



STATED MEETING OF SESSION
New Hope Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Tuesday, Nov. 15 2022

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

Minutes

Teaching Elders:				TE	Pastor Mike Jones	P
				TE	Pastor Ben Borsay	P
Class of 2022		Active Ruling Elders Class of 2023		Class of 2024		
Steve Boutelle	P	Gayle Bundschu	P	Doug Keno		P
		Jerry Elliott	P	Sandy Knipe		P
Sean Ellis	A	Jim Glatz	P	Mark Myers		P
Jerry Franz	P	Duane Higgins	EA	Ken Walker		P
Ken Seim	P	Carolyn Melton	P	Rodney Woosley		P
Bill Enslin	P	David Milligan	P			
		Kathy Orr	P			
P=In-person; Z=Zoom; EA= Excused Absence; A=Absent				Quorum		Y

Also Present: Church Treasurer – Chuck Knox, nominees for the Director of Traditional and Contemporary Music Search Committee: Signe Pagel, Rob Watkins, and Murilo Scarpellini; newly elected elders Art Hunkins and Candy Engelman, and several church members.

- 1) Convened in Room 206 at 6 PM with prayer and devotion by Pastor Ben Borsay.
- 2) **MSC (Ken W/Ken S/Unanimous)** Gave voice to any non-active elders present
- 3) **MSC (Jerry E/Ken S/U)** Approved the Minutes of the Oct. 25th Stated Session Meeting with one correction.
- 4) Moderator Pastor Mike Jones Report
 - a) Hurricane Relief Work – It is going well but more volunteers are needed to work, particularly on Saturdays. Please pass the word in your groups. AmeriCorps is coming next week some time and we will be coordinating the work assignments and First Pres downtown will handle the workers' lodging. We have received about \$250,000 in donations for distribution. Paul Gorny, chair of the Hurricane Fund Distribution Committee added that some of our own church people need help but are reluctant to ask for it.
 - b) The new interim traditional music team debuted Sunday and all went well. Pastor Mike was complimented by Session for finding the interim music team so quickly.
 - c) Upcoming holiday services:
 - i) Christmas Eve services will be: 3PM - Family, 5PM - Contemporary, 7PM – Traditional
 - ii) Christmas Day – one combined service at 10AM
 - d) Need sign-ups for both 12/4 and 1/1 Communion service since we will not have a December Session meeting.

- e) On Jan. 22, 2023, Rev. Andrew Brunson is expected to speak at a combined 10 AM service with a Q&A Session at 11 AM. No adult Sunday School will be held that day.
 - f) On March 12th, we will have a 15th Church Anniversary Celebration with one 10 AM combined service.
 - g) Requested Session accept Elder Sheldon Church's Oct. 11th resignation as an elder. By **MSC (Jerry F/Mark M/U)** Session accepted Sheldon's resignation.
 - h) Introduced Murilo Scarpellini and Signe Pagel (both present) and announced they, plus Bob Rae, Rob Watkins (arrived later) and Kay Parkinson were nominated by the Personnel Committee and agreed to serve on the Director of Traditional and Contemporary Music Search Team. By **MSC (Jim G/Kathy O/U)** Session elected the search team as nominated. Ken S prayed for the search team and their work.
 - i) Requested amending the agenda to move the reports from the Standing Committees of Finance and Personnel come after Item 9)(c) and reverse the order so Finance would go before Personnel. By **MSC (Doug K/Carolyn M/U)** Session amended the agenda as described.
- 5) Vice Moderator Pastor Ben Borsay Report – yielded his time to Personnel & Finance but added that Pastor Mike has been very involved in the forward planning of the music and worship ministry.
- 6) Clerk of Session Report:
- (a) Membership Reports - "RptMS01 Monthly Statistics" summary for September (See attached)
 - (b) Oct. 31st – New Member Commission Report – (See attached)
 - (c) Nov. 15th Report to Session on E-mail voting – (See attached)
 - (d) Reported correspondence received as follows:
 - (i) The letter of resignation of Trustee Dan Miller (See attached), and
 - (ii) The email and letter of resignation as elder and request to terminate his and his wife's membership of Elder Duane Higgins (See attached)
 - (iii) By **MSC (Mark M/Jim G/U)** Session accepted Dan Miller's resignation.
 - (iv) By **MSC (Ken S/Mark M/U)** Session accepted Duane Higgins's resignation as elder. We also accepted the transfer of membership request by Duane and Cynthia Higgins.
- 7) Senior Pastor Search Committee Report – David Milligan reported:
- (a) Committee is meeting two times a month and has the CIF and Job Description now posted on the EPC website
 - (b) The New Hope website has the committee information posted and it will be kept updated
 - (c) The Chairman Steve Shimp has met personally with our Ministerial Liaison
 - (d) The committee has requested letters of interest from four different search companies
 - (e) Jerry F prayed for the committee and its work.
- 8) Unfinished Business
- (a) **MSC (Jim G/Rodney W/U)** Adopted the Elder Handbook proposed amendments and all proposed attachments presented for review in September and October

