

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 7:00 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: Marge Coffey, Andrew LeFurge, Matthew Olds, Dianna Sahr, Eric Snyder, Scott Wagasky, Lee Brink, Sandie Enders, Keli Olson, Craig Seaver, Tim Stoeper, Bill Bussell, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, Nancy Levenburg, Katie Neitring, and Sue VandenBosch.
  - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Bill Scott, Jack Jansma, Brigette Kemink, and John Nametz.
  - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Linda Male and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
  - 2.4. Teaching Elder Absent or Excused: None.
  - 2.5. Others Present (Elders Elect): Bill Blessing, Keith Konarska, Abe Overway, and Alisha Terrill.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. VanderWal read excerpts from Isaiah 55. She then led the session in prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
  - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the meeting docket with one correction.
  - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its regular meeting minutes of December 7, 2015 with one correction (a misspelling of a child's name in the Membership Report).
  - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the December 2015 membership report as presented.
  - 4.4. The clerk had no correspondence.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report  
December 2015**

Membership as of November 30, 2015	936
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
<b>Membership as of December 31, 2015</b>	<b>935</b>

**Additional Registers**

	<b>Member #</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Deaths:</b> 1		
12/30/2015 Irving (Chick) Borta	1985	Service 1/4/2016, Rev. Male

**Communion Served:** 12/6/2015 8:45 & 11 a.m. Service

**Home Communion:** 12/6/2015

Chick Borta	Jo Ennenga	Ruth Mastenbrook
Charlie Davis	Les Ennenga	Sue Roper
Don Edward	Helen LaVercombe	LaMar VanHaften
Ruth Edward	Fern Mastenbrook	Gerry VanStratt
Millie Enders	Sue McClellan	Evelyn Wood

1/11/2016 Transfer Membership  
Lori Rose Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church, Hudsonville, MI  
*Approved by January 11, 2016 Session*

5. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** There was no report this month.
6. **Shared Joys and Concerns** – The elders reported on their joys and concerns.
7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:
  - 7.1. Andrew shared that November’s revenue continued to lag behind budget by approximately \$9,000, resulting with year-to-date revenues now approximately \$78,000 below budget. Monthly Mission spending was above budget, but this committee’s expenditures are irregular and will not exceed its annual budget by the end of the fiscal year.
  - 7.2. Expenses continue to track reasonably well with budget.

Data are for November 2015:

	<b>MTD Actual</b>	<b>MTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>
General Fund Revenues	\$69,918	\$78,897	\$770,076	\$847,930
General Fund Expenses	\$78,520	\$72,922	\$839,137	\$870,905
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$51,912	\$52,272	\$624,514	\$628,739
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$54,536	\$52,812	\$640,581	\$618,582

- 7.3. Upon motion with support, session accepted the Treasurer’s Report.
8. **Omnibus Motion:** Upon motion and support, the following written committee reports were accepted by omnibus motion:
  - 8.1. Adult Education minutes of December 8, 2015.
  - 8.2. Board of Deacons minutes of December 21, 2015.
  - 8.3. Children’s Committee minutes of December 8, 2015
  - 8.4. Hospitality Committee minutes of December 15, 2015.
  - 8.5. Mission Committee minutes of November 16, 2015.
  - 8.6. Mission Committee minutes of December 28, 2015.
  - 8.7. Nominating Committee minutes of December 15, 2015.
  - 8.8. Personnel Committee minutes of December 8, 2015.
  - 8.9. Youth Committee minutes of December 8, 2015.
9. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
  - 9.1. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
    - 9.1.1. Upon motion from this committee’s minutes of December 21, it was moved to adopt a 2016 expense budget of \$929,000 with \$81,000 coming from Alpha Fund distributions and \$12,200 from the Children’s Designated Fund. There was a lengthy discussion about the continued use of Alpha Fund distributions to support the church’s operating expenses. In addition, the Children’s Committee questioned the use of their designated funds without communicating with them in advance to cover that committee’s budgeted expenses. As a result, action on the 2016 budget is deferred (in effect, the motion was tabled) to a special session meeting scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7 pm.
  - 9.2. Worship Committee: Marge Coffey reporting:
  - 9.3. Upon motion and support, the session approved the addition of two non-elder members to serve on the Worship Committee: Calvin Clark and Harry Nienhouse. They are replacing Diane Carter and Ron Mass.
  - 9.4. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of the Trustees and Worship Committees.
10. **Unfinished Business:** There is no unfinished business.
11. **New Business**
  - 11.1. Matt Olds, chair of the Nominating Committee, advised that this committee anticipates finalizing its recommended PNC nominees so that they can be elected at the upcoming annual meeting on January 31.

- 11.2. Rev. VanderWal discussed conducting a survey that will assist the PNC in assessing “where the congregation is.” Upon motion and support, session authorized a survey to equip the PNC with the information they need to have an informed and optimal start.

**Moderator’s Comments** – Rev. Male reporting:

- 11.3. Rev. Male requested on vacation for May 11 through May 13. Upon motion and support, Rev. Male’s vacation request was approved.
- 11.4. Associate Pastor’s Comments – Rev. VanderWal had no report.

**12. Action Items Recap:**

- 12.1. Approved the January 11, 2016 meeting docket with one correction.
- 12.2. Approved regular session meeting minutes of December 7, 2015 with one correction.
- 12.3. Approved the December 2015 membership report.
- 12.4. Accepted the Treasurer’s report.
- 12.5. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees’ written reports: Adult Education, Board of Deacons, Children’s, Hospitality, Mission, Nominating, Personnel, and Youth.
- 12.6. Tabled the proposed 2016 budget until a special session meeting on January 25, 2016.
- 12.7. Approved Calvin Clark and Harry Nienhouse to serve on the Worship Committee.
- 12.8. Accepted the Trustees and Worship Committees reports.
- 12.9. Approved conducted a congregational survey to equip the upcoming PNC.
- 12.10. Approved Rev. Male’s vacation request for May 11 through May 13.
- 12.11. Adjourned the meeting.

13. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 8:30 pm with the Lord’s Prayer. The next scheduled meetings are: January 25, 2016 (special session re: 2016 budget) and February 1, 2016 (regular session meeting). Both meetings will come to order at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell  
Clerk of Session