


Church Council have approved that these revised minutes as provided here are true and correct.

Date approved: 18 August 2025

Signed by Chair:



# Minutes of meeting

## NewHope Baptist Church - Annual General Meeting

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<b>Date of meeting</b>	26 May 2025
<b>Time of meeting</b>	7.30pm
<b>Location of meeting</b>	NewHope Baptist Church, in person (Events Room 6) and online via Zoom
<b>Present</b>	As per attendance registers (109 members)  (111 attendees - 58 members in person, nil in person observers, 51 online members, 2 online observers)
<b>Apologies</b>	As per apology register (9 apologies)

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### 1. Welcome & Worship (TS)

- Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

### 2. Opening comments & Approval of minutes of AGM 2024 (TE)

- Quorum met
- Psalm 108
- Exciting things happening around the church - 30 Years of Faithfulness, succession, prayer (the engine room!)
- Ask yourself: "How can I help being part of the next stage?"
- Minutes of the 27 May 2024 AGM
  - Amanda Carruthers moved

- Steven Stavridis seconded
- Motion passed

### 3. Church Council Nominees Introduction (DH)

- Introduced all the nominees
- Asked each two questions:
  - a highlight of the past 12 months;
  - impact of prayer for Council; and
  - something you're looking forward to in the next 12 months.

### 4. Auditors 2024 recommendation (DH)

- Noted that it has been resolved that RDL Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2025 financial year.

### 5. Endorsement and voting process (in-person & online) (SuS)

- Endorsement of Church Council Executive (Chair)
- Endorsement of Church Council Ordinary Members
- Voting on appointment of auditors

### 6. Presentations (StS, TE, MJ, BR)

- Annual Report 2024 (StS)
  - Such a range of exciting things happening
  - Call to action: read through it, and take a ministry area to God in prayer for the week.
  
- Update on new Senior Pastor (TE)
  - Model Trust Deed
  - January 2026 start
  - Possible kick off 1 February 2026
  - Lance, Sally and Surette (with additional assistance from Council) will be taking on various (acting) Senior Pastor roles, between Allan's 30 June 2025 resignation and Andrew Sercombe's start
  
- Celebrating 30 years of God's faithfulness (MJ)
  - Psalm 85:11-13
  - Bookings going well - but plenty of spots free.
  - Sign the card online, and consider contributing to the love offering

- Vision & Strategy (BR)
  - The hub and the home
  - Constantly speaking life and Christ into our contexts
  - Equipping our youth and young adults
  - Strategic themes:
    - Spiritual Formation & Discipleship
    - Growth & Outreach
    - Multi Generational Ministry
    - Cultural & Biblical values alignment
    - Community Engagement & Volunteerism
    - Financial Sustainability
    - Governance & accountability

7. Result of endorsements (DH) [this item moved to be under 11 below]

- Endorsement of Church Council Executive (Chair)
- Endorsement of Church Council Ordinary Members
- Appointment of auditors

8. [omitted: only endorsement needed - Voting for Church Council Members (SuS)]

9. Finance (CN)

- Finance Report 2024 - Audited
- Financial Update YTD 2025

10. [omitted: only endorsement needed - Results of votes for Church Council Members (DH)]

11. Input time/Ministry reports as time permits (TE)

- Members are invited to share any matters for prayer or praise, and any concerns or issues for consideration by the Church or leadership bodies.
- Legacy (legacy fund, giving in wills, etc)
  - Liam Eadie: question raised regarding approved rules - referred to website

- Use of NewHope facilities (not verbatim)
  - Jono Hill: worth waiting until Andrew Sercombe is here? Because there may be a shift in terms of membership and composition
  - Jono Hill: people who want change tend to be the ones most likely to give feedback. How are we factoring that into any discernment?
  - Mel Jurgens: queried what specific issue feedback was wanted for. Unclear on purpose, or what the conversation was.
  - Mel Jurgens: queried what urgency there was, and whether timing right (particularly prior to Andrew Sercombe commencing as Senior Pastor).
  - Hamish Pittendrigh: What is the current feedback Council has regarding the use of the Church facilities that is the context for asking for more feedback from the membership?
  - Michael Pittendrigh: If the purpose of it being a community centre is bringing non-Christians into church. Have we seen any external users become saved? I would encourage the church leadership to reconsider the use of our church as a “community centre”. It would appear that our premises are being made available to the community for revenue raising purposes only, not outreach. Is that the intent?
  - Braeden & Breyanna Shields: Why should NewHope Baptist Church be referred to as a community centre? Everyone should be welcomed to the church and the use of the facilities should not change, but NewHope Baptist Church is the organisation offering the facilities and this should be known by those using the facilities.
  - Carey Schumann: good question to ask and raise - this is a house of worship, and some churches have permitted their buildings to be used for things that do not honour God. Not about revenue.
  - Spencer Sharp: I've been glad we've had more people come. Playspace has gotten some parents from the use of our facilities from other events that we've allowed
  - Hamish Pittendrigh: When a few of us were volunteering serving coffees, we had countless question regarding what the building was. Why are people confused it's a church?
  - Laura Blythe: Is the feedback requested from members by council regarding events that are to be held in the building or a proposal to change the name of the building? What would the plan be to engage our new senior pastor in this discussion?
  - Elizabeth Shalders: learning more about the spiritual realm, and what is happening. The building is a church, and everything that goes on here must have God at the centre. Every person is welcome, but not every spirit.
  - Tam Gaudion: other people doing damage, the groups who leave our church in the worst condition are often other churches.
  - Jarred Pittendrigh-Smith: the model selected for the interim season - what is the plan, and what was the driving factor behind the decision?
  - Reece Gould: this whole process should be a gathering for information and stepping forward into what the broader body desires, going forward. Could become divisive, but we should seek to not bicker (in our circles, or within ourselves to God) - spirit of encouragement and discernment.
  - Online questions

- Braeden & Breyanna Shields: question asked regarding how recently our auditors have changed - confirmed it's been 12 years, and Council are considering a change for FY2026
- Derek Winter: question asked regarding availability of breakdown of income and expenses - confirmed they will be available online following the audit

## 12. Any other business (TE)

- By leave of Chairperson, and not requiring notice of motion
- Nothing arising

## 13. Close & Prayer (AC)

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.