



Annual CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Saturday, January 16, 2021

6:30pm

This meeting is for everyone who considers Hope their church home.
Members will vote on the proposed ballot and the proposed spending plan.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Congregational Meeting Agenda

Opening music	Erik Hauk
Invocation	Pastor Anthony
State of Hope	
Youth / Worship	Erik Hauk
Properties Team	Blake Van Auken
Care Team	Helen Bowlin
Finance	Bryce Barkus
Pastor's Report	Anthony Clerkin
Vision casting	Trish Menadue
Ballot & Voting	Forest Rhodes

Bylaws require 25% of membership for quorum, roughly 31 members. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Participation by Zoom is considered attending in-person this year.

Worship
Ballot Count
Close in Prayer

2021 Leadership Team & Staff

2021 Leadership Team

<u>Nominee up for election</u>	<u>Term length</u>
Paul Erickson	1 st 3 year (2024)
Bryce Barkus	1 year (2022)
Forest Rhodes	2 nd 3 year (2024)
Mandy Yager	2 nd 3 year (2024)

**Persons may only serve 2 consecutive terms according to bylaws*

<u>Continuing Members</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Trish Menadue	2022
Robert Ogg	2023
Anthony Clerkin	ex-officio
Erik Hauk	advisory

Dictionary:

“Term” – position will expire at Annual Meeting of year indicated

“ex-officio” – a voting member by virtue of office

“advisory” – a non-voting member

2021 Staff

Anthony Clerkin, Lead Pastor
Erik Hauk, Next Generation Pastor/Worship Leader
Becky Branstetter, Custodian



December 2020

"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." ~ John 17.22-23

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 has certainly been one we will not soon forget. Over the past 10 months, we have experienced a global pandemic, escalating racial tensions, a divisive election, wildfires, and more. Yet in addition to these challenges, we have also experienced great opportunity. We have learned new methods for connecting virtually and explored creative new ways to carry out ministry. Leaders throughout the conference have engaged in book studies and Zoom seminars for meaningful engagement around discipleship, prayer, finances, justice issues, church health, exploring a call to ministry, and more. Our first Equip cohort gathered virtually this fall where 30 students began their seminary education. Churches have come together to care for vulnerable sisters and brothers that have experienced the economic impact of COVID-19.

In this time of great uncertainty and heightened emotions, we have witnessed excessive damage to relationships both inside and outside the Church. In the midst of cultural chaos and division, we have been given the great opportunity to show the world how to navigate differences with love and grace. John 17:22-23 emphasizes the importance of living in unity so that others will see Jesus and know that he is real. As we prepare to enter a new year, I pray that your church will navigate this difficult season of life and ministry in a way that allows others to see Christ's love at work as you move forward in unity.

I am excited to invite you to join us April 23-24, 2021, for our next Annual Ministry Celebration, which will be held virtually. We hope that this format will make participation more accessible for more people. This online gathering will still have all of the exciting elements that make it such a meaningful experience—worship, workshops, opportunities for dialogue, etc. While it may look a bit different, our time together will continue to be an incredible celebration of our ongoing ministry.

I know that your own congregation's Annual Meeting may look a bit different this year, as well. Regardless of the format, I pray that it will be a celebration of the many ways in which God has sustained your ministry in these challenging times. Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you in ministry. We pray for you and give thanks to God for the impact you are making in the lives of those you serve.

To God be the glory!

Tammy Swanson-Draheim
Superintendent

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*Churches working together to transform lives and communities by starting new churches,
strengthening existing churches, and developing missional leaders.*



Letter from the Pastor

Hello Hope Covenant Church,

I am so thankful for this congregation. The way you lift one another up. The way you work to love this community. The way you have been patient and faithful in this season of unknowns and loss. It is clear that God loves you very much and has a great purpose for this congregation. At times this year it must have felt that world was pulling the carpet out from under your feet; but with prayer, determination, and gentleness you have persevered. Even in the short amount of time I have been here, I have seen your love for one another, the joy you get in serving the community, and the faithfulness of your dedication to the Gospel.

Both the Hope Covenant Church family and the Clerkin family have been through some deeply trying times this year. We are not out of the woods yet, but we can see the light of hope through the trees. Looking back on the past year I can see the ways God is using those trials to form in us an even deeper, more resilient faith. If those hardships were what it took for God to bring us together, then I thank him for his mercy in the storms of life.

