

Sunday May 16, 2021 4:30 PM
New Hope Church Worship Center and Online Meeting

I. PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

- A. Pastor Dayton Dodge welcomed everyone by reminding us that regardless of our circumstances, our hope is in Christ alone. He then led us in worship through song.
- B. Ryan Fair, Executive Director shared how good it was to be gathered in person this year.
 - 1. Ryan thanked Julie Anderson and our Care Ministries for delivering more than 500 bags of groceries to our seniors this past year, in partnership with our Food Shelf. Our Food Shelf distributed 315,618 pounds of food to more than almost 1,200 NEW families, in addition to the families that we already serve.
 - 2. We also had 42 new believers through NHC this past year.
 - 3. Our average weekly worship attendance was 1,868, both online and in-person.
 - 4. We had 95% approval for our Ministry Centralization Project.
 - 5. We had a community event where there were five baptisms, the first time many had been back on campus during the pandemic.
 - 6. Ryan asked for stories telling how people have seen God at work in and through New Hope church.
 - a) Pastor Paul read one that came online from a member of Kingsfolk Community. He gave praise for the way Kingsfolk was showered with love with weekly calls and were not forgotten.
 - b) A youth leader gave praise that they were able to have the Spring Youth Retreat. A young girl who has experienced a rough time in previous church experiences said how she felt safe with the group
 - c) Praise was given for Women's Ministries and the hunger of women for Bible study.
 - d) A new grandma thankful for the foundation her children received at NHC and that her grandchildren will receive in the future.
 - e) How meaningful it was to send a link to Loren Westman's funeral when many were unable to attend and the impact it had on many that Loren had touched through the years.
- C. Ken Wright led in prayer, Psalms 105, "Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name..."

II. CALL TO ORDER (ELT Chair Jot Turner)

- A. The Meeting Agenda was adopted.
- B. It was noted that the Ballot Approval for both the 6/14/20 and 2/28/21 Meeting Minutes were on the paper ballot this year.

III. CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP (ELT Chair Jot Turner)

- A. Chair Reflections
 - 1. Elder Jot Turner reflected that the past 13 months have been "interesting", a favorite Minnesota term. When we say something is interesting, we're saying it's not normal, or I don't like it or it's not what I would choose, or I have concerns. All of us have been impacted by various losses throughout the global pandemic.

2. NHC was suddenly deprived of weekly worship ministries and relationships. Instead of giving up and focusing on ourselves, staff jumped in almost overnight to give us online worship services.
3. Volunteers stepped up and embraced those in need at HopeBridge.
4. Staff and volunteers made sure that every senior remained connected, if only by phone.
5. The Elders & Staff did detailed work in applying for a PPP Loan, supplying needed income. Because of this, we did not have to lay off staff and utilities were paid during the initial months of the pandemic. Praise that the PPP loan has been forgiven.
6. We moved forward with the multi-year study on how to better steward our facilities. Just two months and 12 days after our special congregational meeting, the Extended Campus was sold this past week and construction has started here on the main campus with our Ministry Centralization plan.
7. Jot traced NHC's focus of being a church of all peoples back to when Dr. Tom McDill was pastor at the then Crystal Free Church. Dr. McDill had a passion for all peoples and he worked towards that as he became the President of the EFCA. That focus was carried through Pastor Steve Goold and now Pastor Matthew St. John. NHC has grown and been a leader of churches within our denomination, trusting God to accomplish this vision. When our cities were shattered a year ago with the death of George Floyd and the subsequent unrest, we embraced our Biblical calling to be a church that is both reconciled to God and reconciled to each other, a church that strives to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.
8. Thank you to all of our volunteers and Elders.

B. Elected Positions

1. Leadership candidates

Elder Leadership Team (vote for 4, 3-year term)

- Saado Abboud*
- Brandon Burbach
- Enrique Fernandez
- Steve Grosser*
- Ron Jones*
- Gift Matemba-Mutasa

Elder Leadership Team (1 year remaining on term)

- Derrick Grow*

Internal Audit Committee (vote for 3, 1 year term)

- Steve Brown
- Wendy McCullough
- Dale Pust*

Church Clerk & Vice Clerk (1 year term)

- Paula Pust* (Church Clerk)
- JaNan Cavanaugh* (Vice Clerk)

Property Council (vote for 2, 2-year term)

- Doug Dahl* (Chair)
- Brian Karsjens* (Vice Chair)

Nominations Committee (vote for 2, 2-year term)

- Ingrid Brown
- Don Herweyer*
- David Quon
- Barbara West

2. If you are voting online, you should have received an email link. This needs to be completed by five minutes after the end of the meeting. If you are in-person, you should have a paper ballot.

