

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

**New Hope Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, January 23, 2024**



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

Teaching Elders					
		Pastor Mike Jones	X		
		Pastor Paul Pepin	Z		
Active Ruling Elders					
Class of 2024		Class of 2025		Class of 2026	
Scott Connell	X	Candy Engelman	X	Bill Ashworth	EA
Sandy Knipe	E A	Jim LaRue	E A	Bill Ensen	X
Mark Myers	X	Jon Witenko	E A	Zane McMinn	X
Rodney Woosley	X			Tiffany Myers	X
				Rob Watkins	X
P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; EA=Excused Absence; =Absent				Quorum:	Ye s
Others					
Signe Pagel – Clerk of Session; Flo Antuono – Exec. Dir. Of Operations					

MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. with prayer by Bil Ensen. (Note that prior to the opening of the meeting, the elders and the deacons enjoyed dinner together, thanked the outgoing class of elders and deacons, and prayed together.)
2. Moderator’s Report – Pastor Mike Jones
 - a. Motion: Ensen/Myers/U – to elect Signe Pagel as clerk of Session for 2024.
 - b. The following individuals have agreed to serve as chairperson of their respective committees for 2024: Personnel – Candy Engelman; Finance – Scott Connell; Membership – Jim Larue; Shepherding – Bill Ensen; Student & Family Ministries – Jon Witenko; Building/Property – Scott Connell; Board of Deacons – Sharon Ashworth (with Paul Gorny’s assistance during transition).
 - c. Upcoming dates/events of note:
 - i. February 16 – 17: Presbytery in Pompano Beach, FL. 1 teaching elder; 2 ruling elders. Motion: Connell/Woosley/U – to approve Bill Ensen to attend Presbytery meeting as a ruling elder, along with Pr. Mike Jones as teaching elder.

- ii. May 17 – 18: Presbytery in DeBary, FL. If we send 2 teaching elders; we can send up to 4 ruling elders.
 - iii. June 18 – 20: EPC General Assembly in Memphis, TN. 2 teaching elders; 4 ruling elders.
 - iv. October 18 – 19: Presbytery in Orlando. 2 teaching elders; 4 ruling elders.
 - d. Pr. Mike asked for discussion on the previously agreed upon decision to hold a Town Hall meeting on February 25 at which leaders in the church (elders, deacons, staff, Sunday School leaders, etc.) could ask and answer questions to get clarification and speak with consistency to members. After discussion, it was decided to move forward with the Town Hall at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 25.
 - e. It was noted that May 12 (Mother's Day) is scheduled as Senior Sunday, with 14 students graduating high school.
 - f. April 22 – 26 is scheduled for the next church planting trip to Cuba. T. Myers suggested that greater clarity be given from the front of the church on Sundays to explain this mission opportunity.
 - g. The piano noted in previous Minutes of Session has finally been sold.
3. Clerk of Session Report – Signe Pagel
- a. Motion: Engelman/Woosley/U -- to approve the November 28, 2023, Stated Session Minutes.
 - b. Motion: from Board of Deacons/U – to approve Jill Ritterbusch as deacon to replace Mary Ann Missall, class of 2025.
 - c. It shall be noted that a motion made by Larue/Connell and voted on via email passed unanimously earlier this month – “The Session shall extend covenant baptism to Josette Savage, infant daughter of Phillip and Tamara Savage, at the regular 9:30 worship service on Sunday, January 28.”
 - d. Doug Keno resigned as an elder due to moving out of state, and his letter of resignation was sent to the elders with the agenda for this meeting of Session.
 - e. Items recorded herein for submission to EPC:
 - i. Lord's Supper – celebrated on January 7 at each worship service.
 - ii. Ordination/installation of new deacons/elders – 6 elders, 5 deacons in January
 - iii. New members – 8 in January
 - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – 8, and 1 death
 - v. Births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – none
 - vi. Congregational meetings – none
4. Executive Director of Operations Report – Flo Antuono (see report attached).
 There was considerable discussion on the recommendation by Family Ministry to eliminate the Daddy-Daughter Dance and the Mom-Son Adventure, and to re-design VBS into an event called FamCon which would engage the participation

of parents along with their children. It was the consensus of Session that New Hope should move forward with the FamCon concept for 2024. It was also the consensus that the Family Ministry team be challenged to find a way to perhaps replace, but not remove, the events for dads and their daughters and moms and their sons.

5. Finance Report – Outgoing Finance chairperson, Jerry Elliott, gave a recap of 2023 financial activity, the highlight of which was that God’s grace enabled New Hope to end the year in the black.
6. Personnel Report – Candy Engelman reported that the committee has received a request from the New Hope organist, Dr. Lornalee Curtis, to acknowledge her certification as a minister which she believes qualifies her to be paid as an exempt employee. Patrick Coelho, the CFO of the EPC, submitted his agreement with Dr. Curtis’ evaluation of her situation and endorsed her as an exempt employee based upon her ordination credentials.
 - a. Motion: McMinn/Watkins/U – upon written proof of ordination, Dr. Curtis will be known as “minister of music accompaniment” and her employment status will be changed to exempt.
7. Sr. Pastor Search Team – No report.
8. Membership Committee Report – Pagel presented the report from the committee which includes the following:
 - a. Individuals who have submitted written requests for removal from membership are: Dawn Griffin, Art Hunkins, Pam Poland, Paul Poland, Nancy Singleton, Dorothy Smith, Anne Starner, Cathy Young.
 - b. Individuals who have given their testimony and requested to join membership of New Hope are: Gilmar Cassim, Gabe Colon, Katrina Colon, David Green, Tom Hahn, Peggy Hahn, Sandra Lankford, Susan Welborn
 - c. Enslin mentioned he heard second-hand of an individual who claims to have received a letter from New Hope discontinuing her membership when she did not ask to be discontinued. Pagel responded that she will refer that specific instance to the Membership Committee for investigation.
9. Unfinished Business – None
10. New Business – None
11. Motion: Myers/Watkins/U – to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. McMinn closed the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by:
Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator
Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session