

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

New Hope Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, August 22, 2023



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

Teaching Elders					
		Pastor Mike Jones	P	Pastor Paul Pepin	P
Active Ruling Elders					
Class of 2023		Class of 2024		Class of 2025	
David Carpenter	P	Doug Keno	P	Candy Engelman	P
Jerry Elliott	P	Sandy Knipe	Z	Jim LaRue	P
Carolyn Melton	P	Mark Myers	P	Jon Witenko	P
David Milligan	P	Ken Walker	E A		
		Rodney Woosley	P		
P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; EA=Excused Absence; =Absent				Quorum:	Yes
Others					
Chuck Knox – Treasurer; Signe Pagel – Clerk of Session; Flo Antuono – Dir. of Ops.					
K.C. Grosse, Richard Grosse, Marilyn Cox, Tom Cox, Pam LaRiviere					

MINUTES

1. The Session meeting opened at 6:00 with 20 minutes of guided scripture meditation and prayer, facilitated by Pr. Mike.
2. **Motion (LaRue/Keno/U)** -- to allow a guest to speak, if they so desire.
3. Moderator's Report – Pastor Mike Jones
 - a. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, the worship team recommends one Sunday morning service at 10:00 and two evening services, at 4:00 and at 6:00. Moreover, the worship team recommends no worship service on Christmas Day, the 25th. Session was in agreement with this schedule.
 - b. Pr. Mike requested direction from Session on church office closure dates between Christmas and New Year's Day. Both Christmas Day and New Year's Day are on a Monday, and the office would be closed those days. It has been suggested the office also be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday (December 26 and 27) and be open on Thursday and Friday (December 28 and 29). It was apparent from the discussion and the questions posed by

elders that research is needed about the cost to the church of this benefit timer and its impact on vacation time, etc. Pr. Mike instructed the Personnel Committee to investigate this and bring the issue back to the Session at its September meeting.

- c. Pr. Paul Pepin was examined and received by the EPC Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean as Stated Supply. As such, he is approved to preside over communion and baptisms.
- d. Pr. Mike and Pr. Paul have been discussing desired changes to procedures for individuals to become members of New Hope. The concept is a "Discipleship Pathway" which would begin with a two-hour class on a Sunday for those who would like to make New Hope their home church. The next step on the Pathway would be a class(es) to deepen their understanding of the Presbyterian tradition, Christian discipleship, etc. (perhaps similar to what had been called the Connections Class). Pr. Paul commented that this approach is more Biblical than requiring a believer to complete numerous classes prior to joining the church. He cited the passage, "... they believed, and their names were added." The program will be presented for consideration at the September Session meeting.

4. Clerk of Session Report:

- a. Motion (LaRue/Carpenter/U) -- to approve the July 25, 2023, Stated Session Minutes.
- b. Motion (LaRue/Engelman/U) -- to approve the Minutes of the July 25 Executive Session Meeting.
- c. Motion (LaRue/Carpenter/U) -- to remove 11 individuals from membership of New Hope, per their request of the Membership Committee (see attached report).
- d. Motion (LaRue/Milligan/U) -- to remove three individuals from membership of New Hope, by Letter of Transfer, per Membership Committee (see attached report).
- e. Items in previous month (July) recorded for EPC submission:
 - i. Lord's Supper – celebrated on July 2 at each worship service
 - ii. Ordination/installation of new deacons/elders – none
 - iii. New members – none
 - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – none
 - v. Deaths/births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – Baptism of Aaron and Janelle Castella on Sunday, July 30.
 - vi. Congregational meetings – none

5. Treasurer's Report – Chuck Knox

- a. Income trended up a little in July, thus the General Fund deficit was reduced to \$76,575. Subtracted from the surplus in the General Fund of \$185,915, that leaves a cushion of \$109,340.
- b. The Restricted Fund experienced expenses appropriate to the income in the various restricted accounts.

6. Finance Committee Report – Jerry Elliott

- a. Approximately one month ago Elliott spoke at both worship services about church finances and encouraged members to commit to giving more than their routine contribution. Thus far, 72 Commitment Cards have been returned. Most of those cards indicated members expect to give just their regular contribution; however, \$21,000 is the total of funds expected above normal contributions.
- b. An update was given on the gift to the church of the Bliem's house. The terms of the gift specified that the house should be sold, the proceeds invested in an endowment fund for a minimum of 10 years, and the income generated from the fund is to be restricted to expenditures for Missions. Elliott asked for:
 - i. Motion (LaRue/Engelman/U) – to authorize the Trustees to obtain a real estate agent to sell the Bliem house.
 - ii. For purposes of clarification, it was noted that the normal amount budgeted for Missions will continue and the endowment proceeds directed to Missions will be over and above the normal budgeted amount.

7. Membership Committee Report – David Milligan – See attached report

- a. Milligan noted that there are 26 people who have been in an “inactive” status for a year or more.
- b. Motion (Milligan/LaRue/U) – to remove from membership the 26 inactive people noted in the Membership Committee report.
- c. Motion (Milligan/LaRue/U) – to reactivate membership for Aaron and Janelle Castella who were baptized on July 30.

8. Motion (Engelman/Elliott/U) – the meeting shall move to Executive Session for the purpose of hearing and responding to the reports from the Executive Director of Operations and the Personnel Committee. Guests (K.C. and Richard Grosse, Marilyn and Tom Cox, and Pam LaRiviere) were dismissed from the room.

9. Executive Director of Operations Report – Flo Antuono – See attached report

10. Personnel Committee Report – Candy Engelman – See attached report

11. Motion (LaRue/Myers/U) – the Executive Session shall be concluded and the Stated Session shall resume. (Guests did not return to the room.)

12. Unfinished Business – Elders' Handbook -- David Carpenter

- a. At the July Session meeting, elders were given a copy of the revised Elders' Handbook and were asked to present any suggestions or edits to Carpenter. One item is to be added to the Handbook as distributed at last Session. It is an insertion on Page 7, Item 7.a and shall read: “Elders will attend an

elders' training class prior to serving on Session." The remaining three points will become items b., c., and d.

- b. Motion (LaRue/Myers/U) -- to accept the revisions to the Elders' Handbook for clarification of the duties and responsibilities of elders/deacons, as distributed at the July 25 Stated Session Meeting and as further revised today on Page 7.

13. New Business -- None

14. Other Reports from Committees/Ministries – see attachments, except where noted as “no report”:

- a. Deacons – Sue Morton, Secretary – No report (no meeting in July or August)
- b. Family Ministries – Michelle Myers, Director
- c. Property Council – Ed Harger, Director
- d. Finance – Brad Starner, Director
- e. Missions/Outreach – Jim Mayer, Director (No report)
- f. Worship Attendance (Files OL05 & OL08) – Angel Dobson
- g. Sunday School Attendance (File SS00) – Angel Dobson
- h. Membership Reports (File MS01, RPT09H, RPT14P, RPT09F, RPT09G – Angel Dobson

15. Adjournment

- a. Motion (Milligan/Keno/U) – the meeting of the August 22 Stated Session shall be adjourned.
- b. Pr. Paul closed the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by:

Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator

Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session