

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, September 14, 2015, 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: Marge Coffey, Andrew LeFurge, Matthew Olds, Eric Snyder, Scott Wagasky, Lee Brink, Sandie Enders, Jack Jansma, Brigette Kemink, Keli Olson, Craig Seaver, Tim Stoepker, Bill Bussell, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, and Sue VandenBosch.
 - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Dianna Sahr, Bill Scott, and Nancy Levenburg.
 - 2.3. Teaching Elder Present: Rev. Linda Male and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
 - 2.4. Teaching Elder Absent or Excused: None.
 - 2.5. Others Present: None.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Male read excerpts from Romans 12 using *The Message* as her source and then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
 - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the meeting docket with a few notations.
 - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its regular meeting minutes of August 3, 2015 as presented.
 - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session accepted the August 2015 membership report.

First Presbyterian Church Membership Report
August 2015

Membership as of July 31, 2015	938
Deaths:	0
New Members Received:	0
Restored to Active Roll:	0
Removed from Active Roll:	0
Transferred from Active to Inactive Roll:	0
Transferred by Letter	2

Membership as of August 31, 2015	936
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		Member #		Notes
Additional Registers				
	Marriages:	1		
8/20/2015	Megan Catherine Scholten & Michael Lee Mason	2015-1304		Rev. Scott Stanley
	Baptisms:	1		
8/16/2015	Norah Elizabeth Cook, daughter of Jacob & Sarah Cook			Rev. Linda Male
	Membership Losses:	2		
8/3/2015	Richard Norton			Transfer to Faith Presbyterian, Indianapolis, IN
	Katie Norton			Transfer to Faith Presbyterian, Indianapolis, IN

Communion Served:

8:45 & 10:30 AM Services 8/2/2015

Home Communion:

Chick Borta	Les Ennenga	Gerry VanStratt
Charlie Davis	Jo Ennenga	Carol Winton
Don Edward	Helen LaVercombe	Evelyn Wood
Ruth Edward	Sue McClellan	Steve VanderWall
Louise Edwards	Sue Roper	

- 4.4. The clerk briefly discussed a mailing the church received from a group who disputed the polity and process that General Assembly used in 2014 when it was decided by vote to divest of Israel related investments.
5. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** Keli Olson shared her faith biography.
6. **Shared Joys and Concerns** – The elders reported on their joys and concerns.
7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:
 - 7.1. Andrew was pleased with July’s results in that General Fund revenues were nearly \$33,600 above the month’s budget. Year-to-date revenues are now approximately \$30,000 below budget.
 - 7.2. Expenses continue to track reasonably well with budget.
 - 7.3. Sue VandenBosch (Stewardship Committee chairperson) reported on the Matching Gift’s campaign. With a goal of \$30,000 a total of \$32,203 has been given or pledged through August 31 from 50 individuals or families, of which seven are elders.

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund Revenues	\$98,209	\$64,635	\$515,451	\$545,298
General Fund Expenses	\$75,437	\$93,214	\$567,849	\$579,218
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$53,431	\$53,942	\$406,399	\$403,627
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$77,161	\$66,955	\$422,407	\$408,154

