

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, December 5, 2016, at 7:05 pm in the lounge of the church located at 508 Franklin Street in Grand Haven, Michigan. The clerk, Bill Bussell, determined a quorum was present. Rev. Linda Male called the meeting to order.
2. **Attendance:**
  - 2.1. Elders Present: Bill Blessing, Lee Brink, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Jack Jansma, Keith Konarska, Andrew LeFurge, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, Keli Olson, Carrie Rivette, Tim Stoepker, and Sue VandenBosch.
  - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Sandie Enders, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, Brigitte Kemink, Nancy Levenburg, Abe Overway, Craig Seaver, and Alishia Terrill.
  - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Linda Male and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
  - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: None.
  - 2.5. Guest Present: Elder elect Paul McNergney.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Male read an essay titled "Advent in the Dark" and then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **TCM House Brainstorming:** Andrew LeFurge facilitated a time of "brainstorming" to identify potential future uses for the TCM property. The ideas will be integrated into the list developed at the congregation's brainstorming meeting on November 13, 2016.
5. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
  - 5.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the December 5, 2016 meeting docket after noting two corrections and one addition to new business.
  - 5.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its November 7, 2016 session meeting minutes with two corrections.
  - 5.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the November 13, 2016 congregational meeting minutes with one correction.
  - 5.4. Upon motion and support, session approved the November 2016 membership report.
  - 5.5. The clerk shared 2017's proposed session meeting schedule.
  - 5.6. The clerk had no correspondence to share.

First Presbyterian Church Membership Report  
November 2016

<b>Membership as of October 31, 2016</b>	799
Deaths:	1
New Members Received:	0
Restored to Active Roll:	0
Removed from Active Roll:	0
Transferred from Active to Inactive Roll:	5
Transferred by Letter	0
<b>Membership as of November 30, 2016</b>	<b>793</b>

Additional Registers			Member #	Notes
	<b>Marriages:</b>			
11/19/2016	Lauren(Pofahl) and Clark Baker			#2016-1717, Rev. Jill VanderWal
	<b>Deaths:</b>		<b>1</b>	
11/10/2016	Ruth Mastenbrook		2019	Rev. Jill VanderWal, 11/15/2016
	<b>Membership Losses:</b>		<b>5</b>	
11/7/2016	Kim Arians		5196	adult child of member moved to inactive in Sept
	Ken Kenrick		5623	adult child of member moved to inactive in Sept
	Bill Kenrick		5344	adult child of member moved to inactive in Sept
	Richard Rutherford		5703	Transferred to SL Presbyterian
	Carol Rutherford		5704	Transferred to SL Presbyterian
<b>Communion:</b>	8:45 & 11 a.m. Service			
11/6/2016				
<b>Home Communion: 11/6/2016</b>				
Harvey Beute	Laurel Hendrick	Flo Sluiter	Carol Winton	
Sandy Beute	Fern Mastenbrook	Sandy Teunis	Evelyn Wood	
Charlie Davis	Sue McClellan	Jim Teunis	Lynne VanderMeer	
Don Edward	Marie Pfeiffer	Connie VanGeldereren		
Ruth Edward	Sue Roper	Gerry VanStratt		

6. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** John Nametz shared his faith biography.
7. **Shared Joys and Concerns** – The elders shared joys and concerns.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:
  - 8.1. October's revenues of \$67.6K were below budget and it is unlikely that revenues will cover expenses for the year.

Financial Recap as of October 2016:

	<u>Oct. Actual</u>	<u>Oct. Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund Revenues	\$67,585	\$73,500	\$681,753	\$755,946
General Fund Expenses	\$70,069	\$71,760	\$744,571	\$762,857
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$55,498	\$58,300	\$547,990	\$569,582
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$50,782	\$53,118	\$561,673	\$562,861

- 8.2. Upon motion with support, session accepted the Treasurer's Report.
9. **Omnibus Motion:** Upon motion and support, the following written committee reports were accepted by omnibus motion:
  - 9.1. Adult Education minutes of November 15, 2016.
  - 9.2. Board of Deacons minutes of November 28, 2016
  - 9.3. Children's minutes of November 15, 2016.
  - 9.4. Joyful Noise minutes of November 15, 2016 (distributed at the meeting).
  - 9.5. Mission minutes of November 21, 2016.
  - 9.6. Worship minutes of November 15, 2016.
  - 9.7. Youth minutes of November 15, 2016.
10. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
  - 10.1. Hospitality Committee: Because neither Hospitality elder was at the meeting, Bill Bussell highlighted the paragraph in this committee's November 15, 2016 minutes which states that the sermon radio broadcasts will be discontinued at the end of this year.
  - 10.2. Nominations Committee: Neither Nominations elder was present at the meeting.

