saturday, Oct.23rd and that they had a productive meeting. They have developed a list of proposed nominees and who will call on them. He also reported that they have decided upon a procedure of following up the initial call by sending the prospective candidate documents on the qualifications and the role of the office to which he/she could be nominated and then following up later to answer questions and ask if he/she would accept the nomination. **MSC (David C/Carolyn M/U)** called a Congregational Meeting on Nov. 21st at 10:45 for the purpose of voting on a slate of officers for 2024.
 - (c) Mission/Outreach Council: 10/15 Minutes attached – Ken added that Ethiopia is falling apart and mission work there is very difficult. Jerry F prayed for missions and for Ethiopia in specific.
 - (d) Children Ministries: Debbie Norris – See attached
 - (e) Property Council – Ed Harger – No Report
 - (f) Membership Committee – David Milligan – No report
 - (g) Connect Groups – Angel Dobson - No Report
 - (h) Youth and Student Ministries – Jackie Elliott – No report
 - (i) Care Network – Kathy Orr – No report
 - (j) Youth Director Search Committee – Steve Boutelle – No report
 - (k) Deacons: No minutes attached
- 10) New Business
- (a) After discussion, it was decided not to change our current policies of on-line friendship pad, registration, not passing collection plates, and leaving communion with the elements picked up in the foyer at entry. Session also recommended some additional collection boxes near the foyer exit doors.
 - (b) **MSC (Kathy O/Jim G/U)** moved the November State Session meeting to Tuesday, Nov. 30th.
- 11) **MSC (Jim G/Ken S/U)** adjourned the meeting at 8:05 with closing prayer by Bill A.

Signed by:
Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator
Gayle Bundschu, Clerk of Session