

**2020 Annual Report to the Congregation**

**January 17, 2021**

**Congregational Meeting and  
Annual Meeting of the Corporation  
New Hope Presbyterian Church of South Buncombe, Inc.  
Asheville, NC. 28803**

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

**New Hope Presbyterian Church of South Buncombe, Inc.**

**Asheville, North Carolina**

**January 12, 2020**

Rev. Kim Wells, moderator, convened the meeting of the congregation and the annual meeting of the Corporation in the church sanctuary following worship. She opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the clerk as secretary to record the proceedings as required by the Book of Order. The secretary declared there was a quorum (20 or more active members).

## Minutes of the 2019 Congregational Meetings

The moderator announced that the minutes of the two congregational meetings in 2019, January 27 and September 29, are included in the Annual Report to the Congregation. The minutes were approved by the Session and are provided for information.

## State of the Church Report

1. The 2019 Annual Report to the Congregation will be available online through the church's website and in the e-news. Hard copies will be available to members who do not use the computer. The Report includes the minutes of the 2019 Congregational Meetings, the Clerk's Report and reports from the Deacons and the committees of the Session: Building and Grounds, Faith Formation, Finance & Administration, Justice and Reconciliation, Outreach, Personnel, and Worship.
2. In-person reports: Finance and Administration and Personnel Committees.
  - Kim Presley, chair of Finance and Administration reported on the year-end financial statement for 2019. She commended the congregation on faithfully meeting their pledges for the year. She stated there is a surplus of \$24,792.55, which will be deposited in accounts to be determined by the Session. The 2020 budget will begin with a zero balance.
  - Kim Presley presented the approved 2020 budget. She stated that member contributions met 104% of the budgeted goal. The budget for 2020 is \$192,500.
  - Terms of Call for the Pastor. The Pastor was excused for this portion of the meeting, and Bonnie Runkle, chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the Terms of Call for the Pastor. The total compensation reflects a 4% increase for the Pastor, reimbursable expenses which remain the same, and Board of Pensions Contribution. The total cost to the church is \$91,454.00. The chair made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Personnel Committee. The Clerk facilitated the meeting by stating that there is no need for a second as the motion was made by the Committee and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she called for the vote. The vote was approved unanimously and enthusiastically.

3. Jay Maveety reported for the Nominating Committee: The members include Bill Carpenter (elder), Joy Lee Eppes (Deacon), and Jay Maveety (at large) representative).
4. Introduction of 2020 Leaders: The moderator indicated the brochure of New Hope's leaders previously distributed and asked members to contact any of them if they have questions or concerns.

Moderator's Report: The Pastor expressed her deep gratitude for being part of the life of New Hope and being in partnership with the members to carry out the ministry of the church.

The Moderator then concluded the Meeting of the Congregation.

Meeting of the Corporation

1. The Corporation conducted no business during 2019.
2. Elder Laura Brown reported on the officers of the Corporation for 2020. Laura Brown, President; Bonnie Runkle, Vice-President; Nancy Spann, Secretary; and Terri Carpenter, Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Submitted by

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Nancy Spann, Clerk

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Kim Wells, Pastor

**MINTUES OF VIRTUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**New Hope Presbyterian Church of South Buncombe Inc.**  
**Asheville, North Carolina**  
**September 13, 2020**

Rev. Kim Wells, moderator, convened the meeting of the congregation via Zoom following worship. The closing prayer of the worship service served as the opening prayer for the meeting. She acknowledged the clerk as secretary to record the proceedings as required by the Book of Order. The Clerk declared there was a quorum (20 or more active members) present.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers for 2021-2023. The moderator recognized the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Jay Maveety. The Chair stated that two persons have been nominated for position of Deacon: Joy Lee Eppes and Elaine Morse. There were no further nominations. The motion was made and seconded to approve these nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee then offered the names of three persons to serve as elders: Bonnie Runkle, Margaret Marsh, and Andy Morse. There were no further nominations. The motion was made and seconded to approve these nominations and the motion passed unanimously.

The Moderator stated that the virtual votes would be ratified the first time the congregation would gather in person, in accordance with the policy of the Presbytery.

