



**STATED MEETING OF SESSION**  
**New Hope Presbyterian Church (EPC)**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

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

**Minutes**

|  |    |                      |                   |                      |
|--|----|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Teaching Elders:</b>                            |    | <b>TE</b>            | Pastor Mike Jones | P                    |
|  |    | <b>TE</b>            | Pastor Ben Borsay | P                    |
| <b>Active Ruling Elders</b>                        |    |                      |                   |                      |
| <b>Class of 2023</b>                               |    | <b>Class of 2024</b> |                   | <b>Class of 2025</b> |
| Jerry Elliott                                      | EA | Doug Keno            | P                 | Art Hunkins P        |
| Carolyn Melton                                     | P  | Sandy Knipe          | P                 | Jim LaRue P          |
| David Milligan                                     | P  | Mark Myers           | P                 | Jon Witenko p        |
| David Carpenter                                    | P  | Ken Walker           | EA                | Candy Engelman p     |
|  |    | Rodney Woosley       | P                 |                      |
|  |    |                      |                   |                      |
|  |    |                      |                   |                      |
| P=In-person; Z=Zoom; EA= Excused Absence; A=Absent |    |                      | Quorum            | yes                  |

Also

Present: Signe Pagel (Clerk of Session), Kathy Kellenberger, John Kellenberger, Florence Antuono, Mike LaRiviere, Pam LaRiviere, Kathy Borsay, Steve McKinnon, Bob Welsh, Chuck Knox.

- 1) A Season of Prayer Lead by Pastor Mike – Mike opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with prayer. Candy Engelman gave a devotion on the topic of leadership, and closed devotions with prayer.
- 2) **MSC (LaRue/Keno/U)** to allow any guest to speak if they so desired.
- 3) Personnel Committee Report, presented by Candy Engelman
  - a) The Committee recommends approving Ed Harger's desire to hire one (1) full-time associate director of Facilities, effective approximately June 15. This would be a "budget neutral" action inasmuch as the current four (4) part-time positions in Facilities will be eliminated. It is Harger's intention to groom the person in this full-time position to be eligible for director of Facilities upon Harger's retirement. After a short discussion, Session gave its support for the Committee's recommendation.
  - b) The Committee reported that Pr. Ben Borsay's contract will end on June 30 and recommends that the contract not be renewed. Pr. Ben read from a statement he prepared for Session (see attached letter dated May 23, 2023). Multiple people expressed their appreciation for Pr. Ben, and Pr. Mike thanked him for his work the past year, especially with some difficult personnel matters. Pr. Ben noted his contract calls for four weeks of vacation, which he has not yet taken. In addition, he would appreciate consideration be given to his request for two

weeks' study leave. There is a lack of understanding as to what is in his contract. It was noted that the Personnel Committee will take this under advisement as it prepares for Pr. Ben's transition to retirement.

- (1) Myers stated his concern for the workload Pr. Mike will have to carry without Pr. Ben. Pr. Mike noted he is concerned about that, too, and will look to the Elders to assist him where possible, most likely with visits to hospitalized members and with some administrative tasks. Carpenter and Witenko suggested an action plan be created for rotating elders into hospital visits and other tasks so that all will know who is "on deck" for these assignments. Melton suggested elders take turns bringing the sanctuary flowers to those hospitalized or shut-in.
- (2) **Motion** from Committee to not renew Pr. Ben's contract was approved with one vote against (Myers).

4) Pastor Mike's Report (Moderator)

- a) It was noted that this is Art Hunkins' last meeting, as he is moving to Georgia. Appreciation was expressed to Hunkins for his role as Clerk of Session, and Keno led the Session in prayer.
- b) Organist Barbara W. is leaving for another job this week. Lorelei Curtis (a/k/a "Rocket") has accepted the position of organist on a trial basis through July. She has three degrees in organ from Julliard and an M.Div. as well.
- c) The meeting of elders and the pastor search firm last Saturday went well, with items that need action identified. The session tasked Carpenter to work with Pr. Mike on defining the role of elders and deacons.
- d) Hurricane Ian update – The Disaster Recovery Team will meet on May 24. Great progress has been made in addressing recovery concerns, so it is no longer necessary to invite more work teams to New Hope.
- e) We are moving forward with implementing "Good News Clubs" at Colonial Elementary School. Keno described the program and noted that the clubs will meet at the conclusion of the school day. This program has the potential to reach children in all grades. Training will start in September and the first club meetings will be in October.
- f) Pr. Mike has asked Witenko and Carpenter to chair the Officer Nominating Committee and to assist in designing potential training for officers.
- g) **MSC (Carpenter/Keno/U)** to invite Dwaine Upton to share his story from the pulpit on June 11.
- h) **MSC (LaRue/Carpenter/U)** to invite Ashley Almeida to share her testimony with the congregation via video on the day she is baptized.
- i) Pr. Mike asked for participants on an ad hoc committee to discuss how communion is served at New Hope. Session was favorable to this, and participants are Milligan, Engleman, and Knipe.

5) Pastor Ben Borsay Report (Vice Moderator)

- a) Doug Keno will be taking over efforts and reports on shepherding, and the lines of authority for elders will be reviewed.
- b) Pr. Ben has observed that New Hope would benefit by having more clear guidelines and procedures for activities, programs, etc. By way of example, if a person wants to start a Bible study group, they should first get clearance from the appropriate person.

- 6) Clerk of Session Report:
  - a) **MSC (Keno/Carpenter/U)**. Pr. Mike introduced a motion to approve Signe Pagel as Clerk of Session through the end of 2023, to replace Art Hunkins who is moving to Georgia.
  - b) **MSC (U)** to approve the April 25, 2023, Stated Session Minutes (see attachment).
  - c) A “thank you” letter was written (see attached) to Steve McKinnon for his service as Moderator of the Deacons.
  - d) **MSC (Carpenter/LaRue/U)** to approve member Paul Gorny to the EPC Disaster Relief Team (see attachment).
- 7) Treasurer’s Report (see attachment), presented by Chuck Knox.
  - a) The year-to-date deficit is a little under \$30,000, and Knox is confident 2023 will end at break even given the new budget .
  - b) Bliem house update: A house and some miscellaneous funds were donated to New Hope, with the restriction that, if the house is sold, the proceeds of the house must be put into an investment account for 10 years and the earnings on that account must go to Missions. At the end of 10 years, the balance in the account could be used at the discretion of the Session. The Finance Committee will be discussing the options for keeping or disposing of the house and will bring recommendations to Session. The house is currently being cared for by New Hope and is covered by New Hope’s insurance policy.
- 8) Finance Committee Report (see attachment)- Jerry Elliott. No discussion took place.
- 9) Membership Committee Report (see attachment) - David Milligan. No discussion took place.
- 10) Unfinished Business:
  - a) Status on the review/update of the Elder’s Handbook, By-laws, etc. – Pr. Mike noted that the Elders’ Handbook is to be updated every 3 years. He, Carpenter, and Hunkins have been reviewing the Handbook and will have suggestions to present by the end of June.
- 11) New Business:
  - a) Pr. Mike informed Session that Ken Walker’s wife Mary Jo broke a bone in her foot, and he is at home tonight caring for her. Jerry Elliott is not in attendance this evening because he is on vacation in Great Britain.
  - b) Witenko informed Session that two interns will begin working with Youth Ministry the week of June 12. After they participate in VBS, they will go on the high school mission trip in June and the middle school trip in July.
  - c) Milligan suggested that a Sunday in June be communicated to members as a day to give thanks for the contribution of Pr. Ben and Kathy Borsay. Session endorsed this suggestion.
  - d) Pr. Mike will be out of town for two weeks in June. Pr. Ben will be preaching on June 4, 18, and 25.
- 12) Other Reports – Committees/Council/Ministries Minutes & Reports (see attachments).
  - a) “Rpt MS01 Monthly Statistics summary” for end of March report and “Rpt09G- Adjustment to membership” (see attachments)
  - a) Deacons – Sue Morton/Florence Antuono
  - b) Director of Family/Student/Children/Early Childhood Ministries

(one all-inclusive report)- Michelle Myers

- c) Director of Facilities – Ed Harger
- d) Personnel Committee Report -- Candy Engelman (no written report this month)
- e) Director of Finance- Brad Starner
- f) Director of Missions/Outreach – Jim Mayer (Cuba Trip)

13) MSC (Witenko/Myers/U) to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Pr. Ben closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by:

Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator

Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session