

Annual Report to the Congregation January 27, 2019

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

Status of the Church Clerk's Report

Session Constituency. Nine ruling elders comprised the 2018 session: Susan Maveety (Outreach), Nan Riley (Congregational Life), Bunk Spann (Building and Grounds), Laura Brown (Worship), Kim Presley (Finance and Administration), Bill Carpenter (Faith Formation), and Peggy Olney (Worship). Nancy Spann continued as Clerk. The Session met monthly. As required by the Book of Order, the session met with the Board of Deacons in July. The agenda included the introduction of an Extended Service of Communion to homebound members of New Hope. Twice a year servers will be commissioned by the congregation on a Communion Day to take the elements and provide a brief worship service to members who cannot attend worship.

Sessional Committees. Session has a number of committees and task forces to wrestle with the details of several programs. The Nominating and Earth Care Committees are active and will remain in place.

The following Session Ministry Groups and chairs have been established for 2019:

- Building and Grounds (Bunk Spann)
(Earth Care, Subcommittee of B&G, Janet Black)
- Congregational Life (Bill Carpenter)
- Faith Formation (Peg Lewis)
- Justice and Reconciliation (Peggy Olney with Virginia Hebert, non-Session member)
- Outreach (Susan Maveety, non-Session member)
- Personnel (Bonnie Runkle)
- Finance and Administration (Kim Presley)
- Worship (Laura Brown)

Congregational Meetings. Two congregational meetings were held during the year. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation was held January 28 after the worship service. The purpose of the meeting was to elect the officers for the Corporation, to approve the pastor's terms of call, to elect the 2018 Nominating Committee, and to hear a report from the Treasurer on the 2017 year-end financial statement and the 2018 budget. The meeting on November 11 was held to elect Kim Presley to a three-year term on the Session and to elect Jay Maveety to the 2019 Nominating Committee. The minutes of these meetings were approved by the Session and are attached.

Statistical Report. The church welcomed 8 new members during 2018: Belvin Freeman, Mike and Susan Garrett, Marge Livesy, Jane Meeks, Andy and Elaine Morse, and Sonia Williams. In addition, Ken Meeks, a retired clergy, was welcomed as an Associate Member.

Four members died during the year: Joyce Bain, Sara Dixon, Roberta Robertson, and Everett Smith. Eight members were removed from the rolls by action of the Session: Debbie Aiton, Anne Bolton, Patsy Brison and Scott Camp, Dennis and Paige Harraman, Bill Howard, and Trena Parker Velez.

Board of Trustees. The officers for the 2018 Board of Trustees were Susan Maveety as Board Chair, Peg Lewis as Vice-Chair, and Ruth Lewis as Secretary-Treasurer. No special actions were needed or taken by the Board during the calendar year. The Board did not incur any loans with the General Assembly, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, or the Presbytery.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

New Hope Presbyterian Church of South Buncombe, Inc.

Asheville, North Carolina

January 28, 2018

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).

Report from the Corporation

The moderator reminded the congregation that the corporation exists to handle property and loan decisions that come before the church. There was no need for such decisions during 2017. She announced the officers of the Corporation as Susan Maveety, Chair; Peg Lewis, Vice-Chair; Ruth Lewis, Treasurer; and Terri Carpenter, Secretary.

Report from the Congregation

The moderator indicated that the minutes from the two congregational meetings in 2017 were attached to the agenda. The minutes were reviewed and approved by the Session and distributed for information only.

Nominating Committee Report

According to the Book of Order, the congregation elects two at-large members of the Committee. The chair of the Committee nominated Jay Maveety to serve as an at-large member. The second at-large member will be selected at a later congregational meeting. The remaining members of the Committee are composed of two elders and one deacon.

Financial Report and Terms of Call

1. Ruth Lewis, Treasurer, presented the pastor's Terms of the Call. The Clerk moderated this portion of the meeting in the absence of the pastor. The Treasurer stated that the Personnel Committee had proposed Presbytery's recommendation for an increase but the pastor had asked that the proposal be withdrawn. The motion to accept the Terms of Call as presented by the Treasurer was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

2. The Treasurer presented a report of the church's finances to date. The end of the year report reflected revenue and expenses during 2017 with a surplus of \$11,736. The Session has approved a deficit budget for 2018. The deficit is \$8,205 and the budget is based on prior years when deficit budgets were approved but were then met at the end of the year without borrowing money. The Stewardship chair encouraged members to consider the budget deficit and to rethink their pledge when donating during the year. The 2018 budget includes the surplus for 2017. The approved revenue and expenses for 2018 total \$174,916.

The State of the Church Report

The moderator stated that the budget and the annual reports of the church ministry reports would be distributed at the end of the meeting and encouraged them to read about the accomplishments of these groups during 2017.

Moderator's Report

The pastor expressed joy, love and gratitude for the members of the church. She stated that it is her privilege to be in ministry with the members and she looks forward to another year together.

Adjournment

The business of the church was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Spann, Clerk

Kim Wells, Pastor

**Minutes of Stated Congregational Meeting
New Hope Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 11, 2018, 12:00 p.m.**

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, November 11, 2018 for the purpose of electing one elder to the Session and one at-large member to the Nominating Committee.

The pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk declared a quorum was present.

Jay Maveety, chair of the Nominating Committee, nominated Kim Presley for a second three-year term on the Session. There were no other nominations and Kim Presley was elected unanimously.

Jay Maveety, presenting for the Nominating Committee, put forward his name to continue as the at-large member on the 2019 Nominating Committee. There were no other nominations and Jay Maveety was elected unanimously.

There was no other business and following a motion, a second, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Spann, Clerk

Kim Wells, Pastor

Building and Grounds Ministry

Bunk Spann, Elder and Chair; Myron Lepro, Secretary, Bill Eppes, Stan Presley, Mike Garrett

In addition to semi-annual church-wide clean up days and routine maintenance, the Committee accomplished the following major projects were completed:

- After Committee review of Janitorial services, a contract was signed with Jan-Pro Janitorial Services replacing the services provided by Gilliland Janitorial Company.
- The grease trap was cleaned and erosion proof material was applied to the security bolt.
- A Bitdefender Antivirus program was installed on all office computers resulting major cost reduction.
- A portable PA system was purchased for easy use in the classrooms, etc.
- Outside lights were installed to increase safety for AA patrons.
- A picture rail and lighting were installed in the hallway leading to the sanctuary to highlight the pictures of Guatemala.
- All lawn mowers are now being maintained and serviced in house, leading to substantial savings.
- Surplus raised beds were recycled to Crowfields and church members.
- Carbon Monoxide detectors were installed upstairs and downstairs.

Faith Formation Ministry

Members: Bill Carpenter, Elder and Chair; Nancy Spann, Peg Lewis (9 months), Kim Wells, Pastor

Adult Faith Formation class

The class attracted a steady number of members and visitors over the course of the year.

January

Peg Lewis led classes on the topics of *Sexual Harassment and Abuse, the Church's Role in Healing, and Women in Church History*. A class focused on PCUSA Women featured interviews with two retired pastors currently worshipping at New Hope, Roberta Martin and Stratton Peacock. Both were pioneers in the ordination of women in the PCUSA.

February

The topic was *The Resurrection* and Peg Lewis again led the class

March

Peg continued her series on *The Resurrection* for Lent.

April/May

Pastor Kim led a study of *Ephesians*.

June, July and August

Committee members and class members participated in the full range of Summer Spirit activities including Tourist baseball, a trip to the Barter Theatre, a story teller and the annual church picnic at Lake Julian.

September/October

Pastor Kim continued her study of *Ephesians*.

November

Pastor Kim led a class on *Civility*.

December

Win Word-Sims led a class on our personal and spiritual *Home*.

Book Studies

Pastor Kim led two Tuesday night book studies during the year with above average participation.

The Art of Forgiving by Lewis Smedes

Take This Bread by Sara Miles

Lectio Devina

Pastor Kim offered several sessions during the year, providing a novel spiritual experience for some of the members who attended.

Children and Youth

Pastor Kim met with parents and grandparents of New Hope youth in an effort to equip adults and volunteers for the spiritual nurturing of our children. New Hope youth attended Presbytery events designed for youth and they assisted in Sunday morning worship on several occasions.

Small Groups

A Men's Bible Study small group was organized during the year. Bruce Rasmussen, New Hope member and recently ordained Certified Pastor, led the six week-day afternoon sessions. Seven men participated in the group and expressed interest in more.

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration committee was formed in 2018.

Members: Kim Presley, Elder and Chair; Jay Maveety, Financial Secretary; Terri Carpenter, Treasurer; Kim Wells, Pastor.

During the year we:

- Further developed financial reports and improved the clarity of reporting
- Oversaw a financial audit with mostly positive results and the results that were less than positive were minor
- Began the process of moving investments from one institution to another as well as continued to work on improving our investment results
- Engineered a very successful pledge campaign that resulted in New Hope exceeding our budget goals
- Began the process of reviewing our building use fees
- Began the process of writing job descriptions for the committee as well as the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

Justice and Reconciliation

*Speak out for those who cannot speak,
for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31: 8,9)*

Members: Peg Lewis, Elder and Chair; Leslie Slakey-Hillman, Margaret Marsh, Peggy Olney, Buddy Olney, Judy Urich, Marlene Johnson, Bill Johnson, Margot Coleman, Janet Black, Bruce Rasmussen Virginia Hebert, Susan Lang, and Kim Wells, Pastor. The members are enthusiastic, experienced, and brought a passion for social justice that was grounded in their faith.

The committee convened at the beginning of 2018 as a stand-alone committee under the Session after forming the previous year as part of Faith Formation.

Given the many potential areas this committee might engage, it was decided to focus on Immigration and Refugees, Racism, Healthcare, and #metoo and form four teams.

Response to DACA Expiration: Postcards addressed to Congress were made available on a Sunday morning to be completed by members to encourage its continuation. Over 165 postcards were completed and about 40 more distributed to other facilities.

