



# **New Hope FMC Annual Meeting**

## **Agenda**

Welcome & Prayer

Call to Order

Welcome New Members

Communication

Finance

Staff & Nominating

General Updates

Q & A

Adjourn

## 2022 Attendance and Membership

Average Attendance - 74

Members

Active - 45

In-Active - 6

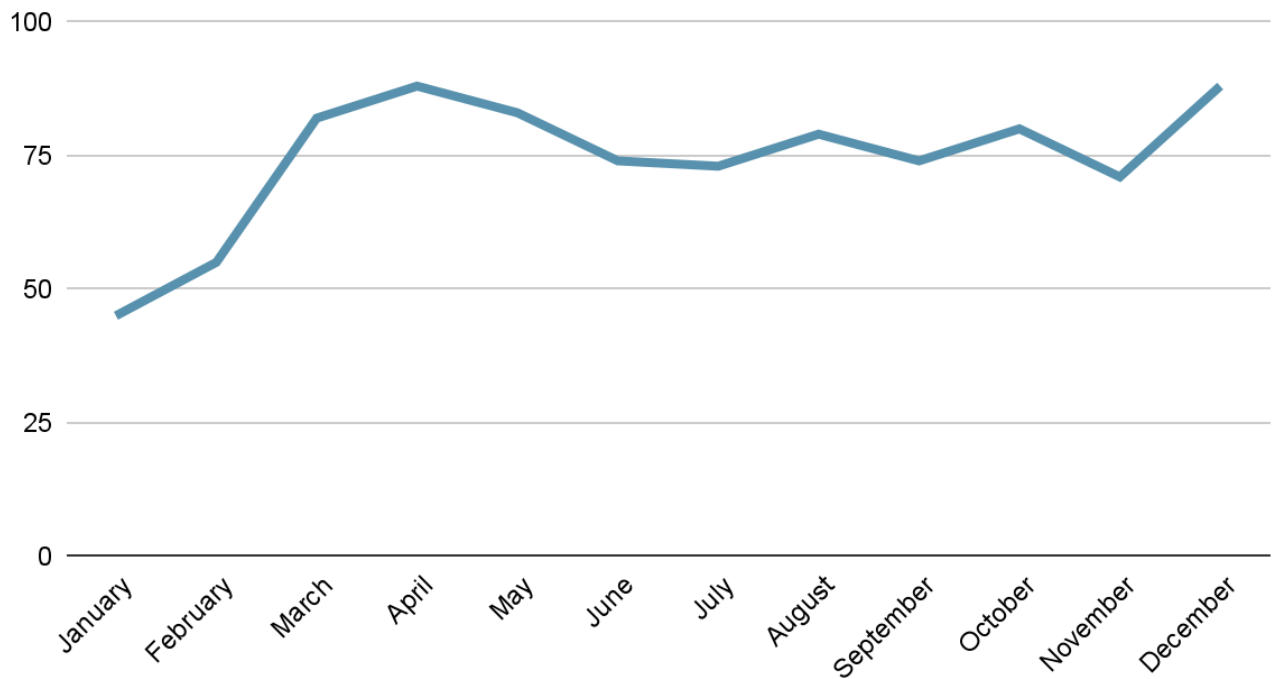
Regular Attenders - 100

Baptisms - 1

Dedications - 2

Conversions - 0

### 2022 Monthly Attendance



# Finance Report

## New Hope Free Methodist Church Immigration Legal Services

Profit and Loss  
January - December 2022

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2022	JAN - DEC 2021 (PY)
Income		
<b>Total Income</b>		
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Expenses		
<b>Total Expenses</b>		
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Other Income		
ILS--Income		
4620 ILS--fees received	4,606.43	3,475.33
ILS--donations		
4611 ILS - Individual Donations	9,711.54	8,507.30
4612 ILS- Organization Donations	14,647.00	16,947.00
<b>Total ILS--donations</b>	<b>24,358.54</b>	<b>25,454.30</b>
<b>Total ILS--Income</b>	<b>28,964.97</b>	<b>28,929.63</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$28,964.97</b>	<b>\$28,929.63</b>
Other Expenses		
ILS-Expense		
ILS - Insurance & Membership	1,500.00	4,358.21
ILS - Office Expense	3,594.53	1,256.07
ILS - other expenses	111.04	9,423.88
ILS - online fees	247.13	75.59
<b>Total ILS - other expenses</b>	<b>358.17</b>	<b>9,499.47</b>
ILS - Programs		175.00
ILS - Shipping fees	680.70	768.35
ILS - Technology phone/internet	2,698.71	1,108.92
ILS - Translation Expenses	534.50	1,000.00
ILS - Travel		783.02
ILS - Webinars & Education	1,182.11	1,035.37
ILS Payroll Expense	5,522.40	
ILS Payroll Tax Expense	422.47	
<b>Total ILS-Expense</b>	<b>16,493.59</b>	<b>19,984.41</b>
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,493.59</b>	<b>\$19,984.41</b>
NET OTHER INCOME	<b>\$12,471.38</b>	<b>\$8,945.22</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$12,471.38</b>	<b>\$8,945.22</b>

# New Hope Free Methodist Church

## Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

	TOTAL	
	AS OF DEC 31, 2022	AS OF DEC 31, 2021 (PY)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Checking Account	76,544.11	115,596.29
Counseling	0.00	3,684.89
Designated Funds Savings	30,804.36	25,243.77
ILS Petty Cash	0.00	200.00
NH Immigration Legal Services	33,436.07	20,818.19
Purchasing Account	0.00	539.19
Quizzing Account	5,697.08	1,759.21
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$146,481.62</b>	<b>\$167,841.54</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$146,481.62</b>	<b>\$167,841.54</b>
Fixed Assets		
62 North Union Building	325,000.00	325,000.00
A\D depreciation	-171,181.03	-162,847.99
<b>Total 62 North Union Building</b>	<b>153,818.97</b>	<b>162,152.01</b>
Other fixed assets	5,000.00	
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$158,818.97</b>	<b>\$162,152.01</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$305,300.59</b>	<b>\$329,993.55</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
2100 Payroll Liabilities	-209.74	1,640.10
PPP Loan	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ -209.74</b>	<b>\$1,640.10</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ -209.74</b>	<b>\$1,640.10</b>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Conference Challenge Loan	0.00	0.00
Conference Loan	0.00	74,332.98
FMLF	64,810.82	
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$64,810.82</b>	<b>\$74,332.98</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$64,601.08</b>	<b>\$75,973.08</b>
Equity		
3000 Opening Bal Equity	12,862.63	12,862.63
3900 Retained Earnings	210,382.79	172,378.58
Reserve Equity Fund		
Capital Campaign	22,649.75	17,522.40
GoClean Equity	1,778.51	1,778.51
Mercy Fund	3,719.64	3,212.43
Miscellaneous	2,077.67	2,680.43

