

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, October 5, 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, Dianna Sahr, Eric Snyder, Lee Brink, Sandie Enders, Jack Jansma, Brigette Kemink, Keli Olson, Craig Seaver, Tim Stoecker, Bill Bussell, Megan Hayes, John Nametz (arrived at 7:30), Katie Neitring, and Sue VandenBosch.
 - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Matthew Olds, Bill Scott, Scott Wagasky, John Heritage, and Nancy Levenburg.
 - 2.3. Teaching Elders 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 theologian N.T. Wright's book *Paul for Everyone*. She also talked about the need for a unifying presence of the session.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
 - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the meeting docket.
 - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its regular meeting minutes of September 14, 2015 as presented.
 - 4.3. Upon separate motions and support, session approved the following:
 - 4.3.1. Approved the membership of Mark and Kathy McCloskey via transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio.
 - 4.3.2. Approved the membership of David and Kim McDonough via reaffirmation of faith.
 - 4.3.3. Rev. Male coordinated elders who will worship with these two new families on Sunday, October 11.
 - 4.3.4. Approved the transfer of membership of Christian and Ann VanDenBerg to Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach, Florida.
 - 4.4. The clerk briefly reported on his attendance of a recent Presbytery meeting.
 - 4.5. There was no correspondence to present at this meeting.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report
September 2015**

| | |
|--|------------|
| Membership as of August 31, 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 |
| Membership as of September 30, 2015 | 935 |

| Additional Registers | Member # | Notes |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|
| Deaths: | 1 | |
| 9/26/2015 Mary Offringa | 2268 | no service |

Communion Served: 8:45 & 11 a.m. Service 9/6/2015
Home Communion: 9/6/2015

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Chick Borta | Ruth Edward | Lamar VanHaften |
| Charlie Davis | Sue McClellan | Gerry VanStratt |
| Louise Edwards | Ethel Slover | Carol Winton |
| Les Ennenga | Meryl Slover | Evelyn Wood |
| Jo Ennenga | Sue Roper | |
| Don Edward | Helen LaVercombe | |

| Action Items: Approved by Session October 5, 2015 | |
|--|--|
| 10/5/2015 | Membership Gains: |
| | Kathy McCloskey Transfer from Westminister, Dayton OH |
| | Mark McCloskey Transfer from Westminister, Dayton OH |
| | Dave McDonough Reaffirmation |
| | Kim McDonough Reaffirmation |
| 10/5/2015 | Membership Losses: |
| | Ann VanDenBerg Transfer to Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach, FL |
| | Christian VanDenBerg Transfer to Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach, FL |

5. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** Craig Seaver reported on the work of the Personnel Committee and commented on how this committee is internally focused, unlike most other committees within the church.
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 August was another good revenue month with receipts exceeding budget by nearly \$8,000. Year-to-date revenues are now approximately \$22,000 below budget.
 - 7.2. Expenses continue to track reasonably well with budget.

Data are for August 2015:

| | <u>MTD Actual</u> | <u>MTD Budget</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| General Fund Revenues | \$76,710 | \$68,895 | \$592,161 | \$614,194 |
| General Fund Expenses | \$58,423 | \$72,922 | \$626,271 | \$652,140 |
| Joyful Noise Revenues | \$46,517 | \$53,307 | \$452,917 | \$456,934 |
| Joyful Noise Expenses | \$56,242 | \$52,492 | \$478,650 | \$460,646 |

- 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. Board of Deacons minutes of September 28, 2015.
 - 8.2. Children’s Committee minutes of September 8, 2015.
 - 8.3. Mission Committee minutes of September 21, 2015.
 - 8.4. Personnel Committee minutes of September 8, 2015.
 - 8.5. Stewardship Committee minutes of September 16, 2015.
 - 8.6. Youth Committee minutes of August 11, 2015.
9. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
 - 9.1. Nominating Committee: Brigette Kemink reporting:
 - 9.1.1. Upon motion and support, session approved to request permission from the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) of nine members for the purpose of calling a full-time head of staff pastor to be installed indefinitely. It is noted there was one dissenting vote.