I have no idea what 2021 has in store for us. Troubles and tribulations are a part of the gift of life that we all have to face. The beauty of being a part of a family of faith is that we never have to face those troubles alone. Over the years God has seen this church through many situations that, if not for his divine providence, would have been the end of this community. That is why I can say with such confidence that God is for us! And "if God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom 8:31) I am looking to 2021 with great anticipation for all the good works that God will do in this community. God has always provided in the past, and we are confidently expecting him to provide again! We know that God has given this church a calling to Be Known, Belong, and Be Love, and we will strive toward that calling with faith, passion, and prayer in 2021 and beyond!

Thank you all for your prayers, support, and love. My family and I are humbled to be called to be a part of this family. We would love any opportunity to get to know you better. Please never hesitate to call, txt, carrier pigeon, or whatever method you prefer. I would love to hear from you all the good things that God has done in your life through this congregation. I would love to hear your thoughts on where God might be leading us. I would love to know you and be known by you. I would be grateful for the opportunity to be your friend.

Blessings,

Pastor Anthony J Clerkin

815-414-2348



Letter from Leadership Team

January 16, 2021

Dear Hope Covenant family,

Grace and peace to you from Hope's Leadership Team.

What a year we have just experienced! To be honest, most of us would prefer to forget it and move on to a "new normal". We have been plagued by constant news of the pandemic. Many have had it eventually infect our own homes. Civil unrest, political turmoil, shortages at the store, events canceled, businesses and schools closed...all leading to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and loss. Lives and families forever changed. Yes, we want to forget. And yet, as followers of Christ we have not been alone, so let us remember. Let us remember God's presence and faithfulness through it all.

No one could have imagined what was to come when we met together at last January's Annual Congregational Meeting. That evening we cast a vision to Be Known and what that might look like in the year ahead. We discussed Healthy Church Systems. We even did an initial "Check-up" to see where we were at the time. Who knew that for the rest of the year "health" would be the focus on everyone's mind?

God knew, and He provided a way forward.

As our community went into shutdown, our pastors and staff dove into technology to provide online church services and digital connections. Eric's online "Moments of Hope" blessed many lives extending beyond our congregation. Small groups met weekly via Zoom for Bible study and spiritual growth. Your support and participation in these connections kept the spirit of Hope Covenant alive.

God remained faithful.

We set a target date of July 12 to regather for worship in person. Several hours were spent developing safety protocols for cleaning, traffic flow, and other precautionary measures. A tremendous thank you to everyone who poured their love for people into these plans. Their efforts allowed us to open the church doors again.

God's presence remained.

We found ways to Be Love in our community. We shared our church space with a small group of ladies from Flint Hills Services. This allowed them to safely continue their day services. Eric and friends shared the gift of music with assisted living facilities and hospital patients around the community.

God provided hope.

On top of all the disruptions we experienced, Hope Covenant felt the financial impact on the church. We were fortunate to participate in the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program to help us stay on top of ongoing expenses and payroll for as long as possible. These funds were 100% forgiven thanks to the diligent planning and stewardship of the Finance Team.

And yet we had some difficult decisions to make to keep moving forward. One such decision was to change the office admin role from a paid staff position to a volunteer role. This was particularly difficult and emotional as we greatly appreciate all the years of hard work Shelley Reiswig put in to build the foundation for how the daily church business functioned.

We are not out of the woods yet. We trust God's faithfulness and provision. It will take faithful stewardship from us all to meet our goals for serving our community.

God guided.

After the news that our beloved friends, John and Amber Carroll, were relocating back to Florida to be with family, the Leadership Team spent countless hours meeting, praying, and discerning the next steps for Hope Covenant Church. In October Pastor Anthony Clerkin accepted our invitation to serve as interim pastor. He brought with him a renewed sense of hope and energy. Thank you for being a congregation who welcomed Pastor Anthony and his family with open hearts, making Hope Covenant a place to Belong.

While it is tempting to want to forget the year 2020, we can see that there is much of God's grace to remember. Our experience must be shared with others. The hope we have, God's faithfulness and goodness, must be shared with others. God has brought us through, and together we can face 2021.

Looking into the new year, we may feel uncertainty. After all, we have learned that the unimaginable is possible. Will this year prove to be better? Only time will tell. However, we do know this: just as Joshua faced the unknowns of entering the promised land, Moses's encouraging words echo true today. "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deut. 31:8)

No matter what the world or the nation faces; no matter what Hope Covenant Church encounters; no matter what changes you and your family experience, this much is true – "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

We trust that God will lead us and guide us to bring His good news to our community in 2021. Together we will fulfill our vision to Be Known, Belong, and Be Love.

Our closing prayer for you is found in Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Amen!

Imagine the impact on our community when we overflow with hope!

Grace and Peace,

Leadership Team

Forrest Rhodes (Chair)

Mandy Yager

Bryce Barkus

Shelly Hill

Robert Ogg

Trish Menadue

MEMBERSHIP CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

Membership Summary

2 New members received — Jenny & Bob Waugh 10/18/2020

Total Members: 121

Active Membership

Membership #'s through the years:

2020	121
2019	103
2017	96
2016	62
2015	52
2014	51
2013	48
2012	48

HOPE 101

We had 4 people (2 couples) go through curriculum

We encourage all those who . . .

- have come to new life in Christ
 - desire to serve God through the body of Christ called Hope Covenant
 - have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- . . . to consider becoming a member of Hope

How do you become a member?

- Attend a Hope 101 seminar
- Complete a membership form
- Share your testimony with Hope's leadership team

Baptisms

<u>Date Baptized @ Hope</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Active Members</u>
August 2, 2020	Andrew Waugh	Bob & Jenny Waugh
January 12, 2020 (Dedication)	Jonathon Dick	Nate & Susan Dick

2021 Ministry Reports

Kids

We started strong at the beginning of the year! We were unable to reopen the rest of the year. Currently working on a plan on what reopening looks like for this coming year.

Youth

The blessings

- before Covid there was a great rhythm and energy to the youth ministry - students were engaging weekly in bible study, large group, and outreach events.
- The gift of social media! After the halting stop at spring break last year, our attention turned to online zoom meetings and connecting through text, snapchat, Instagram, Facebook & TikTok. Posting "moments of hope & personal messages kept us connected with some of our students.
- We were able to have 2 youth events at Numana to package food - in May & in November.
- 2 teachers at EMS have been allowing students to meet in their room for morning Bible study! Eric provides the curriculum while the teachers oversee the gathering.
- "Soft opening" for youth Nov 18, 2020. Was fun, lightly attended, and fun - with a great group of new adult leaders as well for this year.
- We ended the year with a youth Christmas party "covid style".
- Students participated in the online worship services and "moments of hope"

The future hopes

While we must hold loosely to our plans, here are some things we hope to accomplish in 2021!

- Re-starting youth group! Every Wednesday kids and leaders will gather. 5:30 MS & 7pm HS
- Summer mission trip to Yakama Nation! We will move forward with plans in hopes that we can travel this summer!
- Summer camps are re-opening!
- Re-gain access to morning bible studies inside the local El Dorado HS & MS
- Summer BMW hopes!
- Girls Bible Study began this week! Leaders have stepped up to help lead our Girls! yay!

Youth Needs

- Female leaders for wed - MS or HS. Pool cues (with tips on them!) A new ping pong table net

CONNECTIONS

This ministry is to 'connect' HOPE together and love on each other by caring. This is a ministry that takes all of us to succeed in sharing love on Earth.

Meals to shut-ins, new mothers This is another way our church reaches out to help in times of need. If you know of a family in need, please talk to Pastor Anthony about it, or send an email to the church.

Greeters This is a great way to get to know who is walking through your doors on a Sunday morning. Thank you to all of our greeters

Blessing Baskets We had 2 new babies in the congregation this year and delivered baskets full of goodies after the babies were born.

Hope Caring Team

Send out cards and care packages to **College & Military, new mothers and shut-ins.**

Worship

Thank you to Erik for leading us during the 3 months between Lead Pastors. Eric was blessed to have Antwan Mays and Naomi Wallace to help him listen and discern and share what God was saying to us. Those 2 helped Eric in a powerful way thru weekly meetings and preaching at Hope church! This group was the beginning of a current “teaching team” that Pastor Anthony has formed to help us hear God’s word from a variety of diverse voices that all love Jesus.

We were able to decorate and celebrate Christmas in the building! We even had our first “outdoor” singing & candlelight around the cross, which ended up being a beautiful moment. Thank you to Heather Clerkin for her leadership in the decorating this year!

New ways of teaching

- Online Verse of the day. The teaching team has begun the practice of posting a daily Bible verse to help people hear and receive God’s word on social media. Our posts are seen on many platforms and share Jesus’s light in the midst of a dark and compromising digital world!

Music Team

In the midst of Covid, worship never stopped!!!! He is worthy and we praised His Name through it all!!!!