# New Hope Free Methodist Church

## Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

	TOTAL	
	AS OF DEC 31, 2022	AS OF DEC 31, 2021 (PY)
Missions--General	0.00	50.00
Youth Ministries	549.48	0.00
<b>Total Reserve Equity Fund</b>	<b>30,775.05</b>	<b>25,243.77</b>
Net Income	-13,320.96	43,535.49
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$240,699.51</b>	<b>\$254,020.47</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$305,300.59</b>	<b>\$329,993.55</b>

# New Hope Free Methodist Church

## Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2022	JAN - DEC 2021 (PY)
Income		
Deductible Contributions		
4000 Regular Offering	218,120.89	233,352.83
4100 Mercy Fund	1,915.56	11,031.82
4800 Quizzing--Deductible--Income	4,754.36	2,058.00
<b>Total Deductible Contributions</b>	<b>224,790.81</b>	<b>246,442.65</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$224,790.81</b>	<b>\$246,442.65</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$224,790.81</b>	<b>\$246,442.65</b>
Expenses		
Building Depreciation	8,333.04	8,333.04
IN Ministries		
Administration		
Bank Charges	184.00	45.00
Conference Fair Share/Wave	19,880.64	14,930.64
Copier Rental	2,038.43	1,906.20
Finance Team		3,508.55
Miscellaneous	326.04	13.90
Online Donation Fees	<b>666.33</b>	<b>678.41</b>
Paper, etc.	164.93	62.76
Personnel		
Administrator-(In)	5,984.83	3,340.08
Communications Assistant		553.00
Pastor Scott	<b>12,684.23</b>	<b>12,388.74</b>
Payroll Expenses	1,623.05	974.85
Payroll Tax Expense	3,163.98	2,377.75
Worker's Comp	1,454.57	1,542.88
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>24,910.66</b>	<b>21,177.30</b>
Postage		80.13
Software	2,078.79	1,565.10
Telephone/Internet	1,799.64	1,779.87
Web Hosting	399.54	434.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>52,449.00</b>	<b>46,181.86</b>

# New Hope Free Methodist Church

## Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2022	JAN - DEC 2021 (PY)
Facilities		
Capital Expenditures-Operations	474.56	1,082.59
City/County Fees/Taxes	439.16	1,863.43
Cleaning Service	3,825.00	2,170.00
Genesis Conf Loan Interest	774.79	3,902.58
Inspections/Permits	1,870.70	2,041.30
Interest Paid	2,084.88	
Multi-Peril Insurance	3,392.00	3,019.10
Personnel		
Administrator (In-Fac)	5,984.71	3,340.08
Pastor Scott	<b>22,672.79</b>	<b>23,451.45</b>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>28,657.50</b>	<b>26,791.53</b>
Repairs and Improvements	3,715.53	2,733.13
Supplies/Equipment-Operations	585.46	2,274.82
Trash	3,417.82	2,467.43
Utilities	14,616.77	10,415.30
<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>63,854.17</b>	<b>58,761.21</b>
<b>Total IN Ministries</b>	<b>116,303.17</b>	<b>104,943.07</b>
IN/OUT Ministries		
Charitable Contributions		1,000.00
Community Development		
Church Socials	444.53	1,147.71
Lay Development		200.00
Mercy Fund	<b>1,437.66</b>	<b>8,060.19</b>
<b>Total Community Development</b>	<b>1,882.19</b>	<b>9,407.90</b>
Personal & Family Wholeness		
Children's Ministries	444.63	34.44
Quizzing - Church Budget	<b>965.00</b>	<b>3,778.73</b>
Youth Ministries-Church Budget		385.52
<b>Total Personal &amp; Family Wholeness</b>	<b>1,409.63</b>	<b>4,198.69</b>
Personnel		
Children Ministry Salary	8,077.50	
Disability	205.82	383.20
Pastor Scott	<b>56,805.30</b>	<b>55,434.42</b>
Pastoral Expenses	2,660.31	1,579.04
Salary--Asst. Pastor (IN/OUT)	<b>32,426.69</b>	<b>26,029.30</b>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>100,175.62</b>	<b>83,425.96</b>
<b>Total IN/OUT Ministries</b>	<b>103,467.44</b>	<b>98,032.55</b>

# New Hope Free Methodist Church

## Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2022	JAN - DEC 2021 (PY)
UP Ministries		
Comfort Committee		69.00
Corporate Worship		
Gifts/Guest Expenses	91.90	104.35
Media Equipment	107.99	1,792.68
Music (Includes licenses)	697.00	1,144.40
Piano Tuning	300.00	525.00
Worship Supplies, Decorations	81.43	227.33
<b>Total Corporate Worship</b>	<b>1,278.32</b>	<b>3,793.76</b>
Flowers	43.09	
Hospitality/Welcome Mat	953.48	
Salary - Worship Leader (UP)	21,200.00	20,525.00
Salary--Asst. Pastor (UP)		225.00
<b>Total UP Ministries</b>	<b>23,474.89</b>	<b>24,612.76</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$251,578.54</b>	<b>\$235,921.42</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$ -26,787.73</b>	<b>\$10,521.23</b>
Other Income		
4200 Miscellaneous--Income	4,080.42	1,022.28
4210 Family Promise Income	293.19	
4220 2nd Sunday Initiatives	227.50	
4250 Pastor Appreciation		508.66
4300 Interest	8.91	5.81
4350 Loan Forgiveness - Misc		17,028.75
4400 Rent	400.00	150.00
4500 GoClean Income		101.10
4750 Missions--Designated	110.00	11,084.40
4850 Renewal, Counseling - Income	<b>300.00</b>	<b>5,541.93</b>
Capital Campaign	10,593.25	
ILS--Income		
4620 ILS--fees received	4,606.43	3,475.33
ILS--donations	<b>24,358.54</b>	<b>25,454.30</b>
<b>Total ILS--Income</b>	<b>28,964.97</b>	<b>28,929.63</b>
Non-Contribution Income		
4820 Quizzing (non-deduct)	3,379.57	
<b>Total Non-Contribution Income</b>	<b>3,379.57</b>	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$48,357.81</b>	<b>\$64,372.56</b>
Other Expenses		
Family Promise	<b>3.36</b>	<b>22.28</b>
GoClean Expense		<b>0.03</b>



