



STATED MEETING OF SESSION
New Hope Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021
(Combined In-person and Zoom meeting)

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

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Treasurer – Chuck Knox; Staff – Ed Harger; Guest – Bob Welsh,

- 1) Convened on Zoom (link) and in Room 206 at 6:00 P.M. Devotion: Pastor Mike read a portion of 1st Peter 5 with the opening prayer by Kathy O.
- 2) **MSC (Ken S/Jim G/Unanimous)** granted voice to non-Session members present.
- 3) **MSC (Jerry E/Sheldon C/U)** amended the agenda to permit Ed Harger, Facilities Director, to report first due to his health.
- 4) **Facilities Director Ed Harger** reported for the Property Council that the newly purchased playground equipment requires an under-matting be purchased and installed before the new equipment can be installed and safely used. This issue was not known prior to beginning the assembly. He priced out two alternatives, one using the recommended matting at a cost of about \$11,500 and an alternative of using a build-up of sufficient ground rubber contained by edging at a cost of about \$5,000. After discussion, and with the recommendation of Finance Council, a motion was made by Ed that did not require a second, as it came from a council, that **Property Council be authorized to spend up to \$11,500 for the recommended playground under-matting which shall use the General Fund #30001 to account for this purchase. This motion passed unanimously.** However, discussion ensued as to how to better investigate and authorize any future capital asset purchases to prevent mistakes of this sort. Sheldon C will work with the Finance Council to address this issue and will report on it at the next Stated Session Meeting in January 2022.
- 5) **MSC (Ken S/Kathy O/U)** approved the Minutes of the Oct. 26th Stated Session Meeting with one correction. (See corrected minutes)

6) **Pastor Mike Jones (Moderator) Report**

- (a) Acknowledged a great mortgage pay-off celebration and, after discussion, and by
- (b) **MSC (Jim G/Sheldon C/U)** decided to continue to leave open and to accept funds designated for the Building Fund for future building use.
- (c) Reminded Session of the Dec. 5th 10:45 AM Congregational Meeting to elect the 2024 Classes of Elders, Deacons and Trustee.
- (d) Announced the formation of a task group to form a curriculum for a leadership pipeline class to teach our reformed theology, the polity of the Presbyterian system and how it works, and the specifics of the New Hope community, which will hopefully start around the first part of Feb. 2022.
- (e) Informed Session the installation of new officers will be on Sunday Jan. 9th.
- (f) Tuesday, Jan. 25th will be the combined newly elected and current deacon and elders' dinner for the retiring officers, followed by our Stated Elder Meeting.
- (g) There will be 3 Christmas Eve Services and 1 Service at 10 AM on Sunday, Dec. 26th which will be a traditional service with Elder Jerry Franz bringing the word.
- (h) A new sermon series called "Next Steps" will begin in January.
- (i) The first week of February will be a mission focus week and we are still working on that.
- (j) The next meeting of our Presbytery will be in Fort Myers on Feb. 18th-19th at First Presbyterian in downtown Fort Myers. All elders, not just our commissioners can attend and are encouraged to do so. Some of our deacons and choir will also be involved helping First Pres.
- (k) Our former IT staff person has left new Hope and a new one is expected to start 12/15.
- (l) Recommended to Session, who were unanimously elected, the following positions for 2022:
 - (i) Finance Chair – Sheldon Church
 - (ii) Personnel Chair – Bill Enslin
 - (iii) Clerk of Session – Gayle Bundschu
 - (iv) Church Treasurer – Chuck Knox.

7) **Pastor Ben Borsay (Vice Moderator) Report**

- (i) Has had about 24 formal interviews with staff, current and former members, some of which were with couples, and had some informal discussions.
- (ii) Generally, the feedback has shown that New Hope has some issues but overall is very positive and reveals the people here love the Lord and this church.
- (iii) He will continue to interview and will include functional systems review as well and will report to Session.
- (iv) Steve B led in prayer for Pastor Ben and his work and ministry.