- Whether it was in person or online, Hope Covenant Church offered a worship service every Sunday all year! And we improved the online quality as we went along. We even had an outdoor wedding in the Gazebo!
- Eric pre-recorded and edited Sunday worship services and daily “Moments of Hope” from March until July 12 when we re-opened.
- There were many people from Hope that helped with online services by sending in video greetings, scriptures, songs, and prayer. Thank you!
- We have had new musicians and tech people join our worship team this year! Bass players, computer graphics people, sound people, drummers, singers, guitar players, & more! God has sent us new life and help in the midst of the pandemic!
- El Dorado Prayer & Praise event in October was a gathering of churches from around El Dorado. Hope Covenant was asked to help lead the worship, and it was a great event!

Audio/Video

The audio / video team has seen many changes in 2021. We have made some upgrades for a better video live feed. We purchased Switcher Studio which allows the sound team to control the video on Facebook, plus we purchased an ambient mic for audience participation and an iphone was donated for better video quality. We serve in pairs on Sundays, running the soundboard, computer & projector. We are always open to hear ideas, concerns, or suggestions for improvement from the congregation.

Adults

Men’s Ministry bible study meets Saturday mornings at HEBrews in Towanda

Small Groups

A few of the small groups have continued to meet during the shut down

McLaren Group

Lemke/Neighbor Group

Missions

Numana We participated in 3 food bag filling events.

Coats for homeless teens thank you to everyone who brought in coats and shoes, we were able to fill 2 boxes full for youth

Lakepoint Nursing Home Outreach Eric started singing for Lakepoint outside in the parking lot for those residents who could not leave. Many wonderful people at Hope came to help sing or play instruments. This event gave birth to an unexpected "bluegrass band" that now plays every Wednesday for 3 nursing homes who all log-in and watch online! It is named "Berts Bad Bottom Bluegrass Band" and they helped lead worship in November here at Hope.

Prayer Teams

Prayer Gathering at Hope on Tuesday mornings. We sing, read scripture and pray for our community. We had an average attendance of 6. Our weekly prayer time on Tuesdays has continued! Whether on zoom or in person. Spending time every week interceding for our church and community.

Prayer Chain 45 people praying for the needs of our community and church family throughout the week.

Properties

We have a new sign out by the road. Plans to begin worship center stage extension in March.

Office

Website Maintenance site has been updated and will be maintained weekly.

Social Media our Face Book page is www.facebook.com/hop covenantchurch Updates and inspiring messages are posted.

Graphic Design Announcement slides and graphics are now being designed each week.

Other Reports

Dillons Community Rewards In 2015 we enrolled to be a recipient of this program for non-profits. We've had 56 families participate and received over \$1100 towards our benevolence fund. We are continuing this FREE program and encourage each family to sign up and make sure you select Hope Covenant Church in El Dorado as your organization. If you need help signing up – please contact Heather in the office or any Leadership Team member for assistance!

Benevolence Fund was designed to assist our Hope Families in need as well as some community needs. This fund will continue to grow with the Dillons Community Rewards program.

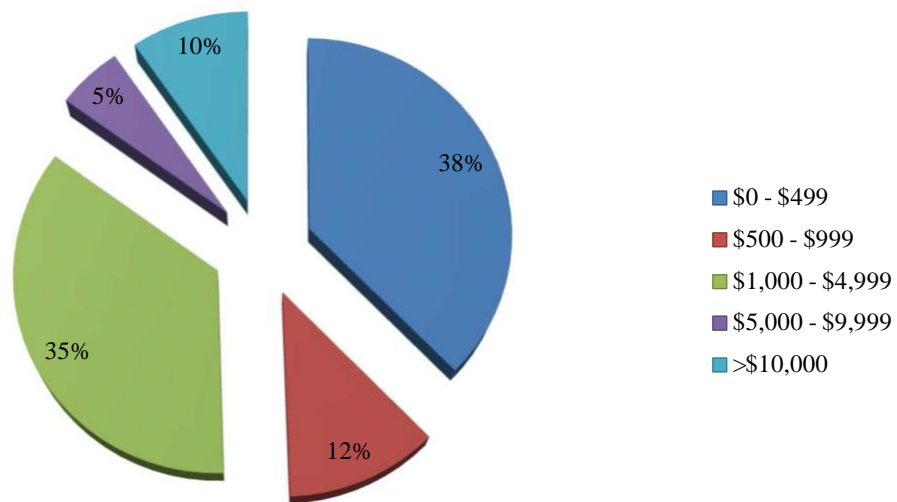
Hope Covenant Church
Budget vs. Actuals
January thru December, 2020