The Nominating Committee is composed of one Elder and one Deacon and one At-Large Member. The Elder and Deacon are decided by their respective groups and the At-Large member is elected by the congregation. This election will be accomplished at the January Congregational meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Spann, Clerk

Kim Wells, Pastor

## CLERK'S 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation was held January 12, 2020.

1. Eight ruling elders comprised the 2020 Session. Following are the ministries of the Session and the chairs of those ministries:
  - Clerk: Nancy Spann
  - Building and Grounds: Mike Garrett
  - Congregational Life: Bill Carpenter
  - Faith Formation: Russ Moxley, retired clergy, Associate Member
  - Finance and Administration: Kim Presley
  - Justice and Reconciliation: Virginia Hebert
  - Outreach: Susan Maveety
  - Personnel: Bonnie Runkle
  - Worship: Laura Brown
  
2. Nine ruling elders will comprise the 2021 Session. Ministries and chairs for 2021 are:
  - Clerk: Nancy Spann
  - Building and Grounds: Bunk Spann (non-active elder)
  - Congregational Life: Margaret Marsh
  - Faith Formation: Russ Moxley, retired clergy, Associate Member
  - Finance and Administration: Kim Presley
  - Justice and Reconciliation: Virginia Hebert
  - Outreach: Susan Maveety
  - Personnel: Bonnie Runkle
  - Worship: Laura Brown, Andy Morse
  
3. Bill Carpenter rotated off the Session and Margaret Marsh and Andy Morse were elected to three-year terms as new Session members.
  
4. Officers of the Corporation were Laura Brown, President; Bonnie Runkle, Vice-President; Nancy Spann, Secretary; and Terri Carpenter, Treasurer.
  
5. The Session had 11 regular stated meetings and two called meetings.
  
6. The Session welcomed 7 new members, 2 affiliate members, 2 retired clergy associate members and 3 members by reaffirmation of faith

### Joined February 2020

Charlie Davidson: retired clergy, Associate Member

Pat Koonts: affiliate member

Judy Lawson: reaffirmation of faith

Gerry and Bette Meyer: Bethany Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio

Janet Parker: United Church of Canada, Lennoxville, Quebec

Joined October 12

Betsy Hardin: affiliate member

Wannie Hardin: retired clergy, Associate Member

Ann Moorefield from First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, SC

Karen Ward: reaffirmation of faith

Emily Young: reaffirmation of faith

7. Long-time member Frank Reynolds passed away on December 5. Bob Clinton, also a long-time member, passed away in 2020. Four retired clergy associate members passed away during the year: Buddy Olney (June 29), John Laney (July 28), and John David Stewart (December 12), and Stratton Peacock (December 27). Mary Jane Boyd was removed from membership February 24, 2020 at her request.
8. Ken Meeks, retired clergy and Associate Member worked with the reorganization of the Diaconate. As required by the Book of Order, the Session met with the Deacons on October 12 to be updated on the work of the Diaconate. Regular minutes of the Diaconate were provided the Session.
9. Five members comprised the Diaconate in 2020: Joy Lee Eppes, Tom Fife, Susan Garrett, Susan Lang, and Anita Rice. Joy Lee Eppes was re-elected and Elaine Morse was elected to the Diaconate for the Class of 2023.
10. Terri Carpenter retired from her position as Treasurer. Mike Garrett assumed the position of Treasurer effective January 1, 2021.

# BUILDING AND GROUNDS 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Dedicated to Frank Reynolds (1930-2020)

**He served faithfully on the Building & Grounds Committee, using his incredible talents to make all things wood & metal throughout the church with extraordinary skill and dedication for 25 years!**

A few projects he was involved with include: creating the beautiful stand for the baptism font, adding the overhead lights at the front of the Sanctuary (with Herschel Lewis), building the wood cabinets for the choir lights, making posts for the outdoor sign, replacing the outside door to the fellowship hall (with Glenn Limbird), helping build the retaining wall along the south bank, and replacing the sump pump in the elevator vault.