Faith Formation Class: ‘Women At the Table’ (6 weeks) addressed sexism, sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Physicians For National Healthcare: Members attended several forums with panels of Physicians, Faith leaders and Business Persons.

March For Our Lives: Church members participated in the march against gun violence in schools organized by the Parkland High School students.

Prevent Separation of Families at the Border: In response to the separation of the thousands of children from their parents at the border, members were encouraged to write to Congress if they agreed that should not be so.

Members attended programs focused on Racism and Immigration sponsored by Pisgah Legal, Grace Covenant Church, OLLI, and Faith 4 Justice.

The Committee, under direction of the Session, clarified the difference between activities of a political nature and those that are partisan. This is somewhat straightforward. Gray areas will always be present, however, when ‘political’ is distinguished from our responsibility as Christians in response to injustice. This was an ongoing discussion.

The committee is aware that there may be differing views within the congregation on many of these subjects and we are always open to hearing and discussing these. We strive to be considerate of all persons and their views.

Outreach Ministry

Susan Maveety (Elder and Chair), Carol Burnette, Terri Carpenter, Susan Lang, Mary Jo Limbird, Margaret Marsh, and Kim Wells (Pastor)

In addition to the budgeted items, the congregation also contributed to following either monetarily or by volunteering:

New Hope participated in the SOUPER BOWL of Caring for the 20th year.

We planted our Square Foot Garden for the fourth year in a row with Nan Riley serving as coordinator. Produce was shared with ABCCM South.

We hosted Room in the Inn for one week during the year and donated our facility a second week.

We served meals at Steadfast House the fifth Sunday of April, July, September, and December.

Susan Maveety was a delegate with the Presbytery Leadership Team to Guatemala in January.

Members were encouraged to participate in Alternative Giving during Advent. Agencies included Guatemala scholarships, Eblen Energy Fund, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Products included fair trade products from Equal Exchange and items from the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Center, Palestine.

Church members have the opportunity to participate in various Outreach opportunities. Some of these opportunities include 5 cent a meal the first Sunday of every month, MANNA workdays, Steadfast house, participating in Room in the Inn, and CROP Walk. We also spent an afternoon at the Habitat Restore.

New Hope participated in the Presbyterian Special Offerings, which included One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering and Christmas Joy Offering.

Total Outreach budget for 2018 was \$16,700.

Personnel

Members: Bunk Spann, Peg Lewis (partial year), Kim Wells, Bonnie Runkle, Elder and Chair; Kim Wells, Pastor

- Much of the year's activities and efforts were dedicated to filling the Music Director/Pianist position.
 - Accepted the separation of Kathy Stetson from the position in January.
 - Following the separation of Kathy Stetson from the position in January, a search committee was appointed. Applicants were interviewed, and Joanna Best was hired. After a short time with New Hope, the committee accepted the resignation of Joanna.
 - The Music Director/Pianist job description was reviewed & updated. Another search committee was appointed. Applicants were interviewed and Rob Blackwell was hired.
- Created an NHPC-specific job description for the position of pastor, which was approved by Session.
- Created a yearly performance review process and created an NHPC pastor-specific review form to be used to receive input from Session. Review process was implemented in December.
- Worked on finalizing an NHPC-specific Admin position job description.
- Development of an NHPC-specific child/youth/vulnerable adult protection policy started.

Worship Ministry

Members: Laura Brown, Elder and Chair; Margot Coleman, Music Director Kathy Stetson (resigned), current music director Rob Blackwell, Kim Presley, Ruth Young and Pastor Kim Wells. Peg Lewis helped periodically with thematic décor of the sanctuary throughout the year.

Epiphany: Service was celebrated with passing out Epiphany stars to all members of the congregation.

The theme for Lent was “in the wilderness.” Ash Wednesday service was held at 6PM February 14. Communion was served. This theme was woven through all the Sundays in Lent. Palms for Palm Sunday were purchased from Eco Palms. Maundy Thursday service was begun with a simple soup and bread dinner, with the service to follow. The service consisted of hymns, scripture reading and foot washing for those who wanted to participate. At the end of the service, the pulpit, communion table, cross and baptismal font were all draped in black, and the congregation left in silence.

“Summer Spirit” theme was again adopted for our summer services, and this theme was woven throughout all the services and intergenerational get togethers. The special worship services included a hymn sing, a vesper evening service at Lake Julian, and a Sunday morning service centered around earth care.

World communion Sunday had flags from multiple countries displayed, and the communion bread was the common bread of other cultures.

All Saints Day was celebrated by remembering and naming the saints who have gone before us. The congregation named their own saints, and the names were read during the service. This year, one of our former pastors died the day before All Saint’s Day, so he was also lifted up as part of this service.

Advent theme was “Every Longing Heart.” The Christmas Eve service was a candle light, family-oriented service. No communion was served.

Communion was served the first Sunday of every month, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.

Serving communion to the homebound was restarted this year. Pastor Kim educated the Elders and Deacons. Baskets with all the supplies, plus the liturgy and a synopsis of the sermon were taken by elders to those who were not physically able to attend church. This was started on World Communion Sunday.

Youth are included in worship by lighting candles, ushering, greeting and as liturgists during the service.