

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 7:20 pm in the lounge of the church located at 508 Franklin Ave. in Grand Haven, Michigan. This meeting following the annual elders/deacons dinner meeting. The clerk, Bill Bussell, determined a quorum was present. Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon called the meeting to order.
2. **Attendance:**
  - 2.1. Elders Present: Carroll Bennink, Bill Blessing, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Sandie Enders, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, Keith Konarska, Andrew LeFurge, Paul McNergney, Katie Neitring, Abe Overway, Carrie Rivette, Rick Skodack, Michele Smith, Alishia Terrill, and Sue VandenBosch.
  - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Jack Jansma, Nancy Levenburg, John Nametz, and Tina Vander Wall.
  - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
  - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: None.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Hauser Brydon read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's essay "We Are Beggars" and then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
  - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the April 10, 2017 meeting docket with two additions.
  - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved the March 6, 2017 session meeting minutes with one correction.
  - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the March 2017 membership report.
  - 4.4. The clerk had no correspondence to share.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report  
March 2017**

<b>Membership as of February 28, 2017</b>	788
Deaths:	2
New Members Received:	0
Restored to Active Roll:	0
Removed from Active Roll:	0
Transferred from Active to Inactive Roll:	0
Transferred by Letter	0

**Membership as of March 31, 2017** **786**

Additional Registers	Member #	Notes
<b>Baptisms:</b>		
2/12/2017 Karalynn Beverly Shepherd, daughter of Chad & Brynn Shepherd	1	Rev. Jill VanderWal
<b>Deaths:</b>		
2/3/2017 Helen LaVercombe	4149	Rev. Scott Stanley
3/6/2017 Fern Mastenbrook	1676	Rev. Jill VanderWal

**Communion Served:** 8:45 & 11 a.m.  
3/5/2017

**Home Communion:**

Harvey Beute	Sue Roper	Sandy Teunis
Sandy Beute	Jim Swart	Norma Vyn
Sue McClellan	Flo Sluiter	Gerry Van Stratt
Marie Pfeiffer	Edie Swart	Carol Winton

- 5. **Committee of Focus** – Because of the annual elders/deacons dinner meeting, there was no committee of focus or faith biography.
- 6. **Joys and Concerns** – In the order of their FPC year of membership, session members shared why they joined this church, what is important to them, and why they remain members.
- 7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:
  - 7.1. Andrew stated that total cash as of the end of February approximated \$300,000. February’s revenues were roughly \$10,500 below budget but recovered in March. As of the end of February, Mission expenditures were well below budget.

Financial Recap as of February 2017:

	<u>Feb. Actual</u>	<u>Feb. Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund Revenues	\$50,581	\$62,000	\$152,918	\$164,000
General Fund Expenses	\$60,521	\$64,912	\$146,036	\$159,343
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$52,638	\$55,638	\$114,264	\$112,176
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$52,837	\$54,731	\$103,455	\$110,952

- 7.2. Upon motion and support, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted.
- 8. **Omnibus Motion:** Upon motion and support, the following written committee reports were accepted by omnibus motion:
  - 8.1. Adult Education minutes of March 14, 2017
  - 8.2. Board of Deacons minutes of March 27, 2017.
  - 8.3. Children’s minutes of March 14, 2017.
  - 8.4. Generosity minutes of March 14, 2017.
  - 8.5. Mission minutes of March 20, 2017 and February 20, 2017.
  - 8.6. Nominations minutes of March 15, 2017.
  - 8.7. Worship Minutes of March 21, 2017.
- 9. **Committee Reports withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
  - 9.1. Hospitality: Sandie Enders reporting:
    - 9.1.1. Sandie discussed planned hospitality following Rev. Hauser Brydon’s installation service on May 28, 2017. She is seeking assistance from all elders for planning and execution.
  - 9.2. Joyful Noise Board: Andrew LeFurge reporting:
    - 9.2.1. Andrew distributed copies of the board’s February 21, 2017 meeting notes. Andrew also commented on the March 15 literacy event held at Loutit Library. The meeting notes cited several events going through the summer.
  - 9.3. Trustees Committee: Rick Skodack reporting:
    - 9.3.1. Upon motion, session approved Jason Cotton and Julie Reenders to serve as non-elders on the Trustees Committee. Because of job commitments, Tom Lentz and Brad Sahr are stepping away from this committee.
    - 9.3.2. Upon motion, session approved closing the Refugee Resettlement checking account and transferring the balance to the Mission Fund.
  - 9.4. Youth Committee: Katie Neitring reporting:
    - 9.4.1. Katie thanked the committees for preparing gift baskets for the upcoming youth dinner/auction. She stated that the funds raised will go towards this summer’s youth trips.
  - 9.5. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of Hospitality, Joyful Noise, Trustees, and Youth.
- 10. **Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business was on the docket and none was discussed.

