

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, December 7 at 7:05 p.m. in the lounge of the church located at 508 Franklin Street in Grand Haven, Michigan. The Clerk Pro-Tem, Sandie Enders, 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, Lee Brink, Sandie Enders, Brigette Kemink, Keli Olson, Tim Stoecker, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, and Sue VandenBosch.
  - 2.2. **Elders Absent or Excused:** Bill Scott, Eric Snyder, Scott Wagasky, Jack Jansma, Craig Seaver, Bill Bussell, and Nancy Levenburg.
  - 2.3. **Teaching Elders Present:** Rev. Linda Male.
  - 2.4. **Teaching Elder Absent or Excused:** Rev. Jill VanderWal.
  - 2.5. **Others Present:** None.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Male read excerpts from I Samuel 2 and Luke 1. These are the prayers of Hannah and Mary about their children and God's expectations of them. Both had their expectations turned upside down with the births of their sons. Mary's Magnificat directly reflects Hannah's prayer and shows the consistency of faith over the years. Rev. Male then led the session in prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Sandie Enders reporting:
  - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the meeting docket as presented.
  - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its regular meeting minutes of November 2, 2015 as presented.
  - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the special congregation meeting minutes of November 22, 2015 as presented.
  - 4.4. Upon motion and support, session approved the November 2015 membership report as presented.

First Presbyterian Church Membership Report			
November 2015			
<b>Membership as of October 31, 2015</b>			<b>937</b>
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 November 30, 2015</b>			<b>936</b>
<b>Additional Registers</b>		<b>Member #</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Baptisms:</b>		<b>3</b>	
11/8/2015	Harper Lena Faris, daughter of Kailey(Pimm) and John Faris		Rev. Scott Stanley
11/22/2015	Malin Marie Felt, daughter of Kristin(Dornbos) and Marc Felt		Rev. Linda Male
11/29/2015	Colin Michael Birchmeier, son of Kellie(VanHall) and Brandon Birchmeier		Rev. Linda Male
<b>Deaths:</b>		<b>1</b>	
11/13/2015	Cathleen Pranger	4885	
<b>Communion:</b> 8:45 am & 11:00 am 11/1/2015			
<b>Home Communion:</b> 11/1/2015			
Chick Borta	Jo Ennenga	Muriel Mersereau	
Charlie Davis	Les Ennenga	Cathleen Pranger	
Don Edward	Laurel Hendrick	Sue Roper	
Ruth Edward	Helen LaVercombe	LaMar VanHaaften	
Louise Edwards	Fern Mastenbrook	Gerry VanStratt	
Millie Enders	Sue McClellan	Carol Winton	

- 4.5. The clerk pro-tem advised that the church received a letter from the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis, Michigan to inform us that his church took the opportunity on World Communion Sunday to affirm its connection through the spirit and prayed for our congregation.
5. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** Marge Coffey gave an overview of the Worship Committee's work this year. Both she and Katie Neitring were new to the committee this year so there were challenges just understanding their mission. They found their committee's Mission Statement and began using it on their agenda and minutes. The Worship Committee has worked to support both services equally and promote occasional whole church worship services along with their stated goals for the year. They also worked with Maryanne Beery to select and purchase new hymnals.
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 October's revenue lagged behind budget, resulting with year-to-date revenues now approximately \$60,000 below budget.
- 7.2. The variance between budgeted and actual non-pledged receipts is significant.

Data are for October 2015:

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund Revenues	\$58,682	\$79,227	\$700,158	\$769,033
General Fund Expenses	\$62,628	\$72,922	\$760,617	\$797,984
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$64,577	\$65,926	\$572,601	\$576,467
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$53,265	\$52,312	\$586,046	\$565,770

- 7.3. Session had significant discussion on the budget. Consensus is that we are in a transition period and should not look at cutting programs while keeping an eye on fiscal responsibility. This will be addressed further in the Trustees' report.
- 7.4. Sue VandenBosch will make an announcement at both services on December 13 reminding members and visitors to give generously and to be sure to complete pledge cards for next year.
- 7.5. 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 November 23, 2015.
- 8.2. Children's Committee minutes of November 10, 2015.
- 8.3. Hospitality Committee minutes of November 17, 2015.
- 8.4. Stewardship Committee minutes of November 10, 2015.
- 8.5. Youth Committee minutes of November 10, 2015.
9. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
- 9.1. Adult Education Committee: Tim Stoepker reporting:
- 9.1.1 Advertising on the television screens at the YMCA starts in January 2016.
- 9.1.2 The committee is looking at new class offerings.
- 9.2. Joyful Noise Committee: Andrew LeFurge reporting:
- 9.2.1 Joyful Noise received a thank you note from one of its families thanking for the support of gifts and programs.
- 9.2.2 Sally Segers reported an anonymous gift of \$1,000 from a family whose children attended Joyful Noise earlier. The gift will probably be used to assist some of the needy families for the holidays.
- 9.2.3 Andrew distributed a written report from Sally Segers.