- 9.2. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
 - 9.2.1. Lee reported that the financial review team is now formed and work should begin shortly.
 - 9.2.2. Upon motion, session approved that the church receive an annual distribution of \$13,178 from Grand Haven Area Community Foundation for the church's Mission Fund.
 - 9.2.3. After carefully evaluating many factors, the Trustees decided not to donate the Tri-Cities Ministry house to that organization.
 - 9.2.4. The fall church grounds clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, November 14. The back-up date is November 21.
 - 9.3. Worship Committee: Marge Coffey reporting:
 - 9.3.1. Upon motion, session approved to use up to \$8,000 from the Memorial Fund to purchase new hymnals, Glory to God (this is the denomination's hymnal).
 - 9.3.2. Upon motion, session approved the solicitation of funds from the congregation to help pay for these new hymnals. The congregation will be informed on the church's unit cost of \$15 and dedication plates can be placed in hymnals at the option of the donors.
 - 9.4. Upon motion and support, the session accepted the reports of the Nominating, Trustees, and Worship Committees.
10. **Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.
11. **New Business**
- 11.1. Upon motion with support, session authorized calling a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2015, for the purpose of electing elders and deacons to the class of 2018.
 - 11.2. Dianna Sahr is looking for an elder to replace her as the person who handles session's gifts to World Vision. Dianna's term on session expires in January 2016.
12. **Moderator's Comments** – Rev. Male reporting:
- 12.1. At Rev. Male's request, session approved vacation from November 1, 2015 through November 15, 2016.
 - 12.2. Rev. Male stated that she and Rev. VanderWal will be attending the Chamber of Commerce's Athena Awards on October 6 with Rev. VanderWal giving the invocation.
13. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. VanderWal reporting:
- 13.1. Rev. VanderWal is preparing for her upcoming sermons.
14. **Action Items Recap:**
- 14.1. Approved the October 5, 2015 meeting docket.
 - 14.2. Approved regular session meeting minutes of September 14, 2015 as presented.
 - 14.3. Approved the membership of Mark and Kathy McCloskey via transfer from Westminster Presbyterian, Dayton, OH.
 - 14.4. Approved the membership of David and Kim McDonough via reaffirmation of faith.
 - 14.5. Approved the transfer of Christian and Ann VanDenBerg to Palms Presbyterian, Jacksonville Beach, FL.
 - 14.6. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
 - 14.7. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees' written reports: Board of Deacons, Children's, Mission, Personnel, Stewardship, and Youth.
 - 14.8. Approved the request for permission from the COM to form a PNC.
 - 14.9. Approved a \$13,178 distribution from GHACF to the Mission Fund.
 - 14.10. Approved up to \$8,000 from the Memorial Fund to purchase new hymnals.
 - 14.11. Approved soliciting funds from the congregation to help cover the cost of new hymnals.
 - 14.12. Accepted the reports of Nominating, Trustees, and Worship Committees.
 - 14.13. Authorized calling a congregational meeting on November 22, 2015 to elect elders and deacons to the class of 2018.
 - 14.14. Approved Rev. Male's vacation for November 1 through November 15, 2015.

14.15. Adjourned the meeting.

15. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 8:45pm with the Lord's Prayer. The next scheduled meeting is November 2, 2015, at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell
Clerk of Session

| First Presbyterian Church Membership Report | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| October 2015 | | | | |
| Membership as of September 30, 2015 | | 935 | | |
| | Deaths: | 0 | | |
| | New Members Received: | 4 | | |
| | Restored to Active Roll: | 0 | | |
| | Removed from Active Roll: | 0 | | |
| | Moved from Active to Inactive Roll: | 0 | | |
| | Transferred by Letter | 2 | | |
| Membership as of October 31, 2015 | | 937 | | |
| Additional Registers | | | | |
| | | Member # | Notes | |
| Membership Gains: 4 | | | | |
| 10/5/2015 | Kathy McCloskey | 5730 | Westminister, Dayton OH | |
| | Mark McCloskey | 5731 | Westminister, Dayton OH | |
| | Dave McDonough | 5729 | Reaffirmation | |
| | Kim McDonough | 5728 | Reaffirmation | |
| Membership Losses: 2 | | | | |
| 10/5/2015 | Ann VanDenBerg | | 5514 | Palms Presbyterian, Jacksonville Beach, FL |
| | Christian VanDenBerg | | 5515 | Palms Presbyterian, Jacksonville Beach, FL |
| 10/4/2015 | Communion Served: | | 8:45 AM & 11 AM Services | |
| 10/4/2015 | Home Communion: | | | |
| Chick Borta Barb | Jo Ennenga | Sue Roper | | |
| Casemier | Les Ennenga | Ethel Slover | | |
| Charlie Davis | Helen LaVercombe | Meryl Slover | | |
| Don Edward | Fern Mastenbrook | LaMar VanHaften | | |
| Ruth Edward | Ruth Mastenbrook | Gerry VanStratt | | |
| Louise Edwards | Sue McClellan | Carol Winton | | |
| Millie Enders | Muriel Mersereau | Evelyn Wood | | |