# New Hope Free Methodist Church

## Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2022	JAN - DEC 2021 (PY)
ILS-Expense		
ILS - Insurance & Membership	1,500.00	4,358.21
ILS - Office Expense	3,594.53	1,256.07
ILS - other expenses	<b>358.17</b>	<b>10,499.47</b>
ILS - Programs		175.00
ILS - Shipping fees	680.70	768.35
ILS - Technology phone/internet	2,698.71	1,108.92
ILS - Translation Expenses	534.50	
ILS - Travel		783.02
ILS - Webinars & Education	1,182.11	1,035.37
ILS Payroll Expense	5,522.40	
ILS Payroll Tax Expense	422.47	
<b>Total ILS-Expense</b>	<b>16,493.59</b>	<b>19,984.41</b>
Miscellaneous--Expense	3,009.80	
Missions--Designated--Expense	<b>7,200.00</b>	<b>10,836.00</b>
Pastor Appreciation Bonus		506.70
Quizzing--non-budget	4,196.06	
Renewal, Counseling - Expense	<b>3,984.89</b>	<b>8.88</b>
Second Sunday online fees	3.34	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$34,891.04</b>	<b>\$31,358.30</b>
NET OTHER INCOME	<b>\$13,466.77</b>	<b>\$33,014.26</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$ -13,320.96</b>	<b>\$43,535.49</b>

# New Hope Free Methodist Church Mercy Fund

## Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2022	JAN - DEC 2021 (PY)
Income		
Deductible Contributions	1,915.56	11,031.82
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,915.56</b>	<b>\$11,031.82</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$1,915.56</b>	<b>\$11,031.82</b>
Expenses		
IN/OUT Ministries	1,432.10	8,021.37
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,432.10</b>	<b>\$8,021.37</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$483.46</b>	<b>\$3,010.45</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$483.46</b>	<b>\$3,010.45</b>

# New Hope Free Methodist Church Immigration Legal Services

## Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2022	JAN - DEC 2021 (PY)
Income		
<b>Total Income</b>		
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Expenses		
<b>Total Expenses</b>		
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Other Income		
ILS--Income		
4620 ILS--fees received	4,606.43	3,475.33
ILS--donations		
4611 ILS - Individual Donations	9,711.54	8,507.30
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NET OTHER INCOME	<b>\$12,471.38</b>	<b>\$8,945.22</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$12,471.38</b>	<b>\$8,945.22</b>

## **Nominating Committee**

Leadership Council - 2 available for election/reelection

Ben King - 2nd term ending in 2026

Nancy Koke - 1st term ending in 2026

Conference Delegates

Three needed along with 1 reserve delegate

1. Kim Barker
2. Eric Logan
3. Nancy Koke
4. TBD reserve

Treasurer - 1 year term

Phillis Oliver

Nominating Committee

Pastor's Cabinet - a one-year term

1. Rev. Lynn Turner
2. Nancy Koke
3. Amy Grillo

## REPORT FOR PANERA BREAD MINISTRY

The Word of God reminds us of the important of feeding the hungry and being responsible stewards of the world resources. The Panera Bread Ministry has completed seven years of service in the Panera Bread's Day-End Dough-Nation program. New Hope FMC is thankful to Panera Bread (16 Courtney Dr, Fairport, NY) for their donation of food items.

Panera Bread has provided \$30,394.00 worth of bread and pastry during 2022. Without this ministry these food items would end up in the Landfill. This ministry continues to provide bread and other food items for people within the church, for Dimitri House (102 Union Street N) which provide meal for the homeless in the community and for the People's Pantry of Rochester (555 Avenue D) which provide food for the needy in the 14621 area.

In 2022, New Hope FMC volunteers were able to pick-up the Panera Bread food items every Saturday night. I am thankful to **Michelle McPherson, Don Porterfield, Elizabeth Primus, Deb & Charles Vogt** for their willingness to pick-up the food items on Saturday night and the Hospitality Committee for preparing the bread item for Sunday morning.

If anyone is interested in helping with the Panera Bread pickup, please contact Lynn Turner.

In Christ,  
Rev. Lynn Turner  
revlturner51@gmail.com

## Small Groups

Small groups were alive and growing in 2022! For each of our three trimesters, we averaged around 6 small groups, with anywhere between 3-12 people attending those groups on a regular basis. Our groups ranged from in-person to zoom, from babies to grandparents, from book studies + sermon discussions to dinner parties + backyard bonfires. Group leadership transitioned from Ann Cashner and Melanie King in April 2022, who had done amazing work reimagining and growing the ministry over the course of the pandemic. Following this change, the team shifted to include Pastor Marissa as team supervisor, Kaela Sittig as small groups coordinator, and Jeff McPherson as a team consult. Throughout the past several months, the church leadership team has worked hard to include small groups even more into the DNA of our church, with groups often working to serve the church together, reflect deeper on sermons, and become a place to welcome and connect new members. Going into 2023, small groups will continue to look even more unique, out of the box, and adapt to fit the unique needs of our church. The goal of the small group ministry continues to be to provide a safe space, loving community, and space for growth for all of our church family.

Thanks,

Kaela Sittig  
kaela.sittig@gmail.com

# East High Thrift Store

The East High Thrift Store has continued to serve the families of East High both on an Emergency basis and once a week like a store. Thank you so much to everyone who donated the hair and body products earlier this year! They were desperately needed! This week we transitioned from our long sleeved attire to our “spring collection” ;) and the students were ecstatic.

One significant transition that just happened is that our contact at East, Nikki Gibbons, was offered a great opportunity to use her many gifts at Empire State College! I am so happy for her, she will be greatly missed! She had introduced me to other faculty throughout the time I’ve been there, and they have expressed that they definitely still need our partnership and were hoping that we’d continue to come, which I assured them we would.