**Chairperson:** Michael Garrett

**Committee Members:** Bill Eppes, Myron Lepro, Bunk Spann

**Number of Meetings:** 11

### Goals for Reporting Year

- Semi-annual church-clean up days (not done in 2020)
- Routine maintenance
- Special projects as needed

### Accomplishments:

- Completing the tremendous number of everyday tasks to keep the building open, clean, and safe and grounds beautiful under conditions
- Re-planting the gardens by the church sign and the south-side bank near the patio
- Reseeding the lawn where needed
- Obtaining a new “green” battery-operated yard trimmer and pole saw
- Pumping out and upgrading the septic system
- Completing the 2020 Earth Care Re-Certification
- Refurbishing all the wood window frames throughout the building
- Digitizing a complete set of building blueprints
- Installing a removable banner post for the Justice and Reconciliation Committee.
- Completing the Buncombe County 2021 Exempt Property Audit and Review

**Financial Activity** (highlight any significant activity or changes from previous’ year’s budget, if any):

- Overall, spending was down \$3200 from 2019 and \$9600 under budget. These savings were achieved by ordering fewer supplies, decreasing energy usage by 20%, and doing our own housekeeping.
- Two major capital expenses: Septic system (\$1400) and purchase additional computer equipment and software for improved worship services (\$3300)

## **Thank Yous:**

- Angela Lepro – for being a part of our fantastic co-ed lawn mowing team
- Barbara Kenny - for her tireless work throughout the spring and summer: cutting grass, planting flowering, weeding, raking, trimming, in gardens, raking leaves, and sweeping sideways & sidewalks
- Bill Carpenter – for his invaluable help with cleaning, sanding, staining, varnishing over 70 church window frames and installing the posts for the seasonal church banners, raking leaves, and helping with recycling.
- Bill Eppes – for installing a permanent fixture for the Shed light, maintaining the lawnmowers during the year, and running the sound booth for the church services at the beginning of the year.
- Bunk Spann –for keeping the grounds looking amazing, obtaining the battery-operated yard trimmer and pole saw, mowing, spreading mulch, planting new grass by the septic tank, and assuring a smooth transition to new leadership after six years as serving as the elder of Building and Grounds.
- Erin May – for helping get all our bills paid, running reports, ordering supplies, coordinating vendors, and just helping things running smoothly
- Frank Reynolds – for help locating the septic tank, building a permanent fixture for the shed light, and developing a drawing for the proposed turnaround closer to the building
- Margot Coleman – for faithfully watering all the indoor plants throughout the church each week
- Myron Lepro – for his monthly safety checks, replacing numerous bulbs & ballasts & batteries, refurbishing all four of the bathroom fans, resetting the thermostats, being on the lawn mowing team, running the church sound system, coordinating all the preventing maintenance activities and inspections, raking leaves in the fall and everything else!
- Richard Green – for helping us select a contractor for the septic system repair
- Tom Fife– for his help re-planting the garden by the front sign with Barbara Kenny.

## **Suggested Goals for Next Year’s Committee:**

- Routine maintenance and special projects as needed
- Selecting a vendor for the weekly cleaning of the building
- Assisting with the re-opening of the building (when possible)
- Helping coordinate the on-going live broadcast of our service once we are back in the building
- Repairing the first few rows of patio bricks outside the Sanctuary

**Submitted by:** Elder, Michael Garrett, Committee Chair

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Chairperson:** Bill Carpenter

**Committee Members:** Terri Carpenter, Belvin Freeman, Susan and Mike Garrett, Herschel and Linda Lewis, Russ and Jean Moxley, Nan and John Riley

**Number of Meetings:** 1 (annual planning in January)

## Goals for Reporting Year

- Complete updated church pictorial directory
- Plan, budget, staff, promote, set up and take down eight separate Sunday fellowship luncheons over the course of the year.
- Plan and organize summer activities (*Summer Spirit*) in conjunction with other church ministries to include an ice cream social, a baseball outing and at least one performing arts event for congregational participation
- Organize the annual church picnic at Lake Julian
- Explore other social activities and congregational needs as may be identified by the Pastor, including new member assimilation.
- Fully assume control of fellowship time following worship from the Deacons and prepare a schedule of volunteers to host each week
- Prepare a 2021 budget

## Accomplishments

- The new church directory was completed and distributed to church members early in the first quarter.
- The Committee finished 2020 planning and chose dates and themes for eight fellowship luncheons. The January (*Sunday Brunch*) and February (*Soup and Sandwich*) events were held as scheduled and were well attended.
- Twenty members of the congregation attended the March 1<sup>st</sup> performance of *The Fantasticks* at the Asheville Community Theatre. This activity honored our Director of Church Music, Rob Blackwell, the music director for the show.

**(Note: The balance of activities planned for 2020 were cancelled after the Session voted to close the church building in response to the COVID 19 health crisis in the community.)**

- Volunteers were recruited to host fellowship time following worship and a schedule for the year was completed and distributed.
- A 2021 Congregational Life budget was submitted to and approved by the Session.