Absentee ballots were due today by noon. A reminder to complete the two choices at the top of the ballot verifying that you are a member of NHC and that you have not already voted by absentee or online. Results will be announced tomorrow by email and on our website.

IV. CELEBRATING OUR VISION

A. COVID-19 Ministry Impacts (Executive Director Ryan Fair)

1. Ryan emphasized how God sustained us through the pandemic and did great things through the pandemic. God has shown us that we can be flexible, nimble, concise and deliberate in our ministry.
2. Thank you to our members and volunteers for your understanding as we had to make real-time adjustments with the government mandates. We were able to keep our doors open without having to fully shut down a single time.
3. A special thank you to our Creative Tech and IT Teams, for taking something that didn't exist and putting infrastructure together every week as everything evolved. Also thank you to Facilities and Hospitality Teams in following COVID guidelines. Children's and Student Ministries had innovative ways for serving families. Also special thanks to our Executive Team, Pastor Matthew and Pastor Paul for your guidance throughout 2020 and COVID.
4. Going forward, wearing masks is now optional. As we get updates from the Governor & State, we are moving forward with service at the coffee shop and modified food service over the summer, hoping to serve families at funerals.
5. As we move back to our new normal, Kingsfolk and Life Builder Communities are now back to campus. Other communities are moving toward coming back in the fall.

B. MINISTRY CENTRALIZATION PROJECT (Executive Pastor Paul Schoolmeesters)

1. The Property Council, Elder Leadership Team and staff have worked diligently over the last couple of years to discern what the best course would be for the properties God has given us over the years and to discern what the best campus configuration will be for us going forward.
2. The Ministry Centralization Project was presented to the congregation in February to centralize the majority of our ministries here on the main campus with the exception of the Food Shelf at Hope Bridge. That provides us the opportunity to sell the Extended Campus.
3. On February 28, 2021, the congregation voted to approve the sale with a 95.5% vote.
4. On March 10, 2021, we had a signed purchase agreement and nine weeks later the sale was closed. This timeline is remarkable in any season for commercial real estate, but in this season it is unbelievable.
 - a. The sale price for the Extended Campus was \$2 million. After fees and commissions for attorneys and realtors, our net is about \$1.85 million, more than we had hoped or expected. Praise the Lord!
 - b. We are excited for the buyers of the Extended Campus, Escuela Exitos, a charter school, as they prepare for the fall classes. We will have the opportunity to love and encourage this new school as neighbors in our community.
 - c. Our Elder Leadership Team will work with the Finance Committee to determine the use of any funds that are in excess of the costs of our projects.
 - d. We closed on our line of credit on April 7. We couldn't get a construction loan if we had already broken ground, so we chose to move forward with the line of credit, knowing that it was a backup in case the sale fell through or complications delayed the closing. We have not had to draw a single dollar on that line of credit. There are some origination fees, which are reflected in the net previously mentioned. It was meant to be a transitional funding mechanism. The Elders will be making determination on when to close the line of credit.

- e. Once the line of credit was secured and the mortgage was recorded with the bank, we began construction on our office projects.
- f. The first phase is on the main level, converting our nursery space into office areas and adding more office areas in the former choir room. This should be done by the end of May. Our Property Council and volunteers have done most of this labor which has saved thousands of dollars.
- g. Phase 2 began this past Monday, May 10, converting the gym to a multi-level student ministry space, gym/worship/large meeting space with a central commons area. This should be completed by the end of August, in time to start the new school year.

