

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, September 12, 2016, at 7 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, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Sandie Enders, John Heritage, Jack Jansma, Keith Konarska, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, Keli Olson, Abe Overway, Carrie Rivette, Craig Seaver, Alishia Terrill, and Sue VandenBosch.
 - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Lee Brink, Megan Hayes, Brigitte Kemink, Andrew LeFurge, Nancy Levenburg, and Tim Stoepker.
 - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Linda Male and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
 - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: None.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Male read excerpts from a book titled The Church Transforming by Michael Jenkins and then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
 - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the September 12, 2016 meeting docket.
 - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its August 8, 2016 session meeting minutes subject to the insertion of the June/July 2016 membership report.
 - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the August 2016 membership report with two corrections.
 - 4.4. Upon motion and support, session approved the transfer of Bud Ainsworth to Spring Lake Presbyterian Church.
 - 4.5. Rev. VanderWal reported on the membership review process she, elders Carrie Rivette and Abe Overway, and the office staff conducted starting in May 2016. Rev. VanderWal responded to various questions. Upon motion and support, session approved changing the membership status to "Other Participant" for 138 individuals.
 - 4.6. The clerk had no correspondence.

First Presbyterian Church Membership Report
August 2016

Membership as of July 31, 2016	943
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	1
Membership as of August 31, 2016	941

		Member #	Notes
Additional Registers			
	Deaths:	1	
8/2/2016	Janet Boer	2241	
	Membership Losses:	1	
8/8/2016	Matt Bussell	4725	Transfer to Pittsburg Presbytery

Communion Served: 8:45 & 10:30 a.m. Service 8/7/2016
Home Communion: 8/7/2016
 Harvey Beute Laurel Hendrick Ethel Slover Connie VanGelderren
 Sandy Beute Ruth Mastenbrook Flo Sluiter Carol Winton
 Charlie Davis Sue McClellan Edie Swart
 Don Edward Muriel Mersereau Jim Swart
 Ruth Edward Sue Roper Norma Vyn

September 12, 2016 Session: Upon motion and support, session approved changing the membership status to "Other Participant" for 138 individuals.

- 5. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** John Nametz reviewed the Trustees' primary responsibilities and a listing of their 2016 accomplishments to date.
- 6. **Shared Joys and Concerns –** The elders shared their joys and concerns in groupings of two/three.
- 7. **Treasurer's Report:** John Nametz reporting:
 - 7.1. John reviewed the July 2016 financial reports:
 - 7.1.1. Year-to-date income is now approximately \$55,000 below budget.
 - 7.1.2. Year-to-date expenses are approximately \$20,000 below budget with most of this attributed to unexpended Mission budgeted amounts (\$13,000).

Financial Recap as of July 2016:

	<u>July Actual</u>	<u>July Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund Revenues	\$59,707	\$66,534	\$485,811	\$540,800
General Fund Expenses	\$97,111	\$92,960	\$527,416	\$547,578
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$44,552	\$60,675	\$383,289	\$388,702
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$75,330	\$77,184	\$402,934	\$401,655

- 7.2. John also discussed the challenges that the church will likely face with the 2017 budget. He passed out a document that displayed past financial results, 2016 full year projection, and 2017 budget requests.
- 7.3. Sue VandenBosch then discussed Generosity Committee's planning for the upcoming 2017 pledges. This committee is preparing a narrative budget. Pledges will be accepted on Sunday, October 30. Hospitality is planning a breakfast for the same Sunday and elders are encouraged to assist with this. Also, all elders are urged to pledge and communicate their intention to pledge (not the amount) to Sue so that she can report that all elders are pledging.
- 7.4. 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. Board of Deacons minutes of August 22, 2016.
 - 8.2. Children's minutes of August 9, 2016.
 - 8.3. Generosity minutes of August 9, 2016.
 - 8.4. Mission minutes of August 15, 2016 (distributed at the meeting).
 - 8.5. Personnel minutes of August 15, 2016.
- 9. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
 - 9.1. Hospitality Committee: Sandy Enders reporting
 - 9.1.1. Upon motion and support, session approved Amy Miller to serve on the Hospitality Committee as a non-elder committee member.
 - 9.2. Trustees Committee: John Nametz reporting:
 - 9.2.1. John reported that the Trustees will not recommend that the church have an external audit at this time. Trustees are seeking volunteers to conduct a financial review.