- 10.2.1. Upon motion, session approved this committee's recommended 2017 committee assignments:
  - Adult Education: Keith Konarska (2018)
  - Children's Ministries: Megan Hayes (2017) and Abe Overway (2018)
  - Generosity: Sue VandenBosch (2017) and Tina VanderWall (2019)
  - Hospitality: Sandie Enders (2019) and Alishia Terrill (2018)
  - Joyful Noise Board: Andrew LeFurge (2018)
  - Mission: Jack Jansma (2019) and Michele Smith (2019)
  - Nominations: John Heritage (2017) and Paul McNergney (2019)
  - Personnel: Nancy Levenburg (2017) and Bill Blessing (2018)
  - Trustees: John Nametz (2017), Rick Skodack (2019), Andrew LeFurge (2018)
  - Worship: Marge Coffey (2018) and Carrie Rivette (2018)
  - Youth: Katie Neitring (2017) and Carroll Bennink (2019)
- 10.2.2. The motion also approved the following nominees to be submitted to the congregation to serve as members-at-large on the church's Nominations Committee in 2017: Dottie Bennink, Bill Bussell, Sally Dunn, and Courtney Ransford.
- 10.3. Personnel Committee: Neither Personnel elder was present. Bill Bussell reporting:
  - 10.3.1. Upon motion, session approved Personnel's recommendation to change the staff's health insurance provider to a Board of Pension's EPO ("Silver") Plan and to change the percentage of employee participation in the cost. Although the employees' percentage increases, their actual payroll deductions decrease due to lower premiums.
  - 10.3.2. Upon motion, session approved reducing Karen Neinhouse's weekly hours from twenty-five to twenty at her request.
  - 10.3.3. These two actions will reduce the church's personnel costs by approximately \$18,500 annually.
- 10.4. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
  - 10.4.1. Then committee's minutes include an updated project list and their status.
  - 10.4.2. Carpet replacement for three classrooms will cost \$7856 and will be paid from the Capital Campaign Fund.
  - 10.4.3. Brotherhood Mutual was selected to carry the church's casualty and liability insurance.
  - 10.4.4. The committee's minutes also includes a report from the November 13 brainstorming about the potential future uses of the TCM property.
  - 10.4.5. Andrew LeFurge discussed the gap between the "dream" expenditure budget and projected 2017 receipts. Each committee is asked to revisit its 2017 budget with a target reduction of 10 to 12 percent in total expenses. Also, the committees are asked to investigate if designated and/or restricted funds under their control can be used for part of their 2017 expenditures.
  - 10.4.6. Lee presented and reviewed a summary list of proposed Standard Practice Bulletin revisions. It was agreed that SPB's 3.2 and 3.4 are not part of tonight's discussion and consideration. Motion to approve the following items from this summary:
    - 10.4.7. Items 1 through 9
    - 10.4.8. Items 11 and 12
    - 10.4.9. The paragraph relating to Alpha Distributions Fund
    - 10.4.10. An amendment was offered to change the Alpha Distributions Fund description to add the words "but are not restricted to special projects and new program start-up costs" to the new text. The amendment was approved and the amended motion was approved.
- 10.5. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of the Hospitality, Nominations, Personnel, and Trustees Committees.

11. **Unfinished Business:** The meeting docket listed “Standard Practices Bulletins” as unfinished business. This was addressed in part by the Trustees in paragraph 10.4.6 above and will be listed again on the January 9, 2017 session meeting docket under unfinished business.
12. **New Business:**
  - 12.1. Elders are reminded that the church office will be asking for committee information to include in the church’s annual report.
  - 12.2. Upon motion and support, session approved the following baptisms:
    - 12.2.1. Cora Grace Corwin, child of Jessica and Cort Corwin, requested for January 2017
    - 12.2.2. Quinn Louise Suchecki, child of Jaclyn and Adam Suchecki for February 2017 (father is not a member)
    - 12.2.3. Elliot Tasker LaVallee, child of Cindy and Chris Tasker LaVallee for December 11, 2017 (father is not a member)
13. **Moderator’s Comments** – Rev. Male reported that planning is complete for the remainder of Advent. While there will be one worship service on December 25, there will be two services on January 1.
14. **Associate Pastor’s Comments** – Rev. VanderWal included a written report in the session packet.
15. **Action Items Recap:**
  - 15.1. Approved the December 5, 2016 meeting docket with two corrections and one addition.
  - 15.2. Approved the November 7, 2016 session meeting minutes with two corrections.
  - 15.3. Approved the November 13, 2016 special congregation meeting minutes with one correction.
  - 15.4. Approved the November 2016 membership report.
  - 15.5. Accepted the Treasurer’s report.
  - 15.6. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees’ written reports: Adult Education, Children’s, Joyful Noise, Worship and Youth committees and the Board of Deacons.
  - 15.7. Approved 2017 session committee assignments.
  - 15.8. Approved nominees to be presented to the congregation to serve on the Nominations Committee in 2017.
  - 15.9. Approved changing staff health insurance to the Board of Pension.
  - 15.10. Approved reducing Karen Neinhouse’s weekly hours at her request.
  - 15.11. Approved changes to the Standard Practices Bulletins, excluding SPBs 3.2 and 3.4.
  - 15.12. Accepted the reports of the Hospitality, Nominations, Personnel, and Trustees Committees.
  - 15.13. Approved the baptisms of Cora Grace Corwin, Quinn Louise Suchecki, and Elliot Tasker LaVallee.
  - 15.14. Adjourned the meeting.
16. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 9:30 pm with the Lord’s Prayer. The next scheduled meeting is January 9, 2017 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell  
Clerk of Session