**11. New Business:**

- 11.1. Three elders volunteered to assist with Maundy Thursday communion.
- 11.2. Upon motion and support, session authorized the April 30, 2017 baptism of Vivien Lee Johnson, child of Travis and Kaylee (nee Goldman) Johnson.
- 11.3. Rev. Hauser Brydon explained the importance of our connectivity to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan and that it is important that our three delegate slots represent our congregation at presbytery meetings. Upcoming meetings are:
  - o Tuesday, June 13, 2017 in Buchanan, Michigan
  - o Saturday, September 9, 2017 in Jackson, Michigan
  - o Tuesday, December 5, 2017 in Mason, MichiganMeeting dates for 2018 are:
  - o March 17, 2018
  - o June 12, 2018
  - o September 15, 2018
  - o December 4, 2018
- 11.4. When queried, Trustees reported no actions, decisions, and/or recommendations have been made regarding the TCM building.

**12. Moderator's Comments** – Rev. Hauser Brydon reporting:

- 12.1. New member classes will be held on May 7, 14, and 21. Rev. Hauser Brydon is trying to determine the optimal committee to oversee new member responsibilities.
- 12.2. Rev. Hauser Brydon expressed his desire to retain Rev. Scott Stanley as the Parish Associate. Session concurred with this.
- 12.3. Rev. Hauser Brydon stated that the staff is “praying through the church directory” at the weekly staff meeting. Members are then mailed a card advising them of the staff’s prayers.

**13. Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. Jill VanderWal reporting:

- 13.1. Rev. VanderWal is seeking elders to attend TCM's annual benefit dinner at Spring Lake Country Club on May 6, 2017. Elders are encouraged to notify Rev. VanderWal if they are able to attend.
- 13.2. She also shared her observations of Central Wesleyan Church's (in Holland) recently constructed climbing wall.

**14. Closing Thoughts** – Rev. Hauser Brydon shared tenets that serve sessions and their churches:

- 14.1. Never surprise the session.
- 14.2. We may disagree, but we must love each other. Sessions must demonstrate unity.
- 14.3. Lead by example.
- 14.4. Prefer to have session meetings last no more than ninety minutes.

**15. Action Items Recap:**

- 15.1. Approved the April 10, 2017 meeting docket with two additions.
- 15.2. Approved the March 6, 2017 session meeting minutes with one correction.
- 15.3. Approved the March 2017 membership report.
- 15.4. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
- 15.5. Under omnibus motion, accepted the following written reports: Adult Education, Board of Deacons, Children, Generosity, Mission, Nominations, and Worship.
- 15.6. Approved Jason Cotton and Julie Reenders to serve on Trustees as non-elders.
- 15.7. Approved closing the Refugee Resettlement checking account, transferring the balance to Mission Fund.
- 15.8. Accepted Hospitality, Joyful Noise, Trustees, and Youth's written reports.
- 15.9. Adjourned the meeting.

- 16. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 8:30 pm with a closing prayer by Rev. Hauser Brydon. The next scheduled meeting is May 1, 2017 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell  
Clerk of Session