While we continue to get donations from various individuals, the store has some needs! If you are looking to stay in the loop, please let me know! While as a church we donated an extremely large amount of body care items, there are a lot of students! As of mid-march, we are completely out of everything! Students come in everytime we’re open asking if we have any more (especially deodorant, body wash, and shampoo!). Would you consider helping in this way?

Thank you again for loving the students and giving them access to these basic needs which we can often take for granted. Also wanted to say a specific thank you to **Linda K, Stephanie R**, and my kids for helping on site! Thank you for the ways you’ve made ministering possible!

Christina Waldo

Please contact me with any questions!

(585) 210-3229

[christinasbaxter@gmail.com](mailto:christinasbaxter@gmail.com)

## **Bible Quizzing: August 2022 - July 2023**

Full-Year Quizzers: Abby Lyon, Anna-Rose Vandebroke, Ruthie Baxter, Nadia Baxter, Simon Sykora, Landon Sittig, Gavin Sittig

Part-Year Quizzers: Elodie Heffernan, Isaac Salisbury, Luke Sykora

Coaches: Ron Lyon, Kirstin Liddle, Grant Perkins, Scott Sittig, Jared Sittig

Material Studied: 1&2 Timothy, Titus, and Matthew 1-13. Some kids put it all to memory (*yes, you heard that right - nearly word for word*), while others work very hard to know it well enough to answer specific questions on specific verses. Pull one of them aside and test them. They work super hard!

### Highlights:

- Scripture memorized and kid's lives impacted,
- Apple Pie Fundraiser (Netted over \$1,000 in profit),
- Holland, OH Tournament (Kids enjoyed the travel/host-home overnight),
- Consistent Practices and lots of bible verses memorized (Monday Nights),
- 1st Mid-Year Tournament at Roberts Wesleyan University (Been trying to get RWU involved beyond hosting Nationals every 4 years), and
- Hosting a tournament again this year at New Hope.

### Tournaments Attended:

- October, 2022 at Brockport FMC, Brockport, NY
- November 2022 at RWU,
- December 2022 at Albion FMC, Albion, NY
- January 2023 at New Hope FMC, Rochester, NY
- February 2023 at Brockport FMC, Brockport, NY
- March 2023 at Holland FMC, Holland, OH,



- April 2023 at Pearce Memorial FMC, N. Chili, NY

### Finishing the Year:

- Annual “Quote-a-Thon” helps to support quizzers financially to attend the end of year tournaments, as well as encourage them for studying so hard. Quizzers will be coming to you asking you to sponsor them an amount per quote (45 quotes this year) and pay them for the ones they get right (one quote verse word for word with reference in 20 seconds counts as 1 correct quote).
- We will send one team to a Midwest Regional in May of this year in Indianapolis, IN.
- The Genesis Conference Regional is the first weekend of June at Camp Hickory Hill in Varysburg, NY.
- The National tournament this year will be held on the campus of Greenville University in Greenville, IL. We anticipate sending 2 teams: 1 in Senior Team Veteran and 1 in Young Teen Veteran with at least 6 of our remaining 7 quizzers, and 2 of our coaches attending. The National Tournament will be held June 26-30.

### Results:

New Hope has one of the best quizzing ministries in all of the FMC. It’s fun to say, but even more fun to praise our kids for all of their hard work at memorizing scripture. They are the reason that New Hope has been so successful.

- This year Ruthie Baxter has yet to lose an Individual Young Teen Veteran round that she has entered. She is undefeated and preparing to take that into Nationals.
- Our Senior Teen team is the reigning 2x National Champion team, and Landon Sittig is the reigning Individual National Champion quizzier at the Senior Teen level. Landon’s brother, Gavin won the Young Teen Individual national championship last summer as well and will be aiming to dethrone his brother this year. In all, a New Hope Senior

Teen Team has been to 7 straight National Championship Final rounds and won 4 of them. This year they will be aiming for the first team “3-peat” in FM Bible Quizzing history.

We definitely instill in our kids that while awards are great motivators, they won't last a lifetime. What lasts is the Word of God hidden in their hearts. They work hard and these verses live with them for eternity. Bible quizzing is a fun, rewarding way to learn the bible, and grow in our understanding of how to live the Christian life. It has its challenges when it comes to understanding some passages of scripture, and we engage each challenge head on creating space for learning, questions, and the Holy Spirit.

If you'd like to know more, please let us know. We always want to recruit new quizzers (kids ages 6-12 grade), coaches, quiz masters (readers of questions at tournaments), drivers, fundraisers, bible teachers, and other roles we'll make up in order to expose you to this great ministry.

Contact: Pastor Scott Sittig at [pastorscott@newhopefree.org](mailto:pastorscott@newhopefree.org)

## **Mercy Fund Update**

Below is the official Mercy Fund Policy as adopted by the Leadership Council of New Hope in April 2022. This policy, and a clarification of the roles and purpose of the Crisis Response Team (CRT), which was created to facilitate the administration of the Mercy Fund, was developed as part of former pastor Bill Gibbons' responsibilities.

Prior to his departure, Pastor Bill's oversight of the CRT and Mercy Fund afforded him the insight that the Mercy Fund had outgrown its original scope (to serve New Hoper's with a single gift to meet a crisis need) and thus needed to be refocused and reconstituted with a new scope and purpose. Nearly simultaneously, however, for unrelated and personal reasons, he also resigned from leadership. Based on his recommendation and the new vacuum of leadership for the CRT, the whole administration of the Mercy Fund and CRT was mostly put on hold.

Only occasional requests continued to come through to the church, to the tune of 1-2 a month, with a few more than that during holidays. We have chosen to refer more people to partner organizations while providing what we can through our bread ministry, connections to food pantries, and other resources as we are able. Our CDC has picked up some of the requests as they are able, including delivering a couple of dozen food baskets to people in the community of Marketview Heights last fall.

To clarify, the Mercy Fund still exists, and per the policy below, is still a resource for people at New Hope and those who might be connected to us through our extension ministries. Due to limited resources, it would be impossible to meet all the needs that might present themselves, so the Mercy Fund will give first priority to members and regular attendees of the church. The goal is to have a team of people (CRT) overseeing the needs to assess opportunities beyond that.

We presently do not have enough people to form a Crisis Response Team so the responsibilities have been managed in the interim by pastors and the Finance Team. If you are interested in this ministry and would like to be part of a team to help administrate the Mercy Fund, please let a member of the pastoral team know. We have job descriptions for team members that will help you decide what you are committing to. Over the next few months, we'd like to get a new team in place.

