

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, April 11 2016, at 7:15 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. The annual joint dinner meeting of elders and deacons preceded the session meeting.
2. **Attendance:**
 - 2.1. Elders Present: Bill Blessing, Lee Brink, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Sandie Enders, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, Jack Jansma, Keith Konarska, Andrew LeFurge, Nancy Levenburg, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, Keli Olson, Abe Overway, Carrie Rivette, Alishia Terrill, and Sue VandenBosch.
 - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Brigette Kemink, Craig Seaver, and Tim Stoeper.
 - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Linda Male and Rev. Jill VanderWal (joined the meeting at 8:10 pm following the Deacons' meeting).
 - 2.4. Teaching Elder Absent or Excused: None.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Male read excerpts from Howard Thurman's book Meditations of the Heart. The theme of the reading was "silence is the door to God", and how it is important for church leaders to take time to be quiet and be infused with the spirit of God. Rev. Male then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
 - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the April 11, 2016 meeting docket after the clerk identified some spelling errors and listed one addition to new business.
 - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its March 7, 2016 session meeting minutes as presented.
 - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved its April 3, 2016 special session meeting minutes as presented.
 - 4.4. Upon motion and support, session approved the March 2016 membership report as presented.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report
March 2016**

Membership as of February 29, 2016	932
Deaths:	3
New Members Received:	13
Restored to Active Roll:	0
Removed from Active Roll:	0
Transferred from Active to Inactive Roll:	0
Transferred by Letter	0
Membership as of March 31, 2016	942

Additional Registers	Member #	Notes
<i>Deaths:</i>	3	
3/2/2016 Don Swifney	4762	Rev. Linda Male
3/23/2016 Irene Heinritz	2266	Rev. Male & VanderWal 3/29/2016
3/27/2016 Evelyn Bailey	3926	4/1/2016 private

	Membership Gains:	13	
3/7/2016	George Barfield	5732	Transfer from First Presbyterian, Benton Harbor
	Suzanne Cooper	5733	Reaffirmation
	Patrick Duell	5734	Reaffirmation
	Tabatha Duell	5735	Reaffirmation
	Stanley Johnson	5736	Transfer from Spring Lake Presbyterian
	Richard Klecka	5737	Reaffirmation
	Beverly Klecka	5738	Reaffirmation
	Timothy Meyer	5739	Reaffirmation
	Amy Miller	5740	Reaffirmation
	Kari Paintin	5741	Confession of Faith
	Sara Shambarger	5742	Transfer from First Presbyterian, Benton Harbor
	Chad Weigle	5743	Transfer from Spring Lake Presbyterian
	Chelsie Weigle	5744	Transfer from Spring Lake Presbyterian

Communion Served: 8:45 & 11 a.m. Services 3/6/2016

Home Communion:

Evelyn Bailey	Millie Enders	Sue Roper
Charlie Davis	Fern Mastenbrook	Flo Sluiter
Don Edward	Ruth Mastenbrook	Evelyn Wood
Ruth Edward	Sue McClellan	
Louise Edwards	Muriel Mersereau	

4.5. The clerk had no correspondence.

5. **Faith Biography/Committee of Focus:** Because tonight's meeting was preceded with the annual joint dinner meeting of elders and deacons, there was no faith biography, nor committee of focus.
6. **Shared Joys and Concerns** – The elders reported on their joys and concerns.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:
 - 7.1. Andrew reviewed February 2016's financial reports and responded to various questions. Andrew's comments included:
 - 7.1.1. Total cash approximates \$399,000 at the end of February.
 - 7.1.2. Liabilities are reasonably close to the prior month end.
 - 7.1.3. The funds held at GHACF have increased in value by approximately \$487,000 over the past three years.
 - 7.1.4. Readers of the reports are reminded that Mission Committee expenditures have been nominal for the first two months and that committee's expenditure pattern is irregular.

Data for February 2016:

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund Revenues	\$45,692	\$81,262	\$121,697	\$157,238
General Fund Expenses	\$66,072	\$71,760	\$153,257	\$167,580
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$57,140	\$48,060	\$116,819	\$108,760
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$54,875	\$53,138	\$105,967	\$107,207

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 Committee minutes of March 8, 2016
 - 8.2. Board of Deacons minutes of March 28, 2016
 - 8.3. Children's Committee Minutes of March 8, 2016

- 8.4. Hospitality Committee Minutes of March 15, 2016
- 8.5. Mission Committee minutes of March 21, 2016 (distributed at the session meeting).

9. Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:

- 9.1. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
 - 9.1.1. There have been interviews with two different companies to conduct an audit/review of the church's financial records and procedures.
 - 9.1.2. No action has been recommended to date to take the annual distributions from GHACF.
 - 9.1.3. It is important that all maintenance related requests go through Kelli Jullie.
 - 9.1.4. The spring grounds clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 17.
 - 9.1.5. It is important that the Trustees review all contracts prior to their execution.
 - 9.1.6. There is concern about fiscal 2017. The budgeting process will likely begin in June.
- 9.2. Worship Committee: Marge Coffey:
 - 9.2.1. Upon motion, session approved changing worship times starting on May 29 and returning to the normal worship times on September 16 (the Sunday following the church picnic): Traditional Worship: 9 am and Contemporary Worship at 10:30 am.
- 9.3. Youth Committee: Keli Olson reporting:
 - 9.3.1. Youth Sunday is Sunday, April 24.
 - 9.3.2. Upon motion, session approved the following non-elder member to serve on the Youth Committee: Jay Neitring, Eric Snyder, Becky Sanchez, Leanna Sanchez, