

**Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
New Hope Administrative Commission
Final Report
May 19, 2022**

Our charge from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and any other assets, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in possession of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee. Members of the commission are Reverend Sally Hughes, Reverend CJ Thompson, Earl Davis and Anne Parsons.

Members of New Hope Presbyterian Church have not been worshipping in the building located on 1939 Lewisburg Pike, Franklin TN 37064 for a number of years. The AC was unable to find any minutes of the last session meeting. All records, documents, certificates, deeds, etc. were given to Rick Warick, the historian for Williamson County. The AC contacted Karen Lankford, Jan Lincoln and Deedee Bumpus to inform them that the AC would act as the session of New Hope in the process of closing the church.

We were unable to find any information from the state or IRS about property deeds or tax records. There were no unclaimed funds at The Tennessee Treasury Department website.

All bank accounts have been closed and the Walter B Anderson Memorial Fund has been transferred to Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

The Cross Country Cowboy Church has been worshipping in the building. They have been paying insurance and utilities and making repairs as needed. They would like to continue to worship there with a rental contract. They hope to purchase the property in the future. **The AC recommends the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee continue to rent to the Cross Country Cowboy Church.** They intend to call the building The Ridge Meeting House.

The closing church service for New Hope Presbyterian Church was held on April 24 at 4:00 pm. The Cross Country Cowboy Church, the Bethesda congregation and former church members were invited to the service.

This history was included in the bulletin of the final worship service:

It is hard to write a short description of a long, faithful history. In 1806 the New Hope congregation was organized by the Reverend Duncan Brown, called the Ridge Meeting House, atop the Ridge in the grove. In 1810, the first house of worship was built by logs furnished by neighbors. The floor was made of hewn slabs and each family member made a

bench and placed it in the church. At the time, it was the only church building south of Franklin in Williamson County and its first name was "Ridge Meeting House." Since all official church records before 1858 were destroyed by fire, no one knows exactly when the name was changed to New Hope Presbyterian Church.

In 1829, a second building was built on the site and in May 1869 the present church was built on land given by James W. Williams. In 1937, two Sunday school rooms were added and in 1939 electric lights were installed. Carpet was placed in the church building in 1954 as well as gas heat.

The first elders were John Miller, Andrew Herron, James Herron, Thomas Gillespie and David Gillespie. Families who were part of New Hope from the beginning were the Alexanders, Andersons, Blythes, Bonds, Camerons, Chapmans, Elliotts, Flemings, Gillespies, Irvins, McClellans, Steeles and Williams.

Since 1806 the New Hope Presbyterian Church has been faithful in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and in deed throughout all its days. We give thanks for the worship and witness of New Hope Presbyterian Church and for how the community and individual lives have been made richer by this church's presence.

Reverend CJ Thompson is in the process of conveying the deed to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

The final meeting of the AC was held on May 9, 2022.