C. SENIOR PASTOR REFLECTIONS (Senior Pastor Matthew St. John)

- 1. What a remarkable blessing that we can gather together as a church family, after this past year.
- 2. Pastor Matthew went over highlights from the Annual Report, which were mentioned earlier.
- 3. God has been faithful during these times of COVID 19, the racial traumas within our community/country/world, and the election dynamics.
- 4. This is Jot Turner's final meeting as our Elder Chairman as he rotates off the Elder Board. He has led in an extraordinary fashion. I praise God for him, his great humility, strength of character and spirit. Thank you to Jot for your leadership.
- 5. Thank you also to Ryan and Paul for their steady, courageous leadership in a very challenging time. As Pastor Matthew struggled with the death of his mother, he was never once concerned for the leadership of the church. He had total confidence in these men and all of the rest of our staff.
- 6. Thank you to Holly Miller who left our staff to become the Vice President of Advancement with New Life Family Services. Chris Page will be the interim Children's Ministries Director.
- 7. Thank you to Andrea Tyson who will be part of a church plant in the NW suburbs with Bethlehem Baptist. Andrea Dodge will lead Women's Ministries as we work through the process of transitioning to a permanent leader.
- 8. Thank you for your financial generosity. Giving to the Lord is an expression of worship to our most high God.
- 9. In today's world everything has changed except the things that matter the most, Christ and His gospel, Christ and His kingdom, Christ and His church. Three simple aspirations from Pastor Matthew:
 - a. Agility: A church that will walk with stout hearts but with light feet and open hands. Let us be more flexible, resilient, agile and available to whatever the Father wants at a moment's notice.
 - b. Simplicity: Streamlining our focus and reducing redundancies, a lessening of busyness so we have space to love Jesus more fully.
 - c. Community: Stepping from isolation toward togetherness, growing meaningful relationships rooted in the word of God.
- 10. Christa and I love this church family and are grateful to be part of this community. Thank you for your unending encouragement and love.
- 11. In his last paragraph of the Annual Report, Pastor Matthew asks us to do two things: believe that Jesus is powerfully leading and loving our church family and follow Him humbly, boldly, lovingly, trustingly, joyfully, eagerly and gratefully.

V. RESOURCING OUR VISION

A. Financial Summary

- 1. Current Financial Status (Executive Pastor Paul Schoolmeesters)

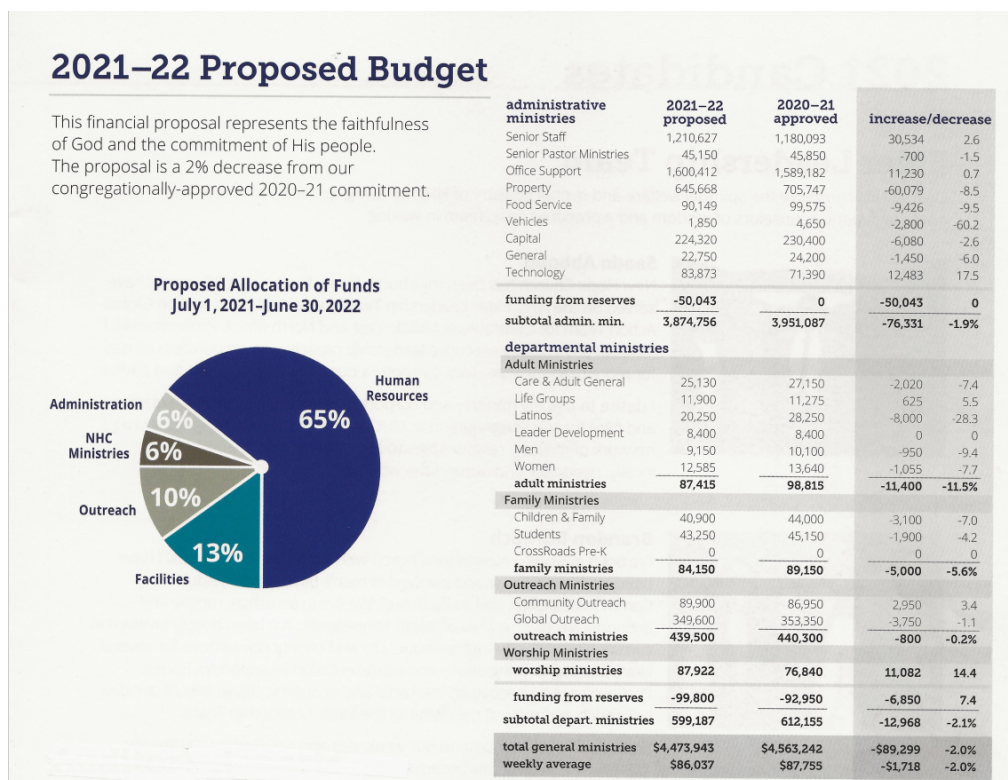
We are currently 45 weeks through this fiscal year. Our budget is \$87,755 for weekly income. We have received 94% of that. Our spending through the same 45 weeks is 87%, so we have a healthy cash position. We have been frugal on staffing positions, trying to be good stewards, creatively shifting staff around. Other savings have come from reduced programming due to COVID dynamics. We also have \$24,000 in our Campus Improvement Fund. There are some projects coming up at Hope Bridge and the main campus to continue to improve our properties.

2. Auditor's Statements (Finance & HR Lead Cathy Maupin)

NHC strives to excel in accuracy and integrity in financial record keeping. We work with two sets of auditors, internal (quarterly) and external (annually), who review our work. We have received favorable opinions from both sets of auditors this past fiscal year.