- 9.3. Nominating Committee, Matt Olds reporting:
    - 9.3.1 The committee presented a list of committee assignments for members of session:
      - Adult Education: Tim Stoepker and Keith Konarska
      - Children's: Megan Hayes and Abe Overway
      - Hospitality: Sandie Enders and Alisha Terrill
      - Joyful Noise: Andrew LeFurge
      - Mission: Jack Jansma
      - Nominating: John Heritage and Brigette Kemink
      - Personnel: Nancy Levenburg and Craig Seaver
      - Stewardship: Bill Blessing and Sue VandenBosch
      - Trustees: Lee Brink (Chair), Andrew LeFurge (Treasurer), John Nametz (Secretary)
      - Worship: Marge Coffey and Carrie Rivette
      - Youth: Keli Olson and Katie Netring
    - 9.3.2 Upon motion and support, the assignments for committee membership were accepted as presented.
    - 9.3.3 The committee suggests that each committee decides the chair rather than this responsibility being assigned by the Nominating Committee.
  - 9.4. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
    - 9.4.1. Two bids were received for replacement cabinet doors. Upon motion and support, session approved using the Omega Fund to pay for the new cabinet doors and their installation in an amount not to exceed \$14,500.
    - 9.4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved taking the Alpha distribution of \$81,390 from the GHACF.
    - 9.4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the transfer of \$81,390 from the Alpha restricted fund to the general fund.
    - 9.4.4. There has been a review of the pumps for the HVAC and snow melt systems. Quality Air submitted an estimate of \$17,000 to fix all 17 pumps. Upon review, trustees decided to have Dan Coulier work on some of these pumps. Upon motion and support, session approved \$5,000 to repair the 5 high priority pumps and the snow melt system.
    - 9.4.5. The contract for the church's copiers is due to expire soon. Upon motion and support, session approved K. Jullie pursuing a new copier contract.
  - 9.5. Worship Committee, Marge Coffey reporting:
    - 9.5.1. The cost of the new hymnals has increased since the committee first looked at them several years ago so additional funds will be needed. Upon motion and support, session approved an additional \$850 from the Memorial Fund to cover the remainder of the cost of new hymnals.
    - 9.5.2. Communion dates for 2016 were reviewed and amended. Upon motion and support, session approved the following dates for communion in 2016: January 10, February 7, March 6, March 24, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4 and a date yet to be determined in January for officer training.
  - 9.6. Upon motion and support, the session accepted the report of the Adult Education, Joyful Noise, Nominating, Worship and Trustees Committees.
10. **Unfinished Business:** The name of Colin Michael Birchmeier will be recorded into the Baptism Register. His baptism was approved on November 2, 2015 before his birth.
  11. **New Business**
    - 11.1. Upon motion and support, the annual congregation meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2016 for the purpose of presenting the budget, electing members of the Pastor Nominating Committee if the way be clear and the installation of Elders and Deacons.
    - 11.2. Upon motion and support, the following were approved for session meeting dates in 2016: January 11, January 25 (special budget meeting), February 1, March 7, April 11 (joint with Deacons), May 2, June 6, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 3, November 7 and December 5.

**12. Moderator's Comments – Rev. Male reporting:**

- 12.1. Rev. Male announced that she is planning a training session for all new and current elders on a Saturday in January. The morning and lunch will be together and the afternoon will be just for the new elders.

**13. Action Items Recap:**

- 13.1. Approved the December 7, 2015 meeting docket.
- 13.2. Approved regular session meeting minutes of November 2, 2015 as presented.
- 13.3. Approved the special congregation meeting minutes of November 22, 2015 as presented.
- 13.4. Accepted the November 2015 membership report.
- 13.5. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
- 13.6. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees' written reports: Board of Deacons, Children's, Hospitality, Stewardship, and Youth.
- 13.7. Accepted the Adult Education, Joyful Noise, Nominating, Trustees and Worship Committees reports.
- 13.8. Upon motion and support, the assignments for committee membership were accepted as presented.
- 13.9. Upon motion and support, session approved using the Omega Fund to pay for the new cabinet doors and their installation in an amount not to exceed \$14,500.
- 13.10. Upon motion and support, session approved taking the Alpha distribution of \$81,390 from the GHACF.
- 13.11. Upon motion and support, session approved the transfer of \$81,390 from the Alpha restricted fund to the general fund.
- 13.12. Upon motion and support, session approved \$5,000 to repair the 5 high priority pumps and the snow melt system.
- 13.13. Upon motion and support, session approved K. Jullie pursuing a new copier contract.
- 13.14. Upon motion and support, session approved an additional \$850 from the Memorial Fund to cover the remainder of the cost of new hymnals.
- 13.15. Upon motion and support, session approved the following dates for communion in 2016: January 10, February 7, March 6, March 24, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4 and a date yet to be determined in January for officer training.
- 13.16. Upon motion and support, the annual congregation meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2016 for the purpose of presenting the budget, electing members of the Pastor Nominating Committee if the way be clear and the installation of Elders and Deacons.
- 13.17. Upon motion and support, the following were approved for session meeting dates in 2016: January 11, January 25 (special budget meeting), February 1, March 7, April 11 (joint with Deacons), May 2, June 6, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 3, November 7 and December 5.
- 13.18. Adjourned meeting.

- 14. Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 9:26pm with the Lord's Prayer. The next scheduled meeting is January 11, 2016, at 7 pm in the church lounge.

Sandie Enders  
Clerk of Session Pro-Tem  
Clerk of Session