

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

**New Hope Presbyterian Church
June 25, 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 | A | Candy Engelman | | Bill Ashworth | |
| Mark Myers | | Jim LaRue | | Bill Enslin | |
| Rodney Woosley | | Jon Witenko | EA | Zane McMinn | |
| Scott Connell | | | | Tiffany Myers | A |
| | | | | Rob Watkins | |
| P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; EA=Excused Absence; =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 meeting to order with prayer at 6:05 p.m. and with a devotional on the topic of leadership.
 - a. *“The greatest gift we can give to the church as leaders is to seek holiness ourselves,”* is a quote from Robert McMurray McCheyne. As leaders, it is imperative that we be in the Scriptures daily to find discernment and wisdom in God’s word, to strive to be more and more like Jesus, and to model Christian behavior to our congregation and our community.
 - b. Hebrews 11 was used as scriptural reference for this devotional.
2. Moderator’s Report – Pastor Sheldon
 - a. A brief recap was given of the General Assembly which Pr. Sheldon and Bill Enslin attended last week in Memphis. Our church is allowed a total of four attendees, and Pr. Sheldon encouraged elders to consider attending the 2025 GA which will be held in Detroit, Michigan in June.

- b. He commented on presentations given at GA about the state of the Church in America and that most have lost about 35% of their pre-pandemic congregation size. In order to reach and retain people going forward, a church must be relational, a place where its members feel safe worshipping, and a church that reaches out to the community of the unchurched.
 - c. A “Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope” was presented at GA and was affirmed. The purpose of the Letter was to provide a tool for teaching and ruling elders to use to shepherd followers of Jesus as they address racism and race-related topics in their churches and communities. It also called for a lament of any complicity, by omission or commission, in racism.
 - d. On August 8 – 9, the Global Leadership Summit will be held, and New Hope’s full-time staff will attend to enhance their leadership skills. Pr. Sheldon suggested elders may also want to consider attending (cost is \$209 for early-bird registration). In the SW Florida area, the simulcast of this global event will be hosted by Cape Coral Christian Church.
 - e. We received good feedback from members of the congregation about the way the elements of the Lord’s Supper were distributed on June 2. That same distribution procedure will be used again in July.
 - f. Pr. Sheldon will be in Canada the first two weeks of July attending the memorial service for his mother. Pr. Paul Pepin will officiate for the Lord’s Supper on July 7 and Dr. Jerry Franz will deliver the sermon on July 7 and July 14.
3. Motion: LaRue/Connell/U -- to grant voice to guests, if they desire to speak.
 4. Clerk of Session Report – Signe Pagel
 - a. Motion: LaRue/Ashworth/U -- to approve the Minutes of the May 28 Stated Session meeting
 - b. Motion: Woosley/LaRue/U -- to approve the Minutes of the May 28 Executive Session Meeting.
 - c. Motion: LaRue/Enslin/U -- to approve the Minutes of the May 5 Congregational Meeting.
 - d. Items for **May** recorded for EPC submission:
 - i. Lord’s Supper – celebrated on May 5 at each worship service
 - ii. Ordination/installation of new deacons/elders – 0
 - iii. New members – 0
 - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – 15
 - v. Deaths/births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – 1
 - vi. Congregational meetings – 1
 5. Finance Committee Report –Scott Connell

- a. Offerings were a little lower than normal in May, but there are five Sundays in June and we expect to be back on plan.
 - b. Bob Welsh has joined the team of money counters.
 - c. Revenue from the sale of the Bliem house and columbarium funds **have been (change to shall be)** put into a money market fund for greater interest rates.
6. Personnel Committee Report – Candy Engelman
 - a. Tiffany Myers has joined the Personnel Committee with Engelman and Craig Martin.
 7. Executive Director of Operations Report – Flo Antuono
 - a. Team meetings are going well; Matt is doing a great with his new IT leadership as is Angel with communications and administration.
 8. Membership Committee Report – Jim LaRue
 - a. There are still 115 people on the dormant list who did not respond to the “30-day letter” which was recently sent to inquire about their status. LaRue recommended that the elders attempt contact with these individuals by phone or email one more time before we bring their names to Session for a change in status to “inactive.” Each elder took a list of names for this purpose.
 9. Shepherding Committee Report – Bill Enslin
 - a. Ella Collum has requested to meet with some elders for healing prayer. She recently had heart by-pass surgery, was getting stronger, but has had a relapse. Enslin will contact her to see if she would prefer to meet with elders at church or at her home.
 10. Student & Family Ministries Committee – Jon Witenko – Nothing to report.
 11. Unfinished Business -- None
 12. New Business
 - a. McMinn inquired as to whether there is an intent to have a congregational “town hall” meeting in the near future to keep the congregation informed about New Hope’s direction, ministries, etc. Pr. Sheldon indicated he would agree to holding one in August and then again after the return of most of the seasonal members this winter.
 - b. Connell brought up the topic of hurricane response in preparation for the coming storm season, noting that the church opened its doors to members in need of secure shelter during Hurricane Irma. In the discussion that followed it was noted that the offer of shelter was a spontaneous one, particularly for staff so they would not have difficulty getting to church for work after the hurricane. There is no formal plan for this, although it may be desirable to do something similar in

- the future if conditions warrant it. Paul Gorny is the chairperson of the church's disaster response team and should be looped into such future discussions.
13. Closing Prayer – Elders individually offered prayers, and the closing prayer was by Pr. Sheldon.
 14. Motion: LaRue/McMinn/U – to adjourn the meeting of Session at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Pastor Sheldon MacGillivray, Moderator

Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session