

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

**New Hope Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
(March Meeting)**



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

Teaching Elders					
		Pastor Mike Jones	P		
		Pastor Paul Pepin	Z		
Active Ruling Elders					
Class of 2024		Class of 2025		Class of 2026	
Scott Connell	P	Candy Engelman	P	Bill Ashworth	P
Sandy Knipe	E A	Jim LaRue	P	Bill Ensen	P
Mark Myers	P	Jon Witenko	P	Zane McMinn	P
Rodney Woosley	P			Tiffany Myers	Z
				Rob Watkins	P
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					
Guests: None					

MINUTES

1. The elders and the deacons gathered from 6:00 – 6:35 for a concert of prayer for: the world, our nation/city/state, our church, and for each other. A photo was taken of elders and deacons, after which the deacons were dismissed.
2. The Stated Session meeting opened at 6:45 p.m. with prayer by Jim LaRue.
3. Moderator’s Report – Pastor Mike Jones
 - a. Approximately 1,515 people worshipped in person and on-line at New Hope’s four Easter Sunday services. It was noted that Matt Phillips went “above and beyond” by setting up all of the A/V needs for the outdoor sunrise service and ensuring that the A/V requirements for all three indoor services were met flawlessly.
 - b. Motion: Ensen/LaRue/U – the Clerk of Session shall write a note of thanks to Matt Phillips for his diligent work on Easter Sunday.
 - c. The next Presbytery meeting is May 17 – 18, and Pr. Mike will not be able to attend. Motion: LaRue/Connell/U – to appoint Bill Ensen to represent New Hope at the Presbytery meeting and to present Sheldon MacGillivray and his Terms of Call to the Presbytery.

- d. The General Assembly will meet June 17 – 19 in Memphis. New Hope is allowed four ruling elders, and we will ask for volunteers at the April 23 meeting of Session.
 - e. A transition team has been appointed for Sheldon MacGillivray (Engelmans, Elliotts, Enslens, and Martins). Candy Engelman noted that they will meet on April 7 to begin planning for his visit April 19 – 24 when he will be house-hunting. The team hopes to put together an occasion for MacGillivray to meet with the team and at least a few of our church leaders. It was suggested that Pr. Mike begin to put together a plan for a reception for Sheldon MacGillivray. He and Flo Antuono will bring their thoughts on this to the April 23 meeting of Session.
4. Assistant Pastor Report – Paul Pepin
- a. The next trip to Cuba will be the end of May. They will be in Santa Clara to train pastors for the Matanzas area.
 - b. Two men are currently undergoing accreditation by Presbytery to serve as church planters for the Latino community – one in Naples and one in Fort Myers/Cape Coral. Pr. Paul has been asked to assist with this accreditation.
 - c. A third Pathways group for new members will begin on April 14.
 - d. Pr. Paul has been following up with new visitors who worship on Sundays and also with people whose attendance has fallen off in recent months.
 - e. Connell prayed for Pr. Paul’s ministry.
5. Clerk of Session Report – Signe Pagel
- a. Minutes of the February 27, 2024, Stated Session meeting -- Motion: LaRue/McMinn/U -- to approve the Minutes of the February 27, 2024, Stated Session meeting.
 - b. Minutes of the February 27, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting – A correction is needed in #7, Page 2, where “Randy” should say “Rodney.” Motion: LaRue/Watkins/U – to approve the Minutes of the February 27, 2024, Executive Committee, as amended by the correction made to #7, Page 2.
 - c. As a point of information, it was noted that, the latter part of March, the Board of Deacons requested approval of Pam LaRiviere as a deacon to fill out the term of Steve McKinnon who resigned. A motion to that effect was submitted, seconded, and approved unanimously via email in March.
 - d. Items (**for February**) recorded herein for submission to EPC:
 - i. Lord’s Supper – celebrated on February 4 at each worship service.
 - ii. Ordination/installation of new deacons/elders – none
 - iii. New members – none
 - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – none
 - v. Births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – 2 deaths; 1 birth
 - vi. Congregational meetings – none
6. Finance Report – Scott Connell

- a. Connell reported that the Bliem house was sold, and a check deposited for approximately \$300,000. Per the terms of the Bliem gift, the money will be invested, and the interest generated for 10 years will be used exclusively for missions. Connell noted he would like the Finance and Missions Committees to jointly discuss how this information can be appropriately shared with church members as an encouragement for future gifts from estates.
 - b. A payment is due to NL Moore, and The Finance Committee April 2, 2024, report indicates it will come out of the General Fund. Pr. Mike corrected that statement, noting that the Session previously directed that the payments to NL Moore come out of Reserves Fund (reference Minutes of Stated Session meeting of January 17, 2023, Paragraph 5.2). Connell will make that adjustment for payment to N.L. Moore from Reserve Fund.
 - c. Kevin Dotson is the newest member of the Finance Committee.
 - d. Contributions so far this year are less than what was expected, but expenses are also less than expected.
7. Executive Director of Operations – Flo Antuono provided an update on the status of two activities the Session had previously asked the Family Ministry team to reconsider, those being the Daddy-Daughter Dance and the Mom-Son Adventure. The team has determined to hold to their original decision to no longer conduct these two activities. They have been diligent in their efforts to structure activities in accordance with the current demographics and interest level of the youth; moreover, they await Pr. Sheldon’s input once he comes on board. Engelman prayed for the Family Ministry team and all New Hope staff.
8. Membership Committee Report – Jim LaRue
- a. Karen Finkle has requested a membership transfer to Cumberland, TN, Presbyterian Church. Motion: from Committee, requiring no second/U – to remove Ms. Finkle from membership and issue a letter of transfer to Cumberland church.
 - b. Elders were reminded to turn in to either LaRue or Angel Dobson the lists of inactive members they were asked to contact.
9. Personnel Committee – Candy Engelman
- a. Engelman stated, as a point of information, that Pr. Paul’s employment with New Hope will end on May 14, 2024 (the day before Pr. Sheldon’s employment begins).
 - b. Pr. Paul commented that he has been “absolutely delighted” to serve at New Hope. In the event Pr. Sheldon or Session determine there is a need for his services in the future, he would love to respond to that need.
 - c. An elder asked if the matter the Personnel Committee reported on at the February 27 Executive Session had been resolved. Engelman responded that it had been resolved very amicably.
10. Student and Family Ministry – Jon Witekno. Because Witenko was in another room conducting a meeting of this team, Pr. Mike reported that the open position

for director of Student Ministry had been posted to various online sites and some people have expressed interest. The Committee is currently following up with those interested and it is hoped some interviews will come from that follow-up. Watkins prayed for the Student and Family Ministry team.

11. Unfinished Business – None

12. New Business – None

13. Motion: McMinn/Connell/U – to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Bill Ashford closed the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by:

Pastor Mike Jones, Moderator

Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session