



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Minutes

May 18, 2025

- I. Opening Prayer – Ken McMillan, Elder
- II. Call to Order (ELT Chair Ken Wright)
 - A. Adopt Agenda
 1. Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
 2. Motion moved, seconded and approved.
 - B. Voice Approval of 5/19/24 Meeting Minutes
 1. Motion to approve the minutes as presented.
 2. Motion moved, seconded and approved.
- III. Congregational Leadership
 - A. ELT Chair Reflections (ELT Chair Ken Wright)
 1. Ken McMillan has served for three years on the elder board and has chosen not to run again. Ken reflected on Ken McMillan's life and ministry. He referenced Proverbs 19:20-21. Ken thanked Ken McMillan for his service.
 2. Ken acknowledged the entire elder board and thanked them.
 3. Task Force update – Ken highlighted what has come out of many of the strategic work groups: Hospitality, Generosity, Volunteering, Cross Cultural/Intergenerational
 - B. Elected Positions (Nominating Committee Chair Ken Wright)
 1. Leadership Candidates
 - Candidates were introduced for these positions: Elder Leadership Team, Nominations Committee, Internal Audit Committee, Property Council Chair and Vice Chair, and Church Clerk and Vice Clerk
 2. Voting Instructions
 - Ken explained the voting process
- IV. The Ministry Funding Plan (Ken Wright & Cathy Maupin)
 - A. Financial Summary
 1. Current Financial Status
 2. Auditor's Statements – presented by Steve Brown.
 - Steve explained the guardrails in place to steward finances well. The internal committee, along with our external auditors examine our finances regularly. Both can confirm that all our financial reports are fairly presented, generally accepted accounting principles are being followed and the controls we have in place are being met.
 - B. 2025-2026 Ministry Funding Presentation – Cathy Maupin
 1. Cathy expressed gratitude for YTD monthly giving remaining higher than our average monthly spending, and by continuing to maintain healthy

financial reserves we are guarded yet hopeful that God is moving us into a direction of financial strength and growth in the years to come.

2. Cathy reviewed our financial history for the past two years and our need to rely on three things: Faith, Pruning and New Growth. God continues to provide as we stepped out in faith and pruned where needed.
 3. This year's plan, including another step of faith and pruning where appropriate, reflects a slight increase in our overall budget for the next fiscal year, trusting that God is and will continue to produce that new growth that will support this plan. Cathy reviewed the plan publicized in the annual report and went through it in more detail.
 4. A main theme in all ministry areas is a focus on connection, which is encouraging. She highlighted some of the different connection events that various ministries are doing, or are planning, for the upcoming year.
 5. Having volunteers fill ministry roles has helped keep costs down.
 6. Explanation of funding to Care & Love, which is used to fund our Food Shelf along with Care Ministry expenses.
 7. We have healthy reserve balances in our other accounts which help fund CIM (Campus Improvement Ministries), a Replacement Reserve for campus needs and an Opportunity Reserve for special projects and emergencies.
 8. You can follow along to monitor our church finances on myNHC, which is updated weekly. Our team has a plan in place in case of a cash emergency.
 9. How can you help achieve a balanced budget for New Hope Church?
 - Prioritize giving as an act of worship to the Lord.
 - Give sacrificially, especially through the summer.
 - Volunteer
 10. Cathy's Generosity Moment – Since coming to New Hope Church 39 years ago, God's Word became key to their lives, unlocking truths in all areas, including generosity. The Bible teaches us to give regularly, proportionately, sacrificially and cheerfully. Applying these principles to her life was enlightening. When they started at NHC, they learned a lot about tithing, about giving 10% as a start, about giving regularly. Little by little they worked to give every dollar they could until they met their personal tithing goal, as taught in 1 Corinthians 16:2. True generosity is a heart issue, as Jesus taught in Matthew 6:19-21. Giving sacrificially is never easy, but it is amazing to watch how God works. When we have a true need and still give to Him, that's when unexpected blessings come. The Bible teaches us to give cheerfully as told in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. The amount you give is an act of worship between you and that Lord. That is what they have tried to do for 39 years, and to be generous with their time, talents and finances, cheerfully and with no regrets.
 11. Prayerfully consider what next steps God would have you to do as a generous person and disciple.
- C. Ken Wright explained that, not included in the budget, we have a number of property related expenses coming up. The elders are considering a capital campaign to cover these expenses. Look for more information in the coming year.

