



Monthly Newsletter  
Spencer, Iowa  
July 2022

**HOPE**  
**CHURCH**  
BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**

### **BUILD MY HOUSE**

Hope Church has participated in a “Growing Together” sermon series during the last couple weeks of May through the end of June. Based on Jeremiah 17:7-8, we considered how we, as a congregation, can continue to grow and be productive (bear fruit) for Christ through the Hope Church values associated with Fellowship, Learning, Living, Outreach, Worship and Service.

For the rest of the summer, beginning July 10, we will participate in a sermon series titled “Build My House.” The series receives its foundation from a couple scripture passages. First, from the Old Testament, God, in Haggai 1:8, tells the exiles who have returned to Jerusalem to “**Build My House**” in reference to rebuilding the Temple which had been destroyed. From the New Testament, we are reminded that God now is in all Christ followers when we read in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that our “bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit.”

The “**Build My House**” series will focus on how everyone involved with Hope Church can continue to grow and be productive (bear fruit) for Christ by taking steps to personally develop our faith. In other words, we can individually be involved in the process to “**Build God’s House**”, which is made up of each believer who is part of the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ.

The key verse which will be used throughout the series is 2 Peter 1:5-9: “For this reason, make every effort to **add to your faith goodness, and to goodness, knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, perseverance, and to perseverance, godliness, and to godliness, mutual affection, and to mutual affection, love.** For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.”

**Sermon topics for each week are listed below. We invite you to join us and look forward to seeing you each week.**

July 10	“Build My House”	August 14	Youth Missions Sunday
July 17	“Faith”	August 21	“Perseverance”
July 24	“Goodness”	August 28	“Godliness”
July 31	“Knowledge”	September 4	“Mutual Affection”
August 7	“Self-control” (Communion)	September 11	“Love”



Summer is here meaning the youth groups are heading on some trips. This year the Sr. High is heading to Maryville, Tennessee and the 6,7,8<sup>th</sup> is heading to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both trips will be attending with other youth from the RCA Synod of the Heartland. The youth are excited to attend and looking forward to what God has in store for them personally and as a youth group.

### Sr. High Youth

#### H.I.S. Work Project TENNESSEE (June 24<sup>th</sup> -July 3<sup>rd</sup>)

*Theme: Kingdom Come*

*A common phrase for most church goers, but do we truly understand what it means to ask for God's kingdom to come? Jesus prayed for God's kingdom to come and will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10) and then spent the majority of his time on earth telling and showing us what that kingdom looks like. We're joining Jesus in that prayer, that the kingdom of God would come as it is in heaven.*

HIS Work Camp is a weeklong physical, mental, and spiritual experience pray for the young people in all of these categories. In 2022 with the theme of Kingdom Come, I pray we can slow down and learn from our speaker Ben Patterson to take the time to see and yearn for the work God is doing in each person attendings life.

### 6,7,8<sup>th</sup> Youth

#### Work Camp plus Power Connection (July 26<sup>th</sup> -July 31st)

### **Work Project Theme: Sustained**

**To be truly connected to God, and to know ourselves in light of who God says we are will greatly impact the relationships around us. We are created for relationship. Knowing that we are always supported by God allows us to love others the same way. Speaker Heather Flies and Band Orchard Hill Collective**

### **Power Connection Theme: Equipped**

**All of us were created on purpose, with a purpose, yet at the root of many of life's questions is the common theme of "where do I belong?" Scripture tells us that we all have been equipped with the gifts and abilities to be a part of the Body of Christ, the part He intended us to be.**

**Speaker Brenna Lantz and Band Orchard Hill Collective with be guiding us through the week.**

**Please Pray for our students as the take a break from there busy schedules and take some time focusing on their relationship with God. Pray they can take next steps in their Faith Journey with Christ. Pray relationships in our youth group so we can care and love each other like Christ commands us to do.**

# HOPE



Julia Andela  
Children & Families

Thank you to each and every volunteer and staff member who sacrificed their time and poured their talents and energy into VBS this year. Thanks to you all, The Body of Christ, working together, much fun was had, many seeds were planted and several children chose Jesus as their Savior + That's what VBS is all about!

Praise God!



# HOPE



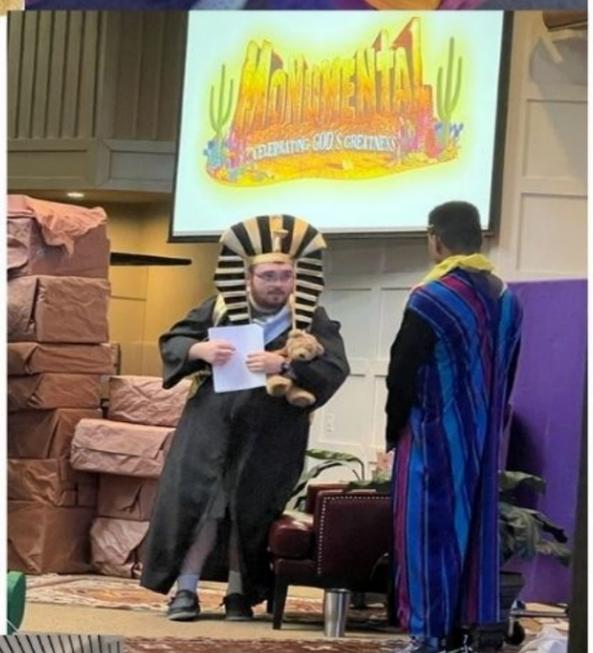
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## MINUTES CONSISTORY MEETING HOPE REFORMED CHURCH THURSDAY JUNE 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Hope Reformed Consistory was held at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at Winther Stave & Co. Present:

**Deacons:** Luke Lovin, Levi Morris, Eric Vander Heide and Terry Stevens

**Elders:** Arvin Druvenga, Bruce Groen, Jeff Helmink, Darrell Todd, Cedric Winterboer and Barry Anderson **Pastors:** Jay Van Gelder and Brandon Morrow

Items for Discussion and Decision:

- MMSC - April minutes - For information due to lack of quorum
- MMSC - April and May financials
- MMSC - 2022 annual projections
- May attendance
- Pastoral search team report - Mike Bryan
- Executive team report - Arvin Druvenga
- Congregational participation form response
- RCA application discussions Open meetings 6-12; 6-15; 6-22  
@6:00 p.m. in the Well.
- Staff Management Report
- Ministry liaison reports
- Consistory pastor decision process discussion Upcoming events:
  - June 19th Baptisms
  - June 19th Cookout - Father's Day
  - June 30th Executive Team Meeting
  - July 14th Consistory Meeting at 7 p.m. in Harbor
  - July 28 Executive Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Grace Room

Closing Prayer: Jay Van Gelder

Refreshments by Cedric Winterboer

### Deacon Minutes

- Terry opened with prayer
- Looked at the budget for remainder of 2022
- Levi closed with prayer

## **Consistory Discussions Regarding the Affiliation of Hope Church with the Reformed Church in America**

Many churches affiliated with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) denomination are facing decisions regarding continued affiliation with the RCA. Many congregations have already separated from the RCA or are considering leaving the RCA. Any decision to leave the RCA will require approval by both the Consistory and the congregational members of Hope Church, as well as meeting RCA requirements. The overall expectation of Hope Church leadership is that the ministries and ongoing activities of Hope Church will continue essentially unchanged regardless of any decision considered or made.

Hope Church is part of the East Sioux Classis, which now consists of 10 churches in northwest Iowa after four churches have left the RCA. East Sioux Classis is grouped with other classes to form the Synod of the Heartland (a regional synod). Though regularly changing, approximately 50 Synod of the Heartland churches have separated from the RCA, leaving roughly 100 churches in the regional synod. For the entire denomination, approximately 150 churches have left the RCA, with about 700 churches left.

**Why are congregations are considering leaving the RCA?** For years RCA has included varying theologically traditional to liberal congregations, agreeing on some issues, tolerating the different views held on other issues. Views regarding human sexuality, sexual identity and gender issues are the latest difference. The stated denominational theological position is essentially the traditional Biblical position. Homosexual activity is included with other sexually immoral behaviors which are considered sinful. Gender is viewed as male and female. Marriage is between one man and one woman. Hope Church supports these denominational positions while at the same time acknowledging that Jesus equated lust in our hearts with the act of adultery. All such sinful thoughts and/or actions require repentant hearts for each of us.

Currently, some RCA congregations are performing same-sex marriages and ordaining into ministry individuals actively involved in, and unrepentant of, activities outside the Biblical views stated above. Accountability in the RCA has been determined to occur at the Classis level and, in the situations noted above, the respective Classes are not holding congregations to the stated denominational positions. Under RCA practices, neither other Classes or the General Synod itself have any standing to intervene with decisions of the individual Classes.

**What is the RCA doing about this?** Following several years attempting to find a resolution, the RCA has recognized member congregations have reached an impasse and have established regulations that allow churches a graceful separation process from the RCA when certain conditions are met. Generally, these requirements are less restrictive than those previously in place and will be available for five years. The RCA has also formed a committee to consider how to restructure remaining churches in a different way. Since the committee will not conclude its work until 2024, congregations remaining in the RCA will need to wait to have a clear idea of the structural form the RCA will take in the future.

**What is Hope Church doing about this?** The Consistory of Hope Church has been following developments in this area for several years and is currently considering information regarding various available options in order to discern the course of action considered best for Hope Church. Recently, close to 100 people have attended meetings of the Greater Consistory and church Community Groups.

**How do I get more information?** Contact any Consistory member for more information. Also, additional meetings will be scheduled to allow opportunities to discuss further developments and available options.

**Worship &  
Music News  
Austin Bryan**



**SPOUDAZO PRESENTS**

**Friday, July 15, 2022**

**7:00pm**

**Hope Reformed Church**

No Escaping His Love is a 60 minute presentation that features music made popular by Francesca Battistelli, Kari Jobe, and we the kingdom.

Join us for an escape room in real time to find out how it resembles life. Two players look for clues to solve the puzzle and, in the process, learn about God's unwavering love. In the end they find that there is No Escaping His Love!

Spoudazo is an ecumenical high school Christian music & drama ministry group from Fremont, Nebraska

A free will offering will be taken



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## WORSHIP SERVICES

New Summer Sundays

9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:45 a.m.

Live-streamed online  YouTube

[www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer](http://www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer)

## HOPE CHURCH STAFF:

**Jay Van Gelder**

*Pastor of Student Ministries*

**Austin Bryan**

*Intern Worship/Music*

**Josh Hamrick**

*Facilities*

**Austin Bryan**

*Youth Ministries*

*Assistant/Communications*

**Julia Andela**

*Children/Families*

**Trish Halder**

*Office Manager*