## Financial Activity

- Projected spending for 2021 was set at the level budgeted for 2020. Due to the closing of the church for ten months in 2020, much of the budget was not spent.

**Thank You:**

- Appreciation was expressed to members of the Committee for the activities completed in the first two months of the year.

**Suggested Goals for 2021 Committee**

- It is impossible to conduct most Congregational Life activities while the church remains closed. It is recommended that the new chair of the Congregational Life Committee plan for 2021 once the Session sets a date certain to resume face to face activities. Many of the activities planned for 2020 can be easily resurrected for whatever months the church is able to open in 2021.

**Submitted by:** Bill Carpenter, Elder

## **FAITH FORMATION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Chairperson:** Russ Moxley

**Committee Members:** Instead of a committee, Russ coordinated with a team of teachers, which pre-Covid included Jim Chatham, Charlie Davidson, Peg Lewis, Meg and Win Word-Sims, and Kim Wells.

**Number of Meetings:** 8, most of them Phone Conversations.

### **Goals for 2020:**

- Provide a meaningful and timely range of subjects that cover all aspects of the Christian life, subjects that nurture both spirit and mind.
- Utilize various presenters and facilitators to expand the leadership base for classes.
- Experiment with different formats, times, and technologies after in-person classes were no longer possible.

### **Results:**

- Had two well-received in-person series in January and February of 2020. The February series focused on lessons we could learn from African American theologians.
- We averaged twenty plus participants in January and February.
- The experiments we tried after in-person classes were no longer possible were met with mixed results. This discussion of “Search for Sunday” had eight participants. The first time we offered “Sermon Talk Back” we averaged six participants, but when we changed the time attendance declined.

### **Thank You:**

Class participants for their faithfulness and commitment to learning and growing in faith, and for their willingness to try out different formats and times.

### **Suggested Goals for Next Year’s Committee:**

- Continue to experiment with various ways to provide small group opportunities.
- Plan a comprehensive range of educational experiences to deepen faith and equip participants for ministry.
- Develop an in-depth understanding of what is meant by Faith Formation

**Submitted by:** Russ Moxley, Faith Formation Chair

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION 2020**

**Chair:** Kim Presley

**Committee Members:** Terri Carpenter (Treasurer), Jay Maveety (Financial Secretary), Kim Presley (Session Elder), Kim Wells (Staff Support)

**Number of Meetings:** 12

## **Goals for Reporting Year:**

- Update Treasurer's Manual
- Install Cash Box
- Implement Alternative Giving Methods
- Update policies and procedures
- Consolidate some of the reserve funds

## **Accomplishments:**

- Updated Treasurers' Manual
- Installed Cash Box
- Implemented online giving
- Updated some policies and procedures
- Consolidated some of the reserve funds
- Conducted a very successful stewardship campaign
- Recruited a new Treasurer
- Sent out quarterly pledge statements

## **Financial Activity:**

- 2020 pledges exceeded budgeted member contribution goal by \$9,812
- Significant decrease in budgeted expenses overall

## **Thank You:**

- To Terri Carpenter for her 3 years of service as Treasurer
- To the congregation for their faithful giving during unprecedented times
- To Building and Grounds for doing all of the cleaning and saving money all around

## **Goals for Next Year:**

- Review financial statement format
- Orient new Treasurer
- Explore invited members to make Legacy Gifts/Memorial Gifts
- Plan another successful stewardship campaign

**Submitted by:** Elder Kim Presley, Finance & Administration Committee Chair

## JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Chairperson:** Virginia Hebert

**Committee Members:** Margot Coleman, Charlies Davidson, Paul Galbreath, Bill Johnson, Marlene Johnson, Margaret Marsh, Bette Meyer, Jean Moxley, Janat Parker, Nancy Spann and Judy Urich. Pastor Kim Wells, Ex Officio Member

**Number of Meetings:** 11 (monthly except for July)

### Goals for Reporting Year:

- Continue partnering with existing groups to serve the immigrant and refugee community.
- Continue to discern our specific role in serving the immigrant/refugee/asylee community.
- Build upon our relationship with Mujer-a-Mujer.
- Explore building a relationship with Shiloh, a neighboring African-American community.
- Consider a partnership with an Asheville church that has a predominantly African-American congregation.
- Seek opportunities to engage the congregation in the Committee's work.
- As 2020 is a presidential election year, promote voter education and participation.

