

## STATED MEETING OF SESSION

New Hope Presbyterian Church  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024



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

Teaching Elders					
		Pastor Mike Jones	P		
		Pastor Paul Pepin	EA		
Active Ruling Elders					
Class of 2024		Class of 2025		Class of 2026	
Scott Connell	P	Candy Engelman	P	Bill Ashworth	P
Sandy Knipe	Z	Jim LaRue	P	Bill Enslin	P
Mark Myers	P	Jon Witenko	P	Zane McMinn	P
Rodney Woosley	P			Tiffany Myers	P
				Rob Watkins	P
P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; EA=Excused Absence; =Absent				Quorum:	Yes
Others					
Signe Pagel – Clerk of Session; Flo Antuono – Exec. Dir. Of Operations					
Guests: Steve Shimp (representing Sr. Pastor Search Committee), Jim Mayer, John Kellenberger					

## MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 6:15 p.m. with prayer by Pr. Mike. Prior to opening in prayer, Pr. Mike read 1 Peter 5:1-10, noting that New Hope has been through a season of humbling and of waiting and we stand on the promise that “God will lift you [us] up in due time.”
2. Moderator’s Report – Pastor Mike Jones
  - a. The General Assembly will meet June 17 – 19 in Memphis. New Hope is allowed four ruling elders.
  - b. The Presbytery meeting was held February 16 – 17; attendees were Pr. Mike, Paul Gorny, and Bill Enslin.
  - c. Pr. Mike reviewed the schedule for Holy Week. There will be a 6:30 p.m. service on Maundy Thursday, a 6:30 p.m. service on Good Friday, and four services on Easter Sunday: 6:00 a.m. (outside), 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
  - d. Pr. Paul will be going to Cuba next Monday and then again in May.
  - e. People from the Mennonite community in Pennsylvania will be staying at New Hope next week while they work to put roofs on four to six houses in Harlem Heights.

- f. The Board of Deacons has requested approval of Marilyn Cox as a deacon to fill out the term of Mike LaRiviere who resigned for health reasons.  
**Motion: Enslin/LaRue/U** – to accept the recommendation of Marilyn Cox as a deacon to replace Mike LaRiviere.
3. Clerk of Session Report – Signe Pagel
  - a. **Motion: Watkins/Engelman/U** -- to approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2024, Stated Session meeting.
  - b. Pagel reported, as a follow-up from the January meeting, that she spoke to the person who informed elder Bill Enslin that a member was surprised and disappointed she received a letter from New Hope advising she had been removed from the membership roster. Pagel learned the name of the woman and placed a call to her (call went to voice mail) with the intent of learning more about the situation. Additionally, an email was sent to her, but was returned as the email address on file had been discontinued. In the meantime, details in ELI were uncovered indicating that the woman has not attended a New Hope service or event since 2018, and she was removed from membership in April of 2023.
  - c. Items (**for January**) 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
    - iii. New members – 8
    - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – 8, and 1 death
    - v. Births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – 0
    - vi. Congregational meetings – 0
4. Sr. Pastor Search Team – Randy Woosley reported that, following visits to New Hope by the team’s top candidates and interviews with the team, staff, and some of the elders, the Sr. Pastor Search Committee is unanimous in its recommendation of a candidate. Moreover, Steve Shimp led a team to design a recommendation for the candidate’s Terms of Call.
  - a. **Motion: Woosley/LaRue/U** -- to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the recommendation of the Sr. Pastor Search Committee and to set the date for a Congregational Meeting.
  - b. The guests (Jim Mayer, John Kellenberger, Flo Antuono) were excused from the meeting; Steve Shimp remained, as he presented the findings of the Sr. Pastor Search Committee.
5. **Motion/Engelman/Witenko/U** – to conclude the Executive Session and reconvene the Stated Session Meeting. Previous guests John Kellenberger, Jim Mayer, and Flo Antuono did not rejoin the Stated Session Meeting.
6. Personnel Report – Candy Engelman

- a. Engeman advised that an effort is underway to improve communications, and Flo Antuono, Matt Phillips, Shawn Gearhart, and Angel Dobson have been working together on recommendations. As a result of their discussions, Angel Dobson will be the “point person” for all requests to publicize something in the bulletin, on the screens, on the website, or from the stage. Moreover, she and Matt Phillips will work together on the publication of the worship bulletins.
  - b. Pr. Mike has not taken a sabbatical since he joined New Hope, and the Personnel Committee is supportive of his desire to take a sabbatical.  
**Motion:Engelman/Enslin/U** – to approve a sabbatical for Pr. Mike Jones for the month of June 2024.
7. Finance Report – Scott Connell reported that the church finances are “in the black”. The report of the February 19 Finance Committee meeting was distributed with the agenda for today’s Session meeting.
  8. Membership Committee Report – Jim LaRue discussed the list of members who are considered to have been “inactive” for 12 or more months, according to the data in ELI. Elders are being asked to review the list for potential inaccuracies as well as to call members to inquire about their status – a specific list of names and contact information was given to each elder. Contact with these members is expected to be reported back to Session at its March meeting.
  9. Student and Family Ministry Committee – Jon Witenko noted that the student/dad camping trip was successful (approximately 50 people) as was the recent trip the high school students (approximately 30) took to the Reformed University Fellowship camp in South Wind.
  10. Unfinished Business – None
  11. New Business – None
  12. **Motion: LaRue/Watkins/U** – to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. Tiffany Myers closed the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by:

Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator

Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session