D. Q&A – Ken Wright

1. Doug Hunt – Why did Community Outreach decrease?
 - Community partners that we have sponsored in the past have either retired or we are not providing funding to them anymore.
2. Mike Brown – Funding from Care & Love showing as negative, why?
 - Food shelf funds are taken from the Care & Love giving and we offset the expenses by Care and Love gifts that are moved one account to the other.
3. Diane Kirking – Where does Disability Ministries fall under in the budget?
 - Care & Connection
4. Julie Andersen – To clarify, the majority of Disability Ministries is funded through donations from giving partners and from the dues paid by participants in Tuesday night Glory Club.

V. How Jesus is Working at NHC (Pastor Matthew St. John)

A. Thankfulness:

1. Thankful to be here today and for the great turnout for our time together. Your presence matters.
2. Thanks to Cathy Maupin for her wisdom, leadership, care and integrity.
3. Thanks to Ken Wright, who is rotating off the elder leadership team. His steady and wise leadership have been extraordinary. We've experienced an uncommon blend of strength and humility under Ken these last 4 years as our elder chair. He is deeply respected by the elder board. A verse that comes to mind for Ken is Psalm 78:70-72.
4. Thankful that we have an exceptional, healthy and humble elder leadership team.
5. Privileged to be with the staff at NHC. They are joyful, resilient and faithful.

B. What it means to embody Jesus in every space in which we find ourselves:

1. We have had a strong and fruitful year. God has been kind to us.
2. Since last year:
 - Over 75 people became new believers, 22 just since January.
 - Around the world we see God unfolding, for example with the Mangala people in India, a strategic Gospel investment has given way to thousands giving their lives to Christ and 8 generations of churches being raised up by God to take the Gospel to the people of India.
 - Recently, our church had a season of prayer and fasting. Many stories have been shared about how God met us during this time.
 - Over 3500 families benefitted from our food shelf.
 - Over 600 volunteers are serving at NHC in various ministries.
 - Our financial position continues to stabilize.
 - Our YTD average weekly attendance is 20% higher than last year. Many of these are here because of their spiritual hunger. God is drawing people to himself. Many are younger generations.
 - We have so much to be thankful for and are excited where God is taking us.

- C. 3 Words come to mind for moving forward: Compelling, Connecting and Contagiousing
1. Compelling – No one is more compelling than Jesus. Our world is starving for the food only Jesus can give. We want to be more like him. Let us be people that embody his posture. Because Jesus is compelling may we be compelled.
 2. Connecting – We need to take this to the next level. Jesus wants His people to be safe and seen. We want more of this posture at NHC. People are finding their way into this church family easier. New Believers are being disciplined more readily. Praise God for this! We need to be inviting, hospitable and highly functional as a church to make connections easier.
 3. Contagiousing – We are people of the Book. That matters. But people will know us by our love. Love demands relationships, which allow us to be contagious bearers of Jesus’ transforming power and his grace. We need to ensure that the contagious waters of the Gospel flow away from us to others.
- D. Practical applications
1. Time Change – Beginning June 8. Service times will be 9am and 10:45am. This is one more expression of our desire to deepen connections creating more space to engage together and better welcome our many new faces.
 2. Grow Generosity – Our finances have stabilized. Praise the Lord? But there are several opportunities to invest in Kingdom work, within our church or community and globally, that we would like to take to the next level. Let’s do this together and see God continue to do great things.
- E. Philippians 1:3-7 reflects my heart for you: ***“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace.”***

VI. Congregational Q&A

- A. On-line question -*Research shows a resurgence in religious engagement among members of Generation Z (20-year-olds) and young men in particular. To what would you attribute this trend and what is one change you would support at New Hope Church to meet these young men in their journey and persuade them to serve Jesus with us?*
1. Answer: The power of connections/relationships. We need to do a better job of matching, if not surpassing, head knowledge with heart connections. Thankful for our men’s leadership team that is already modeling this. This generation puts a high premium on authenticity. This happens best in relationships.
- B. On-line question: *The question I have is that not knowing whether perhaps someone in our church family does not know that the Lord is in their heart and that God loves them. What are your thoughts when some pastors, who state that God only loves those who are born again, but maybe not those in the rest of the world. How do you reconcile that?*
1. Answer: John 3:16 is unequivocal, God loved the world, the Cosmos, every image bearer. This is common grace love. God loves everyone, fully and

intentionally, so much so that he sent Jesus to die on a cross for us. There is also a covenantal love, like the love of a parent for their child. It doesn't mean you love others less, just that there is a special quality to the love you have for them. In Ephesians 1: 3-6 we read, "***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us^[b] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.***" This is an example of a covenantal love. Something more intensive for those who are part of the family of God.

- C. Ed Gross – Comment on the need to continue to invite people in and deepen a relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. We need to open the doorway to young people and to those searching for God's Truth.

VII. Closing Prayer & Adjournment – Jot Turner

- A. Motion to close the meeting.
- B. Motion moved, seconded and approved.