### Accomplishments:

**Note: The COVID-19 pandemic and limitations on in-person gatherings had to shift many of the Committee's goals this year.**

- Drafted and sent a letter of congregational support on behalf of Lalo Aguilera, an immigrant and BeLoved volunteer, who is applying for United States residency status.
- The collection of \$550.00 in gas cards for the benefit of families who must travel to Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia to visit immigrant loved ones. The gas cards were donated to El Refugio for distribution.
- The provision of voter registration and election education materials to congregants for both the primary (March) and general (November) elections, as well as offers of assistance with voter registration and mail-in voting.
- The design and development of a new banner in support of immigrants/asylum-seekers/refugees. The Committee chose the message "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" based on the verse in the Matthew 25 passage. The banner was posted on the church lawn leading up to Election Day, November 3.
- The research and drafting of more than 20 "Staying at Home, Staying on Mission" articles for the weekly New Hope e-Newsletter. These articles focused on matters pertinent to immigration, racial justice, and voter

education, and encouraged the congregation at-large to learn more about the topic and pray for specific needs.

- Chair-woman Virginia Hebert and ex officio member Pastor Kim Wells participated in an interfaith prayer gathering and March on June 4, organized shortly after the death of George Floyd.
- Posted the Advent-themed “Immigrants Welcome” banner on the church lawn during the Advent season.
- Sent more than 70 messages of support and Christmas cards to detainees at Stewart Detention Center care of El Refugio.
- Sponsored an Advent Alternative Giving opportunity to support the families affiliated with De Mujer a Mujer through the purchase of disinfectant supplies needed to keep homes safe during COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Financial Activity:**

- One hundred (100) percent increase over the 2019 budget amount.
- Payment of \$100.00 to BeLoved Asheville on behalf of Lalo Aguilera, the brother of one of BeLoved’s leaders, for expenses associated with his efforts to secure residency status in the United States.
- Payment of \$200.00 made to El Refugio for purchase of solidarity care package materials to be sent to the families of Stewart Detention Center detainees.
- Payment of \$200.00 made to Georgia Immigration Bond Fund to assist immigrants to remain out of detention pending a resolution to their immigration court matters.
- Payment of \$200.00 to The Sign Guy (Bob Potter) for the new immigrants welcome banner.
- Payment of \$300.00 to Faith 4 Justice Asheville to support their efforts to reduce racial inequity in faith communities, galvanize and mobilize faith communities to advocate for racial equity and justice, and heal racial trauma in black/brown communities.
- Input for dispensation of COVID-19 Relief Fund donations to BeLoved Asheville (50% totaling \$965.00)
- Dispensation of \$915.00 in Dollar General gift cards to de Mujer a Mujer for the purchase of household disinfectant supplies, a result of the Advent Alternative Giving campaign.

### **Thank You:**

- Elder Mike Garrett and the Building & Grounds Committee, for their assistance with a better banner installation and the city permit process.
- The late John Laney and his widow, Joan Yarborough, for their creation of a memorial fund for the benefit of justice and reconciliation activities.
- The people of New Hope Presbyterian Church for their overwhelming generosity in special giving campaigns to support the needs of immigrants.

## **Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:**

### **Compassion Goals**

- Continue to support El Refugio's care for Stewart Detention Center detainees and their families.
- Continue to support BeLoved Asheville's efforts to promote sustainable living for immigrant and minority communities.

### **Advocacy Goals**

- Explore taking an active role with Racial Justice Coalition of Asheville.
- Keep up-to-date on local antiracism efforts (i.e., the removal of the Vance Monument, Reparations Resolution, police policies/funding) and engage local leadership in dialogue.

### **Relationship-building Goals**

- Deepen our relationship with the women and their families of de Mujer a Mujer.

### **Education Goals**

- Partner with Faith Formation to host a virtual book study highlighting a book on racial justice and/or immigration topic(s).
- Continue drafting e-News "Staying Home, Staying on Mission" articles.
- Partner with Faith Formation to develop materials for congregation to learn about local Black history.
- Increase our understanding of Faith 4 Justice's mission and our attendance at its monthly sessions.

