

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, October 11, 2017, at 7 pm in the lounge of the church located at 508 Franklin Ave. in Grand Haven, Michigan. The clerk, Bill Bussell, determined a quorum was present. Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon called the meeting to order.
2. **Attendance:**
 - 2.1. Elders Present: Bill Blessing, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Sandie Enders, John Heritage, Jack Jansma, Keith Konarska, Andrew LeFurge, Paul McNergney, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, Abe Overway, Carrie Rivette, Michele Smith, Alishia Terrill, Sue VandenBosch, and Tina Vander Wall.
 - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Carroll Bennink, Megan Hayes, Nancy Levenburg, and Rick Skodack.
 - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
 - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: None.
 - 2.5. Others Present: David Gritter.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Hauser Brydon read passages from the book of Matthew and chapter six in The Divine Conspiracy and then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
 - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the October 2, 2017 meeting docket with one addition and one deletion.
 - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved the September 11, 2017 session meeting minutes with two corrections.
 - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the September 2017 membership report.
 - 4.4. No correspondence was presented to the session.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report
September 2017**

Membership as of August 31, 2017	791
Deaths:	1
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 September 30, 2017	790

Additional Registers	Member #	Notes
Deaths:	1	
9/8/2017 Sam George	4698	
Communion Served: 9/3/2017		8:45 & 11 a.m. Services
Home Communion:		9/3/2017
Harvey Beute	John Planteroth	Gerry VanStratt
Sandy Beute	Jan Planteroth	Carol Winton
Barb Casemier	Marie Pfeiffer	Evelyn Wood
Norma Vyn	Flo Sluiter	Connie VanGelderen

5. **Committee of Focus** – Katie Neitring reviewed the Youth Committee’s goals, activities, challenges, and upcoming events.
 - 5.1. Visioning – Following session’s September meeting, Pastor Hauser Brydon emailed a copy of a document entitled “Greener FPGH Earth Care Committee Charter” to session. It was also included in this month’s meeting packet. Sandie Enders introduced David Gritter who explained the goals of this proposed committee. These goals are under four captions: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Its initial goals include: listen for more opportunities, prepare formal recommendations, and communicate what we are currently doing to make FPGH more “green”. Our denomination has a formal “Earth Care Congregations” program which has many useful resources. David does not anticipate moving immediately to become an “Earth Care Congregation”. Upon motion and support, session approved the charter. This committee, to be known as “Greener FPGH”, will be positioned under Trustees, much like Community Artist Series is positioned under Worship. David excused himself from the session meeting.
6. **Treasurer’s Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:
 - 6.1. Andrew advised that August year-to-date revenues are very close to budget.
 - 6.2. While year-to-date expenses are less than budgeted, he reminded us that Missions has not expended all of its anticipated third quarter distributions.

Financial Recap as of August 2017:

	<u>Aug. Actual</u>	<u>Aug. Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund Revenues	\$70,816	\$74,000	\$601,537	\$600,000
General Fund Expenses	\$60,835	\$70,951	\$581,274	\$605,175
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$63,092	\$55,638	\$492,373	\$471,791
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$54,711	\$55,853	\$435,265	\$463,932

- 6.3. Upon motion and support, session accepted the Treasurer’s report.
7. **Omnibus Motion:** Upon motion and support, the following written committee reports were accepted by omnibus motion:
 - 7.1. Adult Education minutes of September 12, 2017.
 - 7.2. Board of Deacons minutes of September 25, 2017.
 - 7.3. Children’s minutes of September 12, 2017.
 - 7.4. Hospitality minutes of September 17, 2017.
 - 7.5. Joyful Noise Advisory Board minutes of September 17, 2017.
 - 7.6. Mission minutes of August 21, 2017, and September 18, 2017.
 - 7.7. Nominations minutes of September 19, 2017.
 - 7.8. Worship minutes of September 19, 2017.
 - 7.9. Youth minutes of September 12, 2017 distributed at the meeting.
8. **Committee Reports withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
 - 8.1. Personnel Committee: Bill Blessing reporting:
 - 8.1.1. Upon motion, session approved incorporating a two percent wage increase in the 2018 budget for non-ordained staff.
 - 8.1.2. Bill also shared that current wages are comparable to other similarly sized churches.
 - 8.1.3. The committee plans to implement a more systematic way to evaluate positions.
 - 8.2. Trustees: John Nametz reporting:
 - 8.2.1. Upon motion, session approved taking the Omega Fund’s 2017 annual distribution from Grand Haven Area Community Foundation in the amount of \$10,138.
 - 8.2.2. John provided a synopsis of the 2018 budget draft included in this month’s session packet. This budget includes the two percent wage increase (see paragraph 8.1.1 above) and budgeting Mission expenditures at ten percent of congregational giving.

- 8.2.3. Kelli Jullie is compiling information, specifications, and quotations for the possible replacement of the church's telephone system.
- 8.2.4. November 6 through 11 are the dates for the church campus fall clean-up.
- 8.3. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of Personnel and Trustees.
9. **Unfinished Business:**
- 9.1. Follow discussion, motion, and support, session approved adopting the "Session Covenant" document which was initially presented and discussed at its September 11 meeting.
10. **New Business:**
- 10.1. Upon motion and support, the session approved calling a special congregation meeting on November 12, 2017, at 10am for the purpose of electing elders and deacons.
- 10.2. Abe Overway asked elders to consider a monetary holiday gift for the World Vision child session sponsors.
11. **Moderator's Comments** – Rev. Hauser Brydon reporting:
- 11.1. Elders were asked to submit committee assignment preferences for the upcoming year.
- 11.2. He distributed copies of the stewardship brochure and pledge card which were mailed on this date.
- 11.3. He stressed the importance for each elder to pledge.
- 11.4. He reported that officer training will be held on November 10 and 11. Current elders are encouraged to attend these sessions.
12. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. Jill VanderWal reporting:
- 12.1. Rev. VanderWal stated that over eighty people will be attending this year's all church retreat.
- 12.2. She referred the elders to her written report.
13. **Action Items Recap:**
- 13.1. Approved the October 2, 2017 meeting docket with one addition and one deletion.
- 13.2. Approved the September 11, 2017 session meeting minutes with two corrections.
- 13.3. Approved the September, 2017 membership report.
- 13.4. Approved the charter of the "Greener FPGH" committee.
- 13.5. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
- 13.6. Under omnibus motion, accepted the following written reports: Adult Education, Deacons, Children's, Hospitality, Joyful Noise, Mission, Nominations, Worship, and Youth.
- 13.7. Approved incorporating a two percent wage increase for non-ordained staff in the 2018 budget.
- 13.8. Approved taking 2017's annual distribution from the Omega Fund held at GHACF.
- 13.9. Approved adopting the Session Covenant.
- 13.10. Approved calling a special congregational meeting on November 12, 2017.
- 13.11. Adjourned the meeting.
14. **Adjournment:** The session adjourned at 8:20 pm with a closing prayer by Rev. Hauser Brydon. The next scheduled meeting is November 6, 2017 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell
Clerk of Session