As per the financial reports, the Mercy Fund has \$3,800 in it as of the close of March 2023. Mercy Fund is a destination for your giving should you choose to designate a gift toward it. We would encourage everyone to give to Mercy Fund, though not in lieu of your general tithes. Please give out of your overflow and the gifts that God has given that sustain you beyond your immediate needs. The gifts make a tremendous difference for those that need them.

### **Mercy Fund Policy**

The Mercy Fund is a pool of dedicated money given by New Hope members/attendees to aid in "one-time/single event" humanitarian crises that arise both within the congregation and in the immediate community surrounding our church.\*

*(\*Immediate Community shall be defined for the purposes of the CRT and Mercy Fund as individuals and families of New Hope FMC, close associates of New Hope members, and individuals and families in the Marketview Heights community or adjacent communities.)*

- The Fund is an official New Hope Free Methodist account, with oversight from the Crisis Response Team. All contributions to the Mercy Fund are considered contributions to New Hope Free Methodist Church and are administered primarily at the discretion of the Crisis Response Team. If further advice is needed, the New Hope Leadership Council (LC) will be consulted.

### **Purpose of the Fund**

1. Address humanitarian crises of New Hope attendees and the immediate community impacted by New Hope FMC.
2. Provide a means of service for the New Hope family.

3. To express the compassion that was modeled in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

#### Administration of the Fund

1. The Mercy Fund will be administered by the Crisis Response Team with monthly accountability to the Leadership Council.
2. Mercy Fund distributions will first draw from designated gifts to the Mercy Fund. As designated funds are depleted, the Mercy Fund may draw upon operational funds provided funds have been budgeted in the current year and cash flow is available for operating fund distributions. A decision to use funds from another line item in the budget would first have to be approved by the Leadership Council and Treasurer.
3. In coordination with the Crisis Response Team, the Assistant Pastor of Community Engagement and members of the CRT may assist in distributions from the Mercy Fund of \$100 or less without approval from the Crisis Response Team provided distributions are consistent with this policy and are documented for review at a later time (see #4 below).
4. The Mercy Fund meets basic urgent needs specifically to meet humanitarian crises.
  - a. Gifts may include but are not limited to, vouchers for food, gas, crisis housing, and clothing.
  - a. A member of the CRT will keep an ongoing registry of distributions from the Mercy Fund. This registry is an official church document and should be reviewed by the LC on a monthly basis. It will also be available upon request by an auditor if/when New Hope conducts a Financial Review of any kind.
  - b. While crises can be ongoing, the Mercy Fund is NOT designed to provide for the recurrent needs of specific individuals.
  - c. The CRT in collaboration with the church office will keep a list of resources for people with recurrent needs including, but not limited to, collaborative ministries, housing advocacy groups, homeless shelters, healthcare facilities, financial counseling, social service agencies, food pantries, governmental agencies, legal aid, substance recovery programs, and law enforcement agencies.

d. It is the discretion of the CRT to define the nature of a given crisis. However, the crisis should be well documented and threaten the basic urgent needs of nutrition, housing and safety.

***The fund is not designated to support non-essential items.***

2. The Mercy Fund is designed as a tangible way to demonstrate the love of God, and its distribution will not be based upon the willingness of a recipient to be a member of New Hope, to attend New Hope, or to endorse New Hope in any way.
3. Any distribution from the Mercy Fund of \$100-\$2,499, must have the consent of a majority or more members of the Crisis Response Team. This applies even when there is a quick turnaround needed. The number of approving votes should be documented in the registry.
4. Any gift of greater than \$500 should be approved by the Crisis Response Team based on a majority vote by all members of the team. If there is a tied vote, the lead pastor will be consulted for the final decision. This applies even when there is a quick turnaround needed.
5. Any gift of greater than \$2,500 should be distributed only after approval of the CRT, and when the church treasurer has been informed.
6. The Mercy Fund can be used for compassion crises such as small gifts for the sick, or homebound, or for bereavement.
7. Requests for distribution greater than \$100 must be given with one week's notice when feasible.

# Worship and Creative Arts Ministry Annual Report 2022

*Andrew Cashner*

*April 23, 2023*

## **Overview**

The year 2022 brought many beautiful experiences of worship in which God spoke his Word to us, revealed the presence of the risen Christ in our midst, and by his Holy Spirit, brought us healing, forgiveness, new life, and ever-deepening connections with Jesus and with each other. Grateful for the ability most of us had to meet again in person and eventually even without masks, we gathered weekly at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays for about 90 minutes of prayer, singing, Scripture reading, preaching, sacraments, and community celebrations. Our team meets regularly 6:30–8 p.m. Thursdays and 8:30 a.m. Sundays to prepare, and we continue to work toward cultivating an ever-more collaborative, supportive, creative environment. We continue seeking ways to be faithful to God in our worship within the context of our tradition and in a rapidly changing world. We celebrate the Eucharist (Holy Communion) on the first Sunday of each month, and dedications and baptisms whenever possible. We continue looking for ways to reflect the diversity we have and aspire to have through a wide range of musical styles and worship patterns, while cultivating our own traditions and repertoire that we have in common. We continue to seek to embody God's call to justice through our choices not just about what songs we sing, but in who participates and leads, and how we lead and work together as a team. We have a long way to go but we also have a lot to celebrate.

## ***Scripture reading and lectionary***

Mid year I and others on our staff team became concerned that we were not reading enough Scripture in church and that our selections of passages might not be as well-balanced as would be healthy. We began experimenting with adapting the Revised Common Lectionary for our needs. This is a plan for Scripture reading in the church service used by Protestant churches all over the world, and closely related to the readings also used by Roman Catholic churches since the Vatican II reforms in 1970. It provides a way for congregations to hear almost the entirety of the Bible over the course of three years. Each week includes readings from the Old Testament, a psalm, a New Testament epistle (letter), and a Gospel reading.

Using the lectionary has provided us with consistency in hearing all parts of God's Word, and helped us follow well-thought-out themes keyed to the liturgical seasons (including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost). It helps me and the pastors plan in advance and keeps us in line with what much of the global church is doing. We use the lectionary as a tool—we don't read every reading and if the Spirit leads us elsewhere we will follow—but it has proven to be very helpful in our planning process and I have heard from many worshippers that they appreciate the increased amount of Scripture in the worship service.