**Submitted by:** Elder Virginia Hebert, Justice & Reconciliation

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Chairperson:** Susan Maveety

**Committee Members:** Terri Carpenter, Mary Jo Limbird, Margaret Marsh, Carole Burnette,  
Susan Lang

**Number of Meetings:** 10

**Goals for Reporting Year** (review previous year's annual report or minutes for the year):

- Investigate additional Outreach activities that will engage greater member participation
- Continue to strengthen our Guatemala covenant relationship

**Accomplishments:**

**Before shutdown:**

- Provide Fair Trade products for sale, coffee, tea, chocolate
- Participated in the SOUPER BOWL of Caring for the 22<sup>nd</sup> year and hosted a soup sale which raised \$717 for MANNA Food bank.

**After shutdown:**

- Collected local Covid Relief funds of \$1,930 which were equally distributed to Beloved Asheville and the Asheville Poverty Initiative.
- Provided meals at Steadfast House on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in March, May, August, and November
- In person Outreach opportunities remained at a standstill due to pandemic
- Room in the Inn was not housed at New Hope (or any other church facility) due to pandemic, but we provided financial support for meals
- Held a coat drive for Eblen Charities and a peanut butter and jelly drive for MANNA Food bank.
- Maintained at least monthly communication with sister church, El Divino Salvador, through What's App and Facebook messenger

**Financial Activity:**

- Alternative Giving during Advent benefited Guatemala Children's Scholarships and De Mujer a Mujer
- Increased the amount of Guatemala Children Scholarships support from prior year
- Sent Emergency relief fund to El Divino Salvador for \$1,200 and \$500 for Sur Occidente Presbytery
- Collected and promoted 5 cents a meal throughout the year
- In conjunction with the Justice and Reconciliation Committee, we highlighted "Staying on Mission" in the weekly E- news. Articles focused on how we as a congregation can provide support for others while staying at home.

**Thank You:**

- Carole Burnette for preparing several meals a week for ABCCM during the pandemic
- Carole and Kim Presley for preparing meals for ABCCM's Steadfast house on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and preparing the soup for Souper Bowl Sunday.
- Linda and Herschel Lewis for initiating and coordinating a coat drive for Eblen Charities and peanut butter and jelly drive for MANNA Foodbank.

**Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:**

- When the health crisis permits, investigate additional Outreach activities that will engage greater participation
- Continue to strengthen our Guatemala covenant relationship

**Submitted by:** Susan Maveety, Outreach Committee Chair

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Chairperson/s:** Bonnie Runkle

**Committee Members:** Bunk Spann, Kim Wells

**Number of Meetings:** 7

### **Goals for Reporting Year:**

- From 2019: review Youth policy
- Create Music Director yearly review form

### **Accomplishments:**

- Music Director review created, distributed to choir & worship committee
- Participated in discussions with Kim Presley, Finance elder RE: revise staff pay / approval procedures

### **Financial Activity:**

- Increases for all three staff recommendation for 2021
- Budget line item added for use by Ken Meeks, Pastor Assoc. for mileage reimbursement

### **Thank You:**

- Bunk Spann for participation following his tenure on Session
- Kim Wells for facilitating our zoom meetings

### **Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:**

- Work with B&G to review property use policies, if needed
- Secure additional committee member(s)

**Submitted by:** Elder Bonnie Runkle, Personnel Committee Chair

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Chairperson:** Laura Brown

**Committee Members:** Worship: Margot Coleman, Andy Morse, Ruth Young (resigned in the summer), Rob Blackwell, Kim Wells, Laura Brown

Worship Arts members: Margot Coleman, Peg Lewis, Rob Blackwell, Kim Wells, Laura Brown

**Number of Meetings:** Worship: 3

Worship Arts: 14 plus several workdays

## Goals for Reporting Year:

- Provide intragenerational worship services
- Provide meaningful worship experiences for the congregation
- Depict worship themes through the word, music and artistic renditions
- Finish children's corner in sanctuary
- Finish a worship manual

## Accomplishments:

- 2020 turned out to be a very different year than anticipated.
- Before we were separated due to the coronavirus, the choir grew to 18 under the direction of Rob Blackwell That is the largest choir membership New Hope has ever had.
- The congregation also was growing in numbers and new members.
- Children's corner in sanctuary remains an ongoing project for when we get back together, though this corner was being utilized by children.
- Through the development of the worship arts group, meaningful worship was enhanced through visual arts.
- Worship arts started cutting paper lace banners for lent and Easter. These were not completed due to the coronavirus.
- The worship manual has been tabled for now, with a goal of finishing this in 2021.

## Financial Activity:

- Budget changed to reflect worship arts as a line item for the 2021 budget.