- 8) **Nominating Committee Report** – David C (See attached) David added that it was an excellent working committee who were gladdened not only by the number of people nominated, but also by those who responded to their nomination with honesty, that they did not yet understand the role and responsibilities to which they had been nominated. Out of these conversations, the task force to create a leadership pipeline was instigated. In addition, David strongly recommended that next year's Session appoint as chair of the next Nominating Committee Jim Glatz, who had the experience of this year's committee work.

- 9) **Clerk of Session Report:**
- (a) Membership Statistical Reports for October (See attached)
 - (b) Report results of email vote:
October 28th email re: Changing date of the next Congregational Meeting – The email motion by Gayle B, seconded by David C to approve moving the date from Nov. 21st to Dec. 5th for the meeting to elect the next class of Trustee, Elders and Deacons was approved with 13 of the 16 active elders responding, all voting in the affirmative.
- 10) **Standing Committee Reports**
- (a) **Finance Committee Report** - Chuck K/Sheldon C: (See attached) Chuck added comments about some line items and opined that he still believes we will end 2021 with no deficit. He also pointed out the page showing October's restricted fund transactions and explained what that is about and stated he was working on an annual report of all the extra-budgeted funds that go through the restricted funds and are not reflected in our income and expense financial statement.
 - (i) Proposed 2022 Budget (See attached) Updated and in final form from that which was proposed in October. After discussion Sheldon made the motion to adopt the 2022 budget, which, since it was proposed by a committee did not need a second and was unanimously approved.
 - (b) **Personnel Committee Report** - Bill E reported this committee is working to resolve some issues with staff, is in the process of replacing our IT person, has added Dr. Ken Walker to the committee, and recommended an across-the-board staff salary increase of 2%, which was included in the proposed budget.
- 11) **Unfinished Business** - None
- 12) **Other Reports – Committees/Council/Ministries Minutes & Reports**
- (a) **Membership Committee** – David Milligan (See report attached) The motion made within the committee's report to remove from membership those shown requesting removal was unanimously approved by Session. David led in prayer for all those removed tonight from our church membership roll. The Clerk will notify in writing those removed.
 - (b) **Youth Director Search Committee** – Steve Boutelle reported Jackie and Jerry Elliott are doing a remarkable job with our youth and it is starting to feel like pre-COVID times. He stated the search committee is very encouraged by recent events and is hopeful. Sean E led in prayer for our youth and the work of the Youth Director Search Committee.
 - (c) **Mission/Outreach Council:** Ken Seim - Oct. 11th minutes attached. In addition to the written report, Ken added the Ethiopian missionaries have been told to leave that country due to its political instability and are not sure when they can return. Also, the DR orphanage that Kevin and Andrea Erwin have sponsored is going through a difficult time, the Erwin's cannot go there directly because of COVID restrictions, and they do not know the future of the orphanage as the property owner wants to sell the property in which the orphanage is housed. Prayers are needed. He reported a praise for the funding of the \$15,000 difference between the 2021 and 2022 mission budget provided by a donor. Ken led in prayer for our mission partners.

- (d) **Children Ministries** - Debbie Norris report attached. David M remarked what good work was being done with our children and as reported by Debbie.
 - (e) **Deacons:** Sept. 20th Minutes attached
 - (f) **Connect Groups** – Angel Dobson – No report
 - (g) **Youth and Student Ministries** – Jackie Elliott – No report attached. See (b) above.
 - (h) **Care Network** – Kathy Orr – No report
- 13) **New Business** – None – But Jerry F encouraged elders to attend the two weekly prayer sessions offered, one led by Lisa Bloomston at noon on Tuesday and the one led by Jim Mayer on Thursdays. Ken S also offered his Mission Council phone in prayer time with our Mission Partners at 9 AM on Thursdays.
- 14) **MSC (Gayle B/Ken S)** to adjourn at 8:00 PM with closing prayer by Gayle Bundschu.

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