### ***Special services***

In Holy Week 2022 we offered services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. We celebrated Maundy ("Mandate to Love") Thursday in our own upper room with conversation, Scripture, and communion, just as Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples. Good Friday was a quiet, candlelit service of meditation in front of the cross with an especially moving offering of "Lead Me to the Cross" sung by Pastor Marissa.

Worship in the Park in August was a joyful celebration at Charlotte Beach Park, featuring many reunions with old friends.

On Christmas Eve we had a festive service of Lessons (Readings) and Carols, packed with just about every Christmas carol we could fit in. I arranged carols for cello-piano duet, played beautifully by Jen Becker and Harrison Hartsough, and beginner-intermediate cello duet, played by Sebastian Parham and Ben Cashner.

### ***Space and Equipment***

We have built good systems for our audio-visual tech systems and cared for our equipment. We began installing acoustic blankets to reduce the flutter echo in the room that has made it so hard to hear and understand. Eric brought us new loudspeakers and monitors from another church that had upgraded their sound system: they may be hand-me-downs but they have greatly improved the clarity and fidelity of sound in the room.

### **Values**

- **Prayer:** We begin every rehearsal, every service, and every planning meeting with prayer, and we give a central place to corporate prayer in the Sunday service, led by members of our Prayer Team.



- **Consistency, Planning, Preparation:** I have made consistency a top priority for myself, the team, and our services, aiming for well-prepared, high-quality musical support for worship; an efficient, well-documented, working technical system; and a collaborative planning process that enables us to be flexible and open to the Spirit *because* we are prepared. Practice and preparation are deeply spiritual matters.
- **Collaboration, Worth, and Well-Being:** Every voice on the team counts. God uses us to bring out the best in each other. We want to be open to what the Spirit is saying through each person's unique viewpoint and life experience, and we want to create an environment in which every person can thrive. We want to bring out the gifts that God is giving the church through its members. Positive reinforcement is the most effective motivator. *A healthy ministry is a ministry of healthy people.*
- **Diversity, Hospitality:** We want everyone to feel welcome and connect with something in the service, but we are all different and have different needs and backgrounds. Having something for everyone means that not everything will be my cup of tea. We celebrate the many different expressions of faith from across centuries, languages, and cultures, trusting that God is creating a unique blend in our own community. We also want to be faithful to who we actually are and the tradition we come from, and not try to represent ourselves as something we're not. We don't need to look or sound like anyone else but we also don't need to bend over backwards to be different and special since in God's sight we already are.
- **Justice:** Elevating justice requires a commitment to anti-racist, anti-oppressive work according to Scripture principles. We strive to include songs and other artistic expressions from many different kinds of people, which requires us to make a special effort to resist the default trend and select songs by women and people of color. We make a particular effort to engage with Black musical traditions. Justice should shape how we run rehearsals, who we invite to participate, how we plan, and what we emphasize in every service.

- **Humility and Curiosity:** All of the above goals are hard to accomplish and we can expect that we won't get them all right, all the time. We need to follow Christ's example of humility and be curious, always learning more, experimenting, seeking more perspectives and feedback.

Along those lines, if you have feedback about any aspect of worship, I hope you will share it with me.

## **People**

### ***Worship Team regulars***

- Andrew Cashner (piano, vocals)
- Eric Logan (keyboards, vocals)
- Pastor Marissa Mattox-Heffernan (guitar, vocals)
- Steph Rounsville (percussion)
- Harrison Hartsough (cello)

### **Occasional participants**

- Jen Becker (piano)
- Lindsey Seemayer (violin)
- Rachel Mills (cello)

### **Youth and children**

- Elodie Mattox-Heffernan
- Joy Cashner
- Ben Cashner
- Sebastian Parham

### ***Tech Team***

- Don Porterfield (video, livestream)
- Dave Rybka (audio, projector)
- Mike Welch (audio, projector)

Several of us share the role of worship leader in the service.

## **Songs**

We sang 94 distinct songs in 2022:

- 65 were in the contemporary Christian music (CCM) style and genre,

such as you hear on Christian radio and at other evangelical churches

- Of those, 2 were in Spanish language, and 10 had some element of Black Gospel style
- 12 traditional Euro-American hymns
- 11 Gospel hymns and traditional Black Gospel songs
- 4 Black spirituals
- 2 African hymns in Kinyarwanda

These are our top 20 most frequently sung songs in 2022. Demographics of song creators who are not white men are listed as W for woman, B for Black, and L for Latino.

<b>Title/First line</b>	<b>Style/tradition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Creators</b>
Jubilee	CCM, Gospel	7	W
Stand By Me	Hymn, Gospel	6	B
Your Great Name	CCM	5	W
This I Believe	CCM	5	
What a Beautiful Name	CCM	5	W
Wesley Prayer	CCM	5	
Great Are You Lord	CCM	5	W
Build My Life	CCM	5	
The Earth Shall Know	CCM	5	W
Renueva me (Make Me New)	CCM/Latin Gospel	5	L
O Come, O Come Emmanuel	Hymn	4	
Hosanna	CCM	4	W
Move	CCM	4	W
How High and How Wide	CCM	4	
Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)	CCM	4	
Good Good Father	CCM	4	B
Jesus at the Center	CCM/Gospel	3	B
How Great Is Our God	CCM	3	
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	Hymn	3	W
No Longer Slaves	CCM	3	

We sang one new composition, my setting of Charles Wesley's *And Are We Yet Alive?* The Worship Team played my new string arrangements of *Indescribable*, *Great Is Your Mercy*, *Build My Life*, *In dulci júbilo*, and *I Wonder As I Wander*.

## **Questions for the Future**

These are some of the questions that keep me up in the middle of the night and which feature regularly in our discussions on the Worship Team. We welcome your thoughts and further questions as we seek to discern God's vision for our ministry and the steps to get there.

- How do we respond to the ever-changing racial and cultural makeup of our congregation in our song selection and worship style?
- How do we present different styles and traditions of music in an authentic and credible way?
- How will the Worship and Creative Arts Ministry grow? How do we continue to recruit and retain a diverse worship team? How can we better engage youth and develop chains of mentoring to ensure we pass on knowledge, skills, and traditions?
- How can we keep a high standard of professionalism and artistry while also being welcoming to amateurs?
- How can we continue to improve communication and teamwork in the planning process, making sure that everyone's voice is heard and respected?
- How will we continue to work against racist and oppressive power structures and work for the justice of God's kingdom?