B. 2021-22 Budget Presentation (Executive Pastor Paul Schoolmeesters)

- Our proposed budget has a 2% decrease compared to the current fiscal year, or about \$1,700 per week decrease. It was a priority for our Personnel Committee and Elder Leadership Team to provide a Cost of Living (COLA) increase for our staff this year. This is being funded out of a reserve fund that we were able to create as a result of the PPP loan that became a grant last year. There is also a reduction in our facilities costs as a direct result of the sale of the Extended Campus. There is an increase in expense for technology for live streaming, equipment and fiber internet. Other funds have just moved into other categories. Our proposed budget of almost \$4.5 million will enhance our impact here for the kingdom.



VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. EFCA Statement of Faith Article 9 (ELT Chair Jot Turner)

This relates to our NHC Statement of Faith, Article 2 of our Constitution, which has always mirrored the EFCA's Statement of Faith. EFCA recently approved a one-word change. Article 9 refers to the pre-millennial return of Christ. This has now been changed to say "the glorious

return of Christ". The Elder leadership team formally recommends that NHC adopt this change according to our bylaws. Changes in our constitution must be introduced at a congregational meeting and approved at a subsequent congregational meeting after thorough discussion. It is being introduced tonight, there will be an informational session in the next year, and it will be voted on at our 2022 Annual Business and Praise Meeting.

- B. NHC Constitution & Bylaws Revision Committee (ELT Vice Chair Cort Cieminski)
NHC conducts its business according to the constitution and bylaws. Revisions were last done in 2014. Currently there is no provision for how to hold online meetings. The current Bylaws Committee is comprised of two current elders (Jason McNutt & Cort Cieminski) and two individuals from the Congregation at large. Recommendations will be presented at a congregational meeting during the coming year and voted on at next May's meeting.

VII. CONGREGATIONAL Q & A (questions submitted online & open mic)

Q. We are decreasing many ministries, i.e., Latino Ministry and decreasing Global Ministries, yet we are increasing salaries, please explain the reasoning.

A. It was a priority to add a cost of living to our staff. Also, the Latino Ministries isn't actually a decrease, it's just paying from a different budget.

Q. What is the reasoning for selling the church vehicles?

A. We have two shuttle buses that we purchased out of Campus Improvement Ministries back in 2011-2012 to transport students to the Extended Campus on Sunday mornings. With Student Ministries moving to the Main Campus, we no longer need the vehicles. The vehicles will be sold and the funds put back into Campus Improvement Ministries in a designated account to be used for one-time shuttle rentals as needed for groups within the church. These vehicles depreciate quickly and are not being used.

Q. Why don't we have Easter Lilies/flowers on the platform on Easter Sunday and other holidays?

A. It has been several years since we had the Easter Memorial Garden. Participation dwindled in that. Now our Creative Team gets the theme and direction for each service and does a great job of creating branding to tell the story of our sermon series, including Easter. Sometimes that includes natural components, handmade components or digital components. They do a great job of trying to balance that together. They are creating a picture that will be accessible and attractive to a large audience, even though it may not be your specific preference or style.

Q. Ron Jones was on the ballot last year for a 3-year term. Why is he on the ballot again this year for a 3-year term?

A. This is also happening with Derrick Grow this year. This happens when an Elder steps off the board during their term. The Elders appoint someone to fill that term and then at the following Congregational Meeting, the congregation affirms that appointment of the Elders. Ron had been appointed to fill a term and is on the ballot again for potentially his own term.

VIII. CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT (ELT Chair Jot Turner)

There have been thanks given for many people tonight, but a very important person who's been on the platform tonight is Pastor Matthew. He is a man of integrity, with a gift of encouragement, a fabulous preacher and so much more. I want to publicly affirm and thank him for his leadership this past year.

There was a motion and a second to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jot Turner
Chairman, Elder Leadership Team

JaNan E Cavanaugh
Church Vice-clerk

VOTING RESULTS POSTED MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

ELDER LEADERSHIP TEAM

Saado Abboud
Enrique Fernandez
Steve Grosser
Ron Jones
Derrick Grow (fulfilling remaining 1-year of vacant term)

INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

Steve Brown
Wendy McCullough
Dale Pust

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Don Herweyer
Barbara West

CHURCH CLERK

Paula Pust

CHURCH VICE CLERK

JaNan Cavanaugh

PROPERTY COUNCIL CHAIR

Doug Dahl

PROPERTY COUNCIL VICE CHAIR

Brian Karsjens