- 9.2.2. John reported Trustees initially planned to seek session's approval to replace the boiler at the TCM house. Subsequently, Trustee Tom Lenz repaired the boiler. Because TCM will likely occupy this building until the spring of 2017, session was asked to authorize this boiler's replacement should it fail (its failure would likely occur in the winter). Upon motion and support, session authorized Trustees to replace this boiler should it fail.
 - 9.2.3. Upon motion from the committee, session approved the following:
 - 9.2.3.1. Upgrade the wireless technology throughout the building at a cost of \$3,832.
 - 9.2.3.2. Take 2016's annual distributions from the Alpha and Omega Funds held at Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.
 - 9.3. Worship Committee: Marge Coffey reporting:
 - 9.3.1. Upon motion from the committee, session authorized expending \$1,600 from the Memorial Fund for eighty additional hymnals. Prior to voting, Trustees confirmed their support of the use of these funds.
 - 9.3.2. Marge reported that the "act of friendship" pads and covers will be updated in the sanctuary.
 - 9.4. Youth Committee: Katie Neitring reporting:
 - 9.4.1. Katie displayed some of the items now available with the church's updated logo and encouraged the elders to purchase and wear/use these items. The Youth Committee received twenty percent of the sales price as a fundraiser. Several elders spoke highly of the merchandise quality, ease of ordering, and timely delivery.
 - 9.5. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of Hospitality, Trustees, Worship, and Youth Committees.
10. **Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.
11. **New Business**
- 11.1. Rev. Male discussed the upcoming wedding of Lexie Longwell and Phil Bouman on December 10. The couple requested to have communion served at their wedding. Upon motion and support, session authorize serving communion at this wedding with the stipulation that a current elder be present.
 - 11.2. Rev. Male distributed a document which covers the transition of Deacon terms to two years. The document has two scenarios: one for the congregation approving the bylaws change and one for congregation not approving the bylaws change.
12. **Moderator's Comments** – Rev. Male reporting:
- 12.1. Rev. Male is looking for elders (up to three) to attend the September 17 Presbytery meeting in Cadillac.
13. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. VanderWal reporting:
- 13.1. Rev. VanderWal encouraged elders to participate in the all church retreat on October 21-23. An informational meeting will be held on September 18.
14. **Action Items Recap:**
- 14.1. Approved the September 12, 2016 meeting docket.
 - 14.2. Approved the August 8, 2016 session meeting minutes subject to the insertion of the June/July 2016 membership report.
 - 14.3. Approved the August 2016 membership report with two corrections.
 - 14.4. Approved the transfer of Bud Ainsworth to Spring Lake Presbyterian Church.
 - 14.5. Approved changing the membership status to "Other Participant" for 138 individuals.
 - 14.6. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
 - 14.7. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees' written reports: Board of Deacons, Children's, Generosity, Mission, and Personnel.
 - 14.8. Approved adding Amy Miller as a non-elder member of the Hospitality Committee.
 - 14.9. Authorized Trustees to replace the boiler in the TCM house should it fail.

- 14.10. Approved Trustees to expend \$3,832 to upgrade wireless technology throughout the building and to take 2016's annual Alpha and Omega Fund distributions from GHACF.
 - 14.11. Authorized Worship Committee to expend \$1,600 from the Memorial Fund for eighty additional hymnals.
 - 14.12. Authorized serving communion at the December 10, 2016 wedding of Lexie Longwell and Phil Bouman with the stipulation that a current elder be present.
 - 14.13. Adjourned the meeting.
15. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 8:35 pm with the Lord's Prayer. The next scheduled meeting is October 3, 2016 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell
Clerk of Session