	2020 Year End		
	Actual	Budget	Remaining
Income			
Registrations & Reimbursements	\$50.00	\$0.00	(\$50.00)
Restricted Receipts	\$20,553.88	\$0.00	(\$20,553.88)
Tithes And Offerings	\$263,366.66	\$319,761.11	\$56,394.45
Transfer from Savings	\$36,509.26	\$0.00	(\$36,509.26)
Total Income	\$320,479.80	\$319,761.11	(\$718.69)
Gross Profit	\$320,479.80	\$319,761.11	(\$718.69)
Expenses			
Administrative Expenses	\$4,093.94	\$10,700.00	\$6,606.56
Covenant Partnerships	\$34,294.50	\$31,976.11	(\$2,318.39)
Facility Expenses	\$93,509.61	\$104,225.00	\$10,715.39
Ministry Expenses	\$10,940.57	\$15,300.00	\$4,359.43
Office Expenses	\$1,191.73	\$7,300.00	\$6,108.27
Personnel Expenses	\$135,538.49	\$152,960.00	\$17,421.51
Transfer to Savings	\$25,743.56	\$0.00	(\$25,743.56)
Total Expenditures	\$308,469.90	\$322,461.11	\$13,991.21
Net Operating Revenue	\$12,009.90	(\$2,700.00)	(\$14,709.90)
Other Revenue			
Interest Earned	\$16.28	\$0.00	(\$16.28)
Total Other Revenue	\$16.28	\$0.00	(\$16.28)
Other Expenditures			
Benevolence Distributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Other Revenue	\$16.28	\$0.00	(\$16.28)
Net Revenue	\$12,026.18	(\$2,700.00)	(\$14,726.18)

Giving Analysis - January thru December 2020						
	\$0 - \$499	\$500 - \$999	\$1,000 - \$4,999	\$5,000 - \$9,999	>\$10,000	Total
Total \$	\$ 4,904.76	\$ 8,114.86	\$ 87,152.41	\$ 34,203.00	\$ 132,941.91	\$ 267,316.94
% of Total	1.83%	3.04%	32.60%	12.79%	49.73%	100.00%
# of Givers	35	11	33	5	9	93
% of Total	37.63%	11.83%	35.48%	5.38%	9.68%	100.00%
Avg. \$ per Hshld per year	\$ 140.14	\$ 737.71	\$ 2,640.98	\$ 6,840.60	\$ 14,771.32	
Avg. \$ per Hshld per month	\$ 11.68	\$ 61.48	\$ 220.08	\$ 570.05	\$ 1,230.94	

# of Givers less than \$200	26
% of Total	28%

# of First Time Givers in 2020	24
% of Total	26%



2021 Proposed Budget

	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	% Difference
Income			
Tithes And Offerings	\$319,761.11	\$289,086.84	90%
Total Income	\$319,761.11	\$289,086.84	90%
Expenses			
Administrative Expenses	\$8,000.00	\$4,500.00	56%
Covenant Partnerships	\$31,976.11	\$14,454.34	45%
Savings	\$0.00	\$14,454.34	
Facility Expenses	\$104,225.00	\$95,603.16	92%
Ministry Expenses	\$15,300.00	\$9,050.00	59%
Office Expenses	\$7,300.00	\$3,000.00	41%
Personnel Expenses	\$152,960.00	\$148,025.00	97%
Total Expenses	\$319,761.11	\$289,086.84	90%
Net Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	

	Household Giving Breakdown - 2021					
	\$0 - \$499	\$500 - \$999	\$1,000 - \$4,999	\$5,000 - \$9,999	>\$10,000	Total
Total \$	\$ 5,319.20	\$ 8,788.24	\$ 94,242.31	\$ 36,974.21	\$ 143,762.89	\$ 289,086.84
% of Total	1.84%	3.04%	32.60%	12.79%	49.73%	100.00%
# of Giving Households	36	11	34	5	9	95
% of Total	37.89%	11.58%	35.79%	5.26%	9.47%	100.00%
Avg. \$ per Hshld per year	\$ 147.76	\$ 798.93	\$ 2,771.83	\$ 7,394.84	\$ 15,973.65	
Avg. \$ per Hshld per month	\$ 12.31	\$ 66.58	\$ 230.99	\$ 616.24	\$ 1,331.14	