

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

New Hope Presbyterian Church
May 28, 2024
6:00 p.m.



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

Teaching Elders					
Pastor Sheldon MacGillivray - Moderator					
Active Ruling Elders					
Class of 2024		Class of 2025		Class of 2026	
Sandy Knipe	P	Candy Engelman	P	Bill Ashworth	P
Mark Myers	A	Jim LaRue	P	Bill Enslen	P
Rodney Woosley	P	Jon Witenko	A	Zane McMinn	A
Scott Connell	P			Tiffany Myers	A
				Rob Watkins	p
P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; A=Absent				Quorum: Yes	
Others					
Signe Pagel – Clerk of Session; Flo Antuono – Exec. Director of Operations					
Guests: Sheldon Church, Steve McKinnon					

MINUTES

1. Pr. Sheldon called the Session to order at 6:10 p.m. and opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Recognition of guests
 - a. Motion: LaRue/Engelman/U -- to grant voice to members Steve McKinnon and Sheldon Church, if they desire to speak.
3. Moderator’s Report – Pastor Sheldon
 - a. Pr. Sheldon recognized a number of people who were instrumental in helping him get situated at New Hope during his first week here, particularly Fred and Carol Garner who have given him the use of their home until he and his family move into their new home.
 - b. He extended an open invitation to the elders to have a get-acquainted coffee or lunch with him and asked those who wished to do so to make the appointment through Angel Dobson.

- c. He remarked that he neglected to invite any in the congregation to seek prayer with the elders after the worship service and will include that next week. Pr. Sheldon would like to discuss with the Session options for this at a later time.
 - d. He introduced the topic of the Lord's Supper, which will take place next Sunday and asked for feedback from the elders on changing the way the elements are delivered. Instead of passing the trays down the rows in the congregation, it could be a more personal delivery of the elements, and take less time, for the congregation to rise and receive the elements from the elders at the front of the sanctuary. After a brief discussion about the pros and cons of each delivery method, the elders voiced support in using this new delivery system on June 2 on a trial basis.
 - e. Pr. Sheldon summarized his plans for his first thirty days at New Hope, to include: meet with each staff member to understand their job and their gifts; streamline how things get done to make it as easy as possible for the staff to do their jobs; foster healthy relationships with members of the congregation, to include a process for conflict resolution; build relationships with the elders and the deacons.
4. Clerk of Session Report – Signe Pagel
- a. Motion: Enslin/LaRue/U -- to approve the Minutes of the April 23 Stated Session meeting.
 - b. Motion: LaRue/Watkins/U -- to approve the Minutes of the Special Session meeting of May 7.
 - c. Motion: Connell/LaRue/Passed -- to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of May 7. Enslin and Watkins abstained as they had not reviewed the Minutes.
 - d. Items for **April** recorded for EPC submission:
 - i. Lord's Supper – celebrated on April 7 at each worship service
 - ii. Ordination/installation of new deacons/elders – 0
 - iii. New members – 2
 - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – 28
 - v. Deaths/births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – 0
 - vi. Congregational meetings – 0
5. Finance Committee Report –Scott Connell. In addition to the written report of the Finance Committee:
- a. Connell noted the committee is considering moving some of the funds designated for the columbarium to a money market account to earn interest at a higher rate than present. The committee will give the Session an update at its next meeting.

- b. Members of the committee are meeting with the various ministries and staff to find out their needs and desires to prepare for developing the 2025 budget.
 - c. The committee has recently become more educated on the policy and procedures of the money-counting team. Connell was told that Chick Engelman could not be on that team because he is one of the church trustees. Pr. Sheldon clarified that there is nothing in the Book of Order that states a trustee cannot assist in counting the offering.
 - d. The ad hoc committee that was established at the Special Session meeting on May 7 is moving forward. This ad hoc committee is to present a recommendation to Session by November 2024 on a compensation plan for teaching elders who leave the service of New Hope.
 - e. Steve Shimp is the newest member of the Finance Committee.
6. Membership Committee Report – Jim LaRue. It was noted by LaRue that the committee sent what is called its “30-day letter” to members who have not worshiped or participated at New Hope for 12 months or more. The letter asks those members to contact the church if they have moved, joined another church, etc.
 - a. Motion: from Committee/Woosley/U – to remove from membership in New Hope 15 people, at their request.
 7. Shepherding Committee Report – Bill Enslin. Enslin and Pr. Sheldon will meet to form plans for the Shepherding Committee.
 8. Student & Family Ministries Committee – Jon Witenko. In Witenko’s absence, Pr. Sheldon commented that the two candidates for the position of Director of Student Ministries have removed their names from consideration. New Hope will continue the search for candidates for this position but noted that many churches are having the same difficulty as New Hope. Guest Steve McKinnon asked if there has been consideration to using N.L. Moore for the search. Pr. Sheldon responded there might be other agencies more cost effective than N.L. Moore.
 9. Property Committee – Scott Connell
 - a. The committee is building relationships with the Fire Departments – both the City of Fort Myers as well as the South Trail Department which would be the one to respond first at New Hope’s location.
 - b. Connell said the exterior cross on top of the sanctuary has been investigated to confirm that it is securely fastened. Apparently, it was installed a little off center and that has caused some to think it has come loose; it is secure.
 10. Motion: LaRue/Watkins/U – to move to Executive Session to hear the report of the Personnel Committee. Guests were dismissed at 6:55 p.m. and the Executive Session began.

11. Motion: LaRue/Watkins/U – to move out of Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. and back to the Stated Session meeting.
12. Executive Director of Operations Report – Flo Antuono
 - a. Staff positions are being streamlined for effectiveness.
 - b. We are currently assessing whether we should renew New Hope’s sponsorship of the M.O.P.S. organization. Michelle Myers is on task with this, and we will keep the Session apprised.
13. Unfinished Business
 - a. Pr. Sheldon and Bill Enslin will represent New Hope at General Assembly this June in Memphis, after which Pr. Sheldon will go to Kansas City to officiate at a wedding. Jerry Franz will preach that Sunday (June 23). Franz will also preach two Sundays in July when Pr. Sheldon will be in Canada for his mother’s memorial service.
 - b. Watkins revisited the comment he made at the April Session meeting about inviting those congregation members who desired prayer to come to the front of the sanctuary after the worship service. (He was not in the meeting tonight when Item 3.c was discussed.) His concerns have to do with congestion in the aisles that hinders the ability for people to move forward. Pr. Sheldon noted that people will be invited forward this next Sunday, and he would welcome discussion at a later time on options for prayer.
14. New Business -- The family of Kay Taber has requested a pastor for her memorial service at a time when Pr. Sheldon will not be available. They are considering asking Pr. Eddie Spencer to preside. Connell suggested we could also give them Pr. Stu Austin’s name as a viable option.
15. Motion: LaRue/Connell/U – to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.
16. Closing Prayer – Enslin began the prayer, various elders participated, and Pr. Sheldon closed.

Submitted by:

Pastor Sheldon MacGillivray, Moderator

Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session