

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2016**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, October 3, 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. Jill VanderWal called the meeting to order.
2. **Attendance:**
  - 2.1. Elders Present: Bill Blessing, Lee Brink, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Sandie Enders, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, Jack Jansma, Brigitte Kemink, Keith Konarska, Andrew LeFurge, Katie Neitring, Keli Olson, Abe Overway, Carrie Rivette, Tim Stoepker, Alishia Terrill, and Sue VandenBosch.
  - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: John Nametz, Nancy Levenburg, and Craig Seaver.
  - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Jill VanderWal.
  - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: Rev. Linda Male.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. VanderWal shared observations from author Patrick Lencioi (author of several books including The Ideal Team Player) who spoke at a recent Willow Creek seminar. Rev. VanderWal then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
  - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the October 3, 2016 meeting docket with one new business item addition.
  - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its September 12, 2016 session meeting minutes as presented.
  - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the restoring Lauren Pofahl to the active roll.
  - 4.4. Upon motion and support, session approved the September 2016 membership report.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report  
September 2016**

Membership as of August 31, 2016	940
Deaths:	0
New Members Received:	0
Restored to Active Roll:	0
Removed from Active Roll:	0
Transferred from Active to Inactive Roll:	138
Transferred by Letter	1

**Membership as of September 30, 2016** **801**

Additional Registers	Member #	Notes
<b>Marriages:</b>		<b>0</b>
9/17/2016 Abigail (Ainsworth) and Darryl Delaney	2016-1368	Rev. Jill VanderWal
9/24/2016 Emma (Loding) and Joseph VerDuin	2016-1373	Rev. Jill VanderWal

**Membership Losses: 139**

<b>Communion Served:</b>	8:45 & 11 a.m. Service	9/4/2016	
<b>Home Communion:</b>	9/4/2016		
Harvey Beute	Millie Enders	Norma Vyn	Gerry VanStratt
Sandy Beute	Laurel Hendrick	Sue Roper	Jill Wiersema
Larry Butterworth	Ruth Mastenbrook	Ethel Slover	Carol Winton
Charlie Davis	Fern Mastenbrook	Flo Sluiter	Evelyn Wood
Don Edward	Muriel Mersereau	Connie VanGeldereren	
Ruth Edward	Marie Pfeiffer	Lynne VanderMeer	

**Action Items: Approved by October 3, 2016 Session Section 4.3**

10/3/2016 Lauren Pofahl

Transfer from Participant to Active Roll

- 4.5. The clerk had no correspondence.
5. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** Tim Stoepker shared his faith biography.
6. **Shared Joys and Concerns** – The elders shared concerns with the person sitting across from him/her. Various elders shared their joys with those in attendance.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:
- 7.1. Andrew's comments centered on year-to-date results.
- 7.1.1. Revenues are not what we expected (primary cause is that Adult Non-Pledges are lagging well behind budget).
- 7.1.2. Andrew asked all to be careful with their expenditures for the remainder of the year.
- 7.1.3. Concerns were expressed about the budget for 2017 as there will be less special funds available for 2017.

**Financial Recap as of August 2016:**

	<b>Aug. Actual</b>	<b>Aug. Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>
General Fund Revenues	\$67,049	\$70,239	\$552,860	\$611,040
General Fund Expenses	\$63,757	\$71,760	\$591,173	\$619,338
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$47,323	\$50,680	\$430,611	\$439,382
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$53,617	\$54,418	\$456,550	\$456,074

- 7.2. 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 September 13, 2016.
- 8.2. Children's minutes of September 14, 2016.
- 8.3. Hospitality minutes of September 20, 2016.
- 8.4. Mission minutes of September 19, 2016 (distributed at the meeting).
- 8.5. Nominations minutes of September 13, 2016.
- 8.6. Personnel minutes of September 13, 2016.
- 8.7. Worship minutes of September 20, 2016.
- 8.8. Youth minutes of September 13, 2016.
9. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
- 9.1. Board of Deacons: Bill Bussell noted that Paul Kemink resigned from the Board of Deacons.
- 9.2. Generosity Committee: Sue VandenBosch reporting:
- 9.2.1. Sue reported that all elders committed to pledge for 2017.
- 9.2.2. The Generosity and Hospitality Committees are seeking elder assistance for the October 30 brunch (to be held on the same day as "Giving Sunday"). Diane Jones is coordinating this event.
- 9.2.3. Sue distributed a draft of the 2017 narrative budget. She expects that this will be mailed to the church membership around October 14, 2016.
- 9.3. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
- 9.3.1. Upon motion, session approved taking 2016's annual distribution from the Memorial Mission Fund held at Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.
- 9.3.2. Users are pleased with the enhanced wireless internet access. Additional work will be done to expand/exhance coverage in the chapel.
- 9.3.3. Dan Coulier will be refinishing the Franklin Street exterior wooden doors leading to the sanctuary.
- 9.3.4. The trustees reviewed the church's property and liability insurance and concluded that the current policies are sufficient.

- 9.3.5. Rev. Linda Male will moderate a town-hall style meeting on November 13 at which potential future uses will be discussed for the house that Tri Cities Ministries is expected to vacate in 2017. All elders are encouraged to attend this meeting.
  - 9.3.6. A group of trustees is working on updating Standard Practices Bulletins as well as the Operations Manual.
  - 9.3.7. Trustees approved Worship Committee's requests to use the Erickson Fund to purchase music instruments and stands.
  - 9.3.8. Upon motion, session approved recommending to the congregation the updated wording to the proposed Article VIII bylaw change. This revision has language and terminology that calls for two year deacon terms.
  - 9.4. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of Board of Deacons and the Generosity and Trustees Committees.
10. **Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.
11. **New Business**
- 11.1. Rev. VanderWal asked for session's approval of the baptism of Hayden Baker, daughter of Lauren Pofahl and Clark Baker. Upon motion and support, session authorized this baptism.
12. **Moderator's Comments** – Because Rev. Male is on vacation, there was no report.
13. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. VanderWal reporting:
- 13.1. Rev. VanderWal shared that a local suicide prevention group is grateful to be able to meet at the church.
  - 13.2. She also reported that currently sixty individuals (28 adults and 32 youth) have registered to attend the upcoming church retreat.
14. **Action Items Recap:**
- 14.1. Approved the October 3, 2016 meeting docket with one new business addition.
  - 14.2. Approved the September 12, 2016 session meeting minutes as presented.
  - 14.3. Approved restoring Lauren Pofahl to active member status.
  - 14.4. Approved the September 2016 membership report.
  - 14.5. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
  - 14.6. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees' written reports: Adult Education, Children's, Hospitality, Mission, Nominations, Personnel, Worship and Youth committees.
  - 14.7. Approved taking 2016's annual distribution from the Memorial Mission Fund held at GHACF.
  - 14.8. Approved updated working to the proposed Article VIII bylaws change.
  - 14.9. Accepted the reports of the Board of Deacons and Generosity and Trustees Committees.
  - 14.10. Authorized the baptism of Hayden Baker.
  - 14.11. Adjourned the meeting.
15. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 8:20 pm with a prayer by Brigette Kemink. The next scheduled meeting is November 7, 2016 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell  
Clerk of Session