

STATED MEETING OF SESSION

New Hope Presbyterian Church
October 22, 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	EA	Candy Engelman	P	Bill Ashworth	P
Mark Myers	P	Jim LaRue	P	Bill Enslin	P
Rodney Woosley	Z	Jon Witenko	P	Zane McMinn	EA
Scott Connell	P			Tiffany Myers	A
				Rob Watkins	P
P=In Person; Z=via Zoom; EA=Excused Absence; A =Absent				Quorum:	yes
Others					
Signe Pagel – Clerk of Session					

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and Pastor Sheldon opened with prayer.
2. Moderator’s Report – Pr. Sheldon
 - a. Hurricane Response – Pr. Sheldon and Angel Dobson called widows/widowers prior to the storm to inquire as to whether they needed help to prepare. Church staff and a few of the elders called many of our members immediately after Hurricane Milton to determine if they were safe and if they needed any assistance with damage. Approximately 13 families had hurricane/tornado damage, and teams of people served these families the week following the storm. We learned that it will be helpful in the future to provide information to members in advance of a storm about the assistance that would and would not be available from the church’s disaster recovery team. Sheldon will work with Paul Gorny to prepare our response to the congregation for the hurricane season.
 - b. Review of Presbytery meeting. Pr. Sheldon and Scott Connell attended Presbytery last weekend. They updated the elders on church planting efforts, the

- three Hispanic evangelists who were approved for the Naples/Cape Coral area, a 6% decline in overall EPC membership in 2023 which compels us to step up our own evangelizing efforts, and the global emphasis within the EPC to reach people in the least Christian areas of the world. *“Inwardly strong and outwardly focused”* is the current EPC theme.
- c. Elders, deacons, and trustee nominations for the Class of 2027 – Pr. Sheldon has reviewed the process New Hope has used in the past for nominating officers. It is notable that we have more elders and deacons than would be usual for a church of our size. Moreover, he noted that we have struggled in the recent past to find qualified members to serve in these positions, particularly in the category of deacon. As he reviewed the church’s Constitution/By-Laws with respect to number of officers and the process for election, it became apparent that changes are called for to address the number of officers as well as areas where these documents need alignment with the EPC Book of Order. To that end, Pr. Sheldon will bring to the Session his recommendations for revisions to the Constitution/By-Laws as well as the process for nominating officers for the Class of 2027. Engelman and Pagel offered to assist in the review and preparation of Constitution/By-Laws recommendations.
 - d. Care and Compassion Fund – This fund, used to assist members with short-term significant financial assistance, has a balance of approximately \$13,000. Going forward, the fund is being placed under the direction of the Board of Deacons. Requests for financial assistance should be referred to the moderator of the Deacons and a deacon team will determine the appropriateness and amount of financial assistance. On the day of the Lord’s Supper each month, the congregation will be encouraged to contribute to the Care and Compassion Fund over and above a regular tithe/offering.
 - e. Notable upcoming events:
 - i. **November 1 (Friday), 7:00 p.m. – Dessert and Coffee for Elders** – A gathering for elders and their spouses will be held at the home of Pr. Sheldon and Alissa. RSVP to Signe Pagel by Tuesday, October 29.
 - ii. **November 17 (Sunday), 4:00 p.m. – Town Hall** and ice cream social, to discuss the role of the church, the ministry of New Hope and answer questions from members.
 - iii. **January 25 (Saturday), 8:30 – 12:30 – “Discover New Hope”** is a class for people who desire membership, or information needed to decide on membership. Elders, deacons, and staff shall attend to interact with potential members and demonstrate enthusiasm for the ministry of New Hope.

Content will consist of church mission, core values, and expectations of members.

- iv. **February 21 – 22 (Friday-Saturday) – Presbytery meeting in Tampa.**
- f. Discussion of “*The Intentional Church*” by Randy Pope will be postponed to another time when all elders are present.
3. Clerk of Session Report – Signe Pagel
 - a. **Motion: LaRue/Engelman/U** – to approve the Minutes of the September 24 Stated Session meeting.
 - b. Copies of the newly released By-Laws of the Presbytery were distributed to elders. They will also be posted on the Google Drive site.
 - c. Items for **September** recorded for EPC submission:
 - i. Lord’s Supper – celebrated on September 1 at each worship service
 - ii. Ordination/installation of new deacons/elders – 0
 - iii. New members – 0
 - iv. Dismissal/deletions from membership – 16
 - v. Deaths/births/adoptions/marriages/baptisms – 1 death
 - vi. Congregational meetings – 0
4. Finance Committee Report –Scott Connell – Two unexpected generous contributions from anonymous members were received this month, and that brought our expenses in line with income. We celebrate this blessing from God!
5. Membership Committee Report – Jim LaRue – No report.
6. Shepherding Committee Report – Bill Enslin – No report.
7. Student & Family Ministries Committee – Jon Witenko – The team is currently interviewing two excellent candidates for the position of director of Student Ministry.
8. Personnel Committee Report – Candy Engelman – We are in the process of budgeting for 2025 and have included provision for a director of Student Ministry as well as a mid-year addition of an assistant pastor.
9. Unfinished Business - None
10. New Business - None
11. **Motion: M. Myers/LaRue/U** – to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with prayer at 8:24.

Submitted by:

Pastor Sheldon MacGillivray, Moderator
Signe Pagel, Clerk of Session/