- (b) InReach – Doug K (See attached report 11/10/22)
 - (i) MSD (Doug K/Ken S/Defeated) Motion defeated to approve a standing committee led by elders to plan a 15th Church Anniversary celebration and continue to plan other events per the report.
 - (ii) MSC (Bill E/Mark M/Carried) Session will refer to the Deaconate, as a suggestion from Session, the committee as described by Doug K.
- (c) Pastor Ben's Oct. 25th proposal to increase his responsibilities to Transition Senior Pastor with Pastor Mike to return to his Associate Pastor job description was postponed until after the Executive Session, which was scheduled for Nov 10th but then cancelled due to the approaching hurricane. This item was moved to the Personnel Committee report rather than handled in Unfinished Business.

9) Standing Committee Reports

- (a) Finance Committee Report – Chuck Knox
 - (i) The October month end financial statements were not yet available, and those statements and the November reports, when available, are to be emailed to all elders by the Clerk.
 - (ii) The monthly deficit continues, and it appears some donations are being designated to hurricane relief rather than to the general fund.
 - (iii) MSC (Jerry E/Kathy O/U) Session instructed Treasurer Chuck Knox to give a 2-minute update in the Dec. 11th worship services on our financial situation and the need for more funding.
 - (iv) Finance Chair Ken W reported that his committee (which includes church members Paul Gorny and Jennifer Porter) had not been able to prepare the proposed 2023 budget for this meeting. However, the committee did make a motion to Session to approve an 8% Cost of Living increase beginning 1/1/23 for all staff salaries and both pastors' salaries and housing allowances, and a rollover of the 1st quarter of 2022 non-personnel budget expenses to the 1st quarter of 2023. The 8% COL adjustment results in an annualized increase of about \$50,000 to the church expenses over the 2022 level. Because this was a motion from committee it did not need a second, and it was carried. (See attached 11/15/22 email report)
- (b) Personnel Committee – Ken Seim
 - (i) Called Executive Session Meeting and Workshop report – Gayle B read report (See attached)
 - (ii) Autopsy of A Deceased Church – Doug K and Ken S highlighted issues of distributed report (See attached)
 - (iii) Personnel Council NHP Analysis – Ken S covered the issues in the distributed report (See attached)
 - (iv) Ken S read 3 motion options to be handled one at a time in succession by the Personnel Committee (See attached). After much discussion, the first motion made by the Committee, that there be no changes to the existing job descriptions of Pastor Mike or Pastor Ben and the Senior Pastor Search Committee should go full speed ahead to find and call our next senior pastor, was carried.

- 10) Other Reports – Committees/Council/Ministries Minutes & Reports
 - (a) Deacons – Steve McKinnon – (See Oct. 20th minutes attached)
 - (b) Director of Family & Discipleship – Michelle Myers – (See attached Oct. report)
 - (c) Facilities – Ed Harger – Property Council – No report
 - (d) Missions – Jim Mayer – Mission Council - (See attached Oct. 17th minutes)
 - (e) Youth Director Search Committee – Steve B – stated their work was still in progress
- 11) New Business
 - (a) Elder volunteers for Communion service, Sunday, Dec. 4th, 9:30 & 11 AM – Sandy K – Passed a signup sheet for both the December and the January communion service
- 12) There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was closed in prayer by Mark M at 9:35.

Submitted by:

Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator

Gayle Bundschu, Clerk of Session