

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

New Hope Presbyterian Church

September 24, 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	P	Bill Ashworth	P
Mark Myers	EA	Jim LaRue	P	Bill Enslen	P
Rodney Woosley	P	Jon Witenko	P	Zane McMinn	P
Scott Connell	P			Tiffany Myers	EA
				Rob Watkins	P
P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; EA=Excused Absence; A=Absent				Quorum:	yes
Others					
Signe Pagel – Clerk of Session; Chuck Knox - Treasurer					

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and Pr. Sheldon opened with prayer.
2. Moderator’s Report – Pastor Sheldon
 - a. There will be a Day of Prayer at New Hope on October 29 (9:00 – 3:00), one week before the national election. Additionally, it is our plan to hold a Day of Prayer a minimum of once per quarter.
 - b. The Presbytery’s regional director for church planting noted that Paul Pepin has been assisting with the training of two SW Florida men who will be taking the test for acceptance into the EPC ministry and possible ordination in October. The regional director has asked Pr. Sheldon to be involved in mentoring and to have some of our elders oversee their ministries. There is no financial obligation to New Hope for this. Elders who have an interest should respond to Pr. Sheldon.
 - c. Elders were given a copy of the Book, “The Intentional Church,” by Randy Pope and Pr. Sheldon asked them to read it prior to the October meeting of Session at

which time it will be used as a resource for a discussion on the role of elders in the church.

- d. The staff have been reading and discussing the book, “The Ideal Team Player.” Pr. Sheldon will be working with them to help strengthen the team.
 - e. New Hope church needs a “guest mindset.” The church staff is currently reviewing the whole process of visitor assimilation so they will have a warm first-time experience at New Hope. We have found that very few people use the Friendship Pads, and they will be retired in favor of QR codes which will enable people to quickly log on to the church website. It is likely that the Welcome Table will be relocated for greater visibility, and the staff will be taking a walking tour of the campus through the lens of a first-time guest to identify issues with parking, signage, accessibility to the hospitality team, etc. Moreover, we are aware that guests may not be familiar with the Bible and an adult education class for new believers may be helpful.
 - f. It has been decided that funeral/memorial services will be scheduled between Monday – Friday in the future (specifically not on Saturday).
 - g. The next meeting of Presbytery will be October 18 – 19 at First Presbyterian in Orlando. Scott Connell and Rodney Woosley indicated they plan to attend.
 - h. Pr. Sheldon noted that people are not coming forward for prayer from elders at the end of the worship services; we will look for an alternate location for providing prayer as it may be that people do not want to be noticed by others.
 - i. Motion: Engelman/Watkins/U – to include Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a paid holiday for church staff. This motion was proposed in awareness that we serve a multi-ethnic community.
 - j. Motion: Engelman/LaRue/U – church staff will receive paid time off for the days between Christmas and New Years Day, beginning in 2024 and thereafter. This motion was proposed in response to Pr. Sheldon’s comments that church staff need this time off to become refreshed after the very heavy workload they always have in the month of December. Additionally, acceptance of this proposal would go a long way toward enhancing the relationship between Session and the staff.
3. Clerk of Session Report – Signe Pagel
 - a. Motion: LaRue/Connell/U -- to approve the Minutes of the August 27 Stated Session meeting.
 - b. Motion: LaRue/Engelman/U -- to approve the Minutes of the August 27 Executive Session meeting.
 - c. Items for **August** recorded for EPC submission:

- i. Lord's Supper – celebrated on August 4 at each worship service
 - ii. Ordination/installation of new deacons/elders – 0
 - iii. New members – 0
 - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – 0
 - v. Deaths/births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – 4 deaths
 - vi. Congregational meetings – 0
- 4. Finance Committee Report – Scott Connell and Chuck Knox
 - a. The Finance team intends to create an abbreviated report of key indicators for Session's use.
 - b. \$500,000 of cash (proceeds from the Bliem sale, columbarium memorial funds, and some cash from the general operating fund) was moved to a Schwab money market account.
 - c. As of August 31, there is a \$123,000 deficit but the Finance team is not overly concerned. August is always the lowest month for offerings, and we are under budget on expenses. History has shown that 30% of our yearly revenue comes in the months of October through December, and we are cautiously optimistic that we will break even this year.
 - d. Witenko suggested that the wording in the bulletin's financial report be changed to "budgeted expenses," and this was accepted by the Finance team.
- 5. Membership Committee Report – Jim LaRue
 - a. Motion from the Membership Committee/U – to remove 16 people from membership at their request.
 - b. Motion from the Membership Committee/U – to move to inactive membership status 97 people on the dormant list. Letters were mailed to these people in May and two attempts have been made by elders to contact them by phone and/or email to no avail.
- 6. Shepherding Committee Report – Bill Enslen – No report.
- 7. Student & Family Ministries Committee – Jon Witenko – The search for a director of Family Ministries has been reactivated.
- 8. Personnel Committee Report – Candy Engelman
 - a. The transition of the director of Finance role (from Brad to Flo) has gone fairly well.
 - b. Dr. Lornalee Curtis has resigned as organist to attend to family matters. Ellen Whitten will lead a search for an organist.
 - c. The Personnel Committee is working on the budget for the year 2025.
- 9. Unfinished Business – None
- 10. New Business

- a. Connell brought up the topic of the Columbarium Committee noting that a leader and team members are needed. Additional vaults are being created and the Property Committee has provided input about the funds that will be spent, but this should be under the oversight of the Columbarium Committee.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. and closed with participatory prayer.

Submitted by:

Pastor Sheldon MacGillivray, Moderator

Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session