# **Evangelism and Community Development Ministry Report**

Spring is here, such a life-giving season! As we relish the warmth of the sunshine, gazing into the flowing streams under the green canopy of the trees, and listening to the sound of chirping birds, we experience a taste of true shalom.

After taking a break for the winter, we look forward to resuming our Saturday Prayer Walks in the neighborhood and spending time in the Community Children's Garden in Marketview Heights. We will kick off our community activities on May 6 by attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new shed at the First Street Children's Garden. Please join us in celebrating the partnership between New Hope For Marketview Heights CDC and the Marketview Heights Community Action Project (MVHCAP) group.

## **How did we engage the community in 2022?**

We continued our quest to build relationships with families in the MVH community through our community walks, involvement in the community garden, and food basket distributions. As the opportunities arose, we engaged in conversations and prayed with community members while on our Saturday prayer walks. It was a delight to see the children enjoying themselves alongside the adults as we harvested in the Community Children's Garden. The fruits and vegetables are delivered to members of the community at no cost to them.

Our inaugural fund-raising golf tournament at Morgan's Crossings Golf Course was a tremendous success. Thanks to the members of our board for all their hard work, to our sponsors from the Rochester community, and to individuals from our congregation at New Hope for their support. We are delighted that half of the funds raised at the tournament was donated towards the purchase of a shed for the Children's Garden. We delivered food baskets to thirteen families during the Christmas and Easter Holidays.

## **What's on our radar for 2023?**

Our community prayer walks will resume on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 1:00 PM. We will meet in the church's parking lot each week with the exception of weeks when we meet at the Community Children's Garden at 9:00 AM to assist with planting or harvesting fruits and vegetables. Please contact Pastor Earlando or Rev. Lynn Turner if you want to join us.

We are excited to inform you that the date for our fundraising golf tournament has been set for August 12, 2023, at Morgan's Crossing Golf Course. The tournament will be followed by dinner at 6:00 PM where trophies and other prizes will be presented to the winners. The brochure and registration form will be available shortly. Completed registration forms and registration fees may be handed in or mailed to the New Hope office. You may also pay online at our website, [NH4MVH.org](http://NH4MVH.org) using the donate button and following the instructions.

Please bookmark the date of September 16, 2023. The New Hope CDC is in the process of planning a Health Fair and Fun Day at Peck Park in Marketview Heights. So far, we received verbal commitments of support from the Cancer Support Community of Rochester, the Rochester Black Nurses Association, and Highland Family Medicine. We are hoping to screen at least 200 members of the community for high blood pressure, diabetes, mental disorders, Colon Cancer, and Dental Disorders among other screening tests. Fun activities will be provided for the children. We are working on having a food truck and music available. We are currently working with the City to make this event a reality.

The ultimate goal of this ministry is to build loving relationships with members of the community so they will be inspired to develop personal relationships with Christ.

Please prayerfully consider how you may support this ministry.

Shalom,  
Evangelism and Community Development Team

# Prayer Ministry Report

The purpose of New Hope's Prayer Ministry is to encourage a rich life of prayer in all members of the church and to regularly intercede in prayer for needs within our community. The team furthered these goals over the past year in the following ways:

- Many people in the church participated in the Prayer Vigils which were held throughout 2022. Thank you to all who signed-up and prayed during your time slot.
- Consistent, intercessory prayer for the needs of our church, city, nation, and world continued during the weekly prayer meetings. Several New Hoppers regularly pray together Sunday evenings, Tuesday evenings, and Friday mornings via Zoom, plus in-person Sunday mornings before the worship service.
- Weekly Prayer Walks through the Marketview Heights community occurred each Saturday during the summer and fall. In addition to praying for community needs in general, we were able to pray and talk with several individuals encountered during these walks.

During 2023 the Prayer Ministry Team is committed to continuing multiple weekly prayer meetings, quarterly Prayer Vigils, and other means of encouraging the church as a whole in prayer and fasting.

## **Year End Report- Children's Ministries**

This year, children's ministry celebrated as the nursery re-opened for Sunday mornings. Many thanks to our amazing nursery team who made it possible. Last year we aspired to provide families with weekly, consistent care with a Christian education program. I'm happy to report that we accomplished that goal! It was no small feat providing two adults per room every week, but that's how committed we are to extending Christ's love and care to our little ones.

For grades pre-k through 5, we used curriculum that included a series on the fruit of the Spirit by Light and Life publishers. In addition to monthly bible verses, kids in grades pre k through grade 5 memorized the Lord's prayer. We're currently using the Deep Blue Elementary Curriculum series.

Jen Becker reintroduced a curriculum designed for the nursery. Once a month, Posters and simple lessons on how to point our littlest ones to God are placed in the room for adult helpers to use.

It's been a privilege to see children grow in their community of faith. Friendships have formed, and we've seen their faith in Jesus form and develop. Our children's numbers are on the increase; especially in the nursery.

Average attendance: 8 in children's room, 4 in nursery

Number of Children's Ministry team members - 15

All adult volunteers are background checked and understand our child-safety protocols. This year, several team members completed a course called Stewards of Children. Plans include a group training before September so that all team members will be certified. We met a few times during the year to share a meal. We also had an outdoor meet-up at a playground in Durand Park.



We have wonderful young helpers who are in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or above. They play an important role and we're grateful for their assistance.

Helpers this year:

1. Gavin Sittig
2. Elodie Heffernan
3. Nadia Baxter
4. Ruth Baxter

Current team members:

1. Ann Cashner
2. Jared Sittig
3. Jen Becker
4. Jenni Smith
5. Judy Straw
6. Lisa Reyes
7. Nancy Carter
8. Gabriella Clark
9. Stephanie Roundsville
10. Jabriel Parnum
11. Chrissy Baxter
12. Liz Primus
13. Michelle McPherson
14. Pat Turner
15. Kaela Sittig

Currents needs and dreams:

\* 4 more adult volunteers to serve once per month; Two for nursery and two for the elementary room.

\*Updates to the nursery room including new flooring

\*Fresh coat of paint for the children's room

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Fady

# Building Committee

The building committee was formed in 2022 to take on planning and completing maintenance and improvement projects. It includes leadership council members, and also other church members who are interested in caring for our building. We would love to have you join us! You can indicate interest in the survey. If you're not interested in being on the committee, but can come help with projects, please let us know that too! To be frugal, we do as many of these maintenance and improvement projects as we can ourselves.