## Thank You:

- Kim Wells for her creative spirit, moving in person worship to interactive, meaningful Facebook live services.
- Members of the congregation for their willingness to try new things, be liturgists, lead and sing hymns and write reflections and prayers recorded in advance and used in the Facebook worship services.

- Rob Blackwell for his leadership with very moving music, finding and recording artists in different genres for our Facebook services.

**Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:**

- Be open to where God is leading this congregation
- Provide meaningful worship experiences across the generations
- Finish worship manual and children's corner
- Look forward to when we can all be together in the sanctuary, safely once again.

**Submitted by:** Elder Laura Brown, Committee Chair

## DIACONATE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Convener:** Ken Meeks.

**Committee Members:** Joy Lee Eppes, Tom Fife, Susan Garrett, Susan Lang, Anita Rice (Rev. John Riley met frequently with Deacons related to his contact with visitors, prospective members, and Saturday Men's Breakfast)

**Number of Meetings:** Deacons have had monthly meetings every month except for July and November

### Goals for Reporting Year:

- Explore creative ways to support members in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Consider a transition to a Neighborhood Group model to develop community
- Engage in ongoing exercises related to healthy caregiving
- Share together ongoing pastoral concerns within the Care Groups

### Accomplishments:

- Expressed deep appreciation to Mary Jo Limbird for her six years of dedicated service as a Deacon.
- Reviewed and updated Guidelines for Memorial Service Receptions.
- Updated Care Groups in relation to newly elected Deacons and new members.
- A collegial relation was developed among the Deacons through regular sharing and mutual support which led to special support of families dealing with illness, surgery, death, and other special needs (including a special occasion to coordinate a "drive-by" celebration of Vera Crumley's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in December).
- Discussion with John Riley regarding visitor welcoming efforts and small group activities
- With the shift to Facebook Worship in the face of COVID-19, Deacons made a special effort to encourage members to utilize this resource.
- Reviewed status of Prayer Shawl Ministry and recruited church members to renew the supply of Prayer Shawls (prayer shawls shared with several members in need of special support).
- Skills training, including discussion of "Resources for Coping with Uncertain Circumstances and Altered Routines," Issues related to Confidentiality, Article from Presbyterian Survey entitled "Deacon Makeover," and several General Assembly articles related to Small Group Ministry.
- Considered securing bulk greeting cards to assist Deacons in communicating with members of their Care Groups. (Erin May was invaluable in finding a good source for these cards through Amazon.com.)
- Met with Kim Wells twice, once to review updated Purpose and Responsibilities of Deacons and once to discuss possible shift of Care Groups to Neighborhood Groups

- With the approval by Session of permission to proceed to investigate shift from Care Groups to Neighborhood Group, Deacons developed survey to be utilized with Care Group members to gauge their interest and ideas for Neighborhood Group concept.
- Expressed deep appreciation to Mike Garrett for his invaluable assisted in developing spreadsheet for results from surveys to help Deacons digest this information.
- In November, worked to restructure Care Groups into Neighborhood Groups.
- With the addition of newly elected Deacon Elaine Morse, Neighborhood Groups were assigned with the understanding that in January 2021, Deacons will establish communication with their new groups.
- In January 2021, each Deacon will also seek to discover someone with spiritual gifts for pastoral care to become a Co-Leader of their Neighborhood Group.

#### **Financial Activity:**

- Occasional purchase of meals or flowers for families;
- Bulk Assorted Greeting Cards for use by Deacons purchased on Amazon.com
- Payment of monthly Zoom membership for Deacon Meeting use.

#### **Thank You:**

- Thank you to Mary Jo Limbird for her six years of service as a Deacon
- Thank you to Ken Meeks for his role as convener of the Deacons
- Thanks to Kim Wells for her support and encouragement of Deacons
- Thanks to John Riley for his work in welcoming visitors
- Thanks to Erin May for her support of various needs to Deacons have had for information, greeting cards, etc.

#### **Suggested Goals for Next Year:**

- To continue to build a strong sense of community among the Deacons
- To introduce the Neighborhood Group approach and explore ways to build community while we continue to be restricted due to COVID-19
- When appropriate, introduce small group gatherings of Neighborhood Groups for sharing, study, and spiritual growth
- To continue to be supportive to members grieving the loss of loved ones or dealing with family crises

**Submitted by:** Ken Meeks, Convener