- 7.4. Upon motion with support, session accepted the Treasurer’s Report.
8. **Omnibus Motion:** On motion and support, the following written committee reports were accepted by omnibus motion:
 - 8.1. Adult Education Committee minutes of August 11, 2015.
 - 8.2. Board of Deacons minutes of August 24, 2015.
 - 8.3. Hospitality Committee minutes of August 18, 2015.
 - 8.4. Mission Committee minutes of August 17, 2015.
 - 8.5. Nominating Committee minutes of August 18, 2015.
 - 8.6. Youth Committee minutes of August 11, 2015.
9. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
 - 9.1. Children’s Committee: Megan Hayes reporting:
 - 9.1.1. Upon motion and support, session approved adding the following individuals to the Children’s Committee: Kim Beber, Lynne Bosch, Carrie Ledet, Mary Thorsen, and Rachel Whiting.
 - 9.2. Stewardship Committee: Sue VandenBosch reporting:
 - 9.2.1. Sue gave the final results of this year’s matching gifts campaign which are cited under the Treasurer’s Report above.
 - 9.2.2. This year’s stewardship campaign has the theme of “From Gratitude to Generosity.” Pledge materials will be mailed shortly and Pledge Commitment Sunday is September 27.
 - 9.3. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
 - 9.3.1. Lee distributed worksheets for committees to commence 2016 budget preparation. He would like to have each committee’s input by September 29.
 - 9.3.2. Several committees have not submitted their individual committee’s mission statement and responsibilities.
 - 9.3.3. As required by the Presbytery, Trustees reviewed the church’s insurances and determined that the church is adequately insured.
 - 9.4. Worship Committee: Marge Coffey and Eric Snyder reporting:
 - 9.4.1. As previously reported, sound quality problems persist with contemporary service band. To resolve these issues, the Worship Committee has requested funds for additional training for those using the soundboard.
 - 9.4.2. Upon motion with support, session authorized up to \$3,000 from the Alpha Fund to pay for this training.
 - 9.4.3. Marge also reported on the upcoming pulpit supply.

- 9.5. Upon motion and support, the session accepted the reports of the Children's, Stewardship, Trustees, and Worship Committees.
10. **Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.
11. **New Business**
- 11.1. Upon motion with support, session authorized replacing the authorized signers of the Pastors' Discretionary Fund (#7511365126 at Fifth Third Bank) with Rev. Linda Male, Rev. Jill VanderWal, and Kelli Jullie.
 - 11.2. Upon motion with support, session authorized the baptism of Harper Lena Faris, daughter of John and Kailey Faris.
 - 11.3. Upon motion with support, session authorized Rev. Scott Stanley to officiate at the baptism of Harper Lena Faris, if he is available.
 - 11.4. Upon motion with support, session authorized Sandie Enders to serve as temporary clerk if Bill Bussell is unavailable.
12. **Moderator's Comments** – Rev. Male reporting:
- 12.1. Rev. Male stated that she, Rev. VanderWal, and Bill Bussell would be attending the September 15 Presbytery meeting.
13. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. VanderWal reporting:
- 13.1. Rev. VanderWal expressed her gratitude that Rev. Karin Fowler was able to officiate at two funerals while Rev. Male was on vacation.
 - 13.2. Rev. VanderWal continues to learn member names and learn about the organization.
14. **Action Items Recap:**
- 14.1. Approved the September 14, 2015 meeting docket.
 - 14.2. Approved regular session meeting minutes of August 3, 2015 as presented.
 - 14.3. Accepted the August 2015 membership report.
 - 14.4. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
 - 14.5. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees' written reports: Adult Education, Board of Deacons, Hospitality, Mission, Nominating, and Youth.
 - 14.6. Approved the addition of Kim Beber, Lynne Bosch, Carrie Ledet, Mary Thorsen, and Rachel Whiting to the Children's Committee.
 - 14.7. Approved \$3,000 from the Alpha Fund for sound system/soundboard training.
 - 14.8. Accepted the reports and August 2015 minutes of Children's, Stewardship, Trustees, and Worship Committees.
 - 14.9. Approved replacing the authorized signers on the Pastors' Discretionary Account with Rev. Linda Male, Rev. Jill VanderWal, and Kelli Jullie.
 - 14.10. Authorized the baptism of Harper Lena Faris, daughter of John and Kailey Faris.
 - 14.11. Authorized Rev. Scott Stanley to officiate at the baptism of Harper Lena Faris, if he is available.
 - 14.12. Authorized Sandie Enders to serve as temporary clerk if Bill Bussell is unavailable.
 - 14.13. Adjourned the meeting.
15. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 8:30pm with the Lord's Prayer. The next scheduled meeting is October 5, 2015, at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell
Clerk of Session