## Projects Recently Completed:

- Added a window into the door of the prayer room.
- Caulked windows to eliminate air infiltration and reduce heat loss.
- Electronic remote access added to one of the entry doors.

## Projects In Progress:

- Pastor's office windows have been very badly in need of replacement for some time. They are on order, and after supply chain delays, the contractor should be installing them this spring.
- Dishwasher will be replaced soon.
- Emergency floor plans are being finalized that will be posted to show evacuation routes, AED location, and fire extinguisher locations

## Projects Upcoming:

- Spring cleaning and Gardening day - May 6th, starting at 9am. **We need Volunteers!** Please let Jenni or Ben know if you can help. As well as some gardening and cleanup outside, if we get enough volunteers there is some decluttering to do in the boiler room and other spring projects that could get done. More work days to follow!
- Replace carpet in the nursery with foam flooring.
- Re-stain the pergola out front.
- Replace the dumpster enclosure in the parking lot.



## NEW HOPE IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

*We recognize the God-given dignity of all people and seek to accompany refugees and other immigrants in offering affordable immigration legal services.*

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR NEW HOPE FREE METHODIST CHURCH, April 2023

There are times when this work is emotionally difficult. When I have to tell a parent that their adult child will not be able to obtain an immigrant visa for about 15 years due to the backlog of people waiting; when I explain that the number of applicants each year exceeds the quota determined by U.S. Congress, there are almost always tears shed by the family.

As Christians, we believe in the importance of family unity and so this work is important. There are more triumphs and smiles with happy tears as U.S. Embassy officers around the world say yes at an immigrant visa interview. We here in the U.S. rejoice! A couple of weeks ago, a husband of 7 years finally was able (through our work) to prove to the consular officer that his wife earned enough money to support him and he received his immigrant visa! The mother-in-law of one of New Hope's original Congolese refugees of 2007 received her immigrant visa this past week—but her husband has to wait for the results of a TB test to be able to receive his. May God be merciful. We worked with the Ethiopian widow of a U.S. citizen (former Ethiopian national), had her case expedited through the National Visa Center and expedited at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa. She just received her immigrant visa so that she can come to live with her husband's family in Rochester. She had been living in Tigray, the war-torn area of Ethiopia's civil war, with weekly bombing in her neighborhood. Her brother-in-law tells us it was the prompting of God that brought him to our clinic.

These things make me smile—a smile that reflects a deep-seated joy. I am humbled, knowing that it is because of our almighty loving God that we can do what we do. He prompts people to give. I believe it is the Lord who brings some people to us; we have never put our name out there or advertised in any way, yet they come! Since November of 2018, far over 400 community members have walked through the doors of New Hope FMC seeking assistance needed for their particular immigration situation and we never turn anyone away if they are not able to pay our already very low fees. In the past year we waived \$5,625 of our own service fees for those who could not pay and we completed federal fee waiver applications for every eligible person and immigration benefit allowing one. Our clients are those who have experienced the worst the world has to give; yet they press on. They count on us to know if they are now eligible to become permanent residents; to become U.S. citizens; to stay legally in the U.S.; or to be able to bring their spouses, children, parents, and adult children to join them in the U.S. and how exactly to manage this successfully. Now in our fifth year, we still have not had any applications denied.

The need for immigrants to be unified with their immediate family members is a basic human need. In Rochester, most immigration organizations are no longer offering assistance with this and are referring people to us. To make more time for these cases, I have trained some volunteer staff members to handle

cases such as citizenship, replacement/renewal of green cards, and refugee travel documents beginning at the conclusion of my legal consultation through to the signing of the completed application by the client. Before any case is sent, I carefully review it. We have been able to double our number of naturalization cases while keeping up the work with family reunification and other immigration cases. Still, we are in great need of a person willing to be educated in immigration law, intern with us, and apply for accreditation with the U.S. Department of Justice, as have I. This requires a steady stream of income able to pay a full time salary within a year of hire. We are not yet at this place, but we are fairly close. We are counting on God to provide. He is fully aware of the need and that I am beyond retirement age! I am not leaving anytime soon, but if New Hope Immigration Legal Services has a future beyond me, we need younger people who are passionate, detail-oriented, and who want to share the love of God through practical means and with words at times to the world that comes to our door.

There is much to do in educating Christians about the injustices of our current immigration system and the need for vast reform. We are hoping that New Hope Immigration Legal Services can play a role in this, at least in the Free Methodist Church. We would love your prayer for openings, time, and wisdom to make an impact! We are grateful to the leadership of New Hope FMC for having taken seriously the commitment required by the U.S. Department of Justice in its formal recognition of the church as a site for the clinic. Both the recognition and my accreditation were successfully renewed in 2022 for 6 and 3 years respectively.

**Some statistics:** We have 44 active clients currently. In the past year I did 183 legal consultations and referred 71 of them to larger organizations or ones local to their area. In the past year, 24 people became U.S. citizens and we worked with 55 family members in their journeys to immigrate to the U.S.

Other stats for the past year: 2 DACA/employment authorization renewals (Dreamers), 9 Refugee travel document/Advance Parole docs, 3 Green card renewal/replacements, 3 adjustment of status (initial Green cards), 1 certificate of citizenship for the foreign-born child of a newly naturalized parent (and many U.S. passports that provide proof of citizenship for the foreign-born children). For each adult's naturalization, there is an average of 2 foreign born children in the family that gain U.S. citizenship when their parent naturalizes! Our clinic's 24 new citizens of 2022 then becomes an increase of 72 citizens in the Rochester area!

Please pray God's favor for our 13 Ethiopian family members of Elfness (December 2022 speaker at New Hope FMC) who are in need of a grant of humanitarian parole and for our 4 Afghans in grave danger from the Taliban, still waiting after about 10 months for an expedited request for humanitarian parole. And pray that God will speak to hearts and churches and grant us wisdom with regard to financial provision so that we can hire very soon. We do rejoice at the first Rochester community grant funding we have received! The Sisters of St. Joseph Ministry Foundation awarded us \$7,000 in February 2023! They value our mission and the beliefs we stated in our grant application, noting the similarity to their own mission and charism.

Thank you for your support and belief in New Hope Immigration Legal Services.