

New Hope OPC Chronology regarding Charges against Mr. Jason Rundell

TimeLine

1. **Aug 15, 2019:** Geneva Commons (GC) posts by members that they warned churches and called Machen Center, also posting on Facebook and Machen homepage warning that Mrs. Byrd would be speaking at Machen (Doc 10, 11).
2. **Oct. 2, 2019:** Mrs. Byrd receives screenshots of critical and unseemly postings from someone in GC. Mrs. Byrd becomes concerned that Mr. Rundell has been aware of negative postings related to her and has not let her know.
3. **Oct 9, 2019:** Mrs. and Mr. Byrd met with Mr. VanDelden to lay out their concerns about Mr. Rundell and determine what should be done.
4. **Nov 2, 2019:** Mr. Myers and Mr. VanDelden met with Mr. Rundell to discuss Mrs. Byrd's concerns with him and see where he was with them.
5. **Nov 5, 2019:** First meeting with Mrs. Byrd and Mr. Rundell, with Mr. Byrd and Mr. VanDelden present, where Mrs. Byrd confronted (laid out her concerns to) Mr. Rundell.
6. **Nov 19, 2019:** Mr. Myers and Mr. VanDelden met with Mr. Rundell to further discuss Mrs. Byrd's concerns.
7. **Nov 29, 2019:** Mr. Rundell met with Mr. VanDelden to discuss where he was in preparation for meeting with Mrs. Byrd.
8. **Late 2019:** A call for plans to take offensive and defensive measures against Mrs. Byrd's book were posted on GC which Mr. Rundell saw (Doc 12).
9. **Dec 10, 2019:** Second meeting with Mrs. Byrd and Mr. Rundell, with Mr. Byrd, Mr. VanDelden, and Mr. Myers present, for Mr. Rundell to ask forgiveness and speak to Mrs. Byrd's concerns. Mr. Rundell states he saw warnings about Mrs. Byrd (Doc 10), offensive and defensive measures (Doc 12), and offensive comments (Doc 11, 13).
10. **Jan 4, 2020:** Mr. Myers and Mr. VanDelden met with Mr. Rundell to address what they saw as lacking in Mr. Rundell's shepherding, and eldering.
11. **Jan 7, 2020:** Stated Session meeting where Session spent some time expressing concerns to Mr. Rundell about his character and shepherding.
12. **Jan 14, 2020:** Mr. VanDelden met personally with Mr. Rundell and Mrs. Rundell, to ask forgiveness for not raising concerns earlier, and to ask Mr. Rundell to take a sabbatical.
13. **Jan 15, 2020:** Called Session meeting where Session spent a significant amount of time expressing concerns about Mr. Rundell's character and shepherding directly to him. Session asks Mr. Rundell to take a sabbatical/step back from all eldering duties.

14. **Jan 25, 2020:** Called Session meeting to hear Mr. Rundell's answer to stepping back/sabbatical, to which he agreed; Session spent most of this meeting expressing concerns about Mr. Rundel's character and shepherding directly to him.
15. **Jan 26, 2020 around 8am:** Session receives a notice via text message from Mr. Rundell that he rescinds his acceptance of the sabbatical, and that he will take a week to consider whether or not he should resign.
16. **Jan 26, 2020:** Mr. Rundell begins to absent himself from worship services (Doc 8, 9).
17. **Jan 30, 2020:** Mr. VanDelden sends a personal letter to Mr. and Mrs. Rundell which, in part, addresses concerns of shepherding and character.
18. **Feb 4, 2020:** Stated Session meeting where Session agreed to send a letter to Mr. Rundell detailing their concerns with his shepherding and character, seeking his cooperation with the problems session identified, or recommending him to resign (Doc 4). The letter is sent **Feb 6, 2020**.
19. **Feb 12, 2020:** Mr. Myers, Mr. Dennis Caruso, Mr. Joel Poortenga, Mr. VanDelden meet with Mr. and Mrs. Rundell at their home to clarify his willingness to step back, among other things.
20. **Feb 15, 2020:** Called Session meeting where Session voted to accept Mr. Rundell's response to step back.
21. **Feb 25, 2020:** Session requests Mr. Rundell to write out his concerns with Session's errors in policy/procedure, and to read a book and respond to it (Doc 5); both requests were unanswered.
22. **Mar 4, 2020:** Mr. VanDelden, on behalf of Session, asks Mr. Rundell to meet with Session on March 14th to respond to questions prepared by Session (Doc 7).
23. **Mar 9, 2020:** Mr. Rundell responds that March 14th does not work. Mr. VanDelden asks for a "few Saturdays or Tuesdays that work" but receives no reply (Doc 7).
24. **Mar 15, 2020:** Called Session meeting answering communications, Covid-19, Backstory, preparation of questions to ask Mr. Rundell.
25. **Mar 25, 2020:** Complaint against New Hope Session by Mr. Rundell received.
26. **Mar 26, 2020:** Called Session meeting to deal with Backstory, Complaint, talk about errors Session may have made.
27. **April 7, 2020:** Stated Session meeting about how to respond to the Complaint.
28. **April 8, 2020:** The Backstory is mailed out via USPS to the congregation (Doc 2).
29. **April 18, 2020:** Called Session meeting to write a response to the Complaint, also voted to begin the process of divestiture against Mr. Rundell.

30. +/- **April 21, 2020:** Mr. Rundell shares The Backstory and other information with non-New Hope officer who posts it on his website along with his own comments (Doc 3).
31. **April 22, 2020:** Mr. Rundell sends personal email to members and regular attenders of New Hope defending himself, delineating grievances with Session, explaining concerns with Session's response to his complaint (Doc 1). He invites congregants to write to him with concerns.
32. **May 5, 2020:** At this Stated Session meeting Session heard Mr. Rundell's defense to continue in office -and each member asked Mr. Rundell to resign.
33. **May 5, 2020:** At this Stated Session meeting Mr. Rundell states that he cannot sit under Mr. VanDelden's preaching or take communion from him.
34. **May 9, 2020:** Called Session meeting where Session requested an ad hoc committee of presbytery to review 5 points of concern related to Mr. Rundell's complaint, and to move forward with divestiture.
35. **May 15, 2020:** Mr. Wise, clerk of Session, receives notification from Mr. Rundell that he will carry forward his complaint on appeal to presbytery.
36. **August 30, 2020:** Mr. Rundell's "stepping back" ends.
37. **September 19, 2020:** Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic takes up Mr. Rundell's complaint brought forward on appeal. Mr. Rundell fails to answer clearly a question about attending New Hope.
38. **Sept 26, Oct 4, 2020:** Mr. Rundell worships in person again.
39. **Oct 4, 2020:** During worship Session apologizes for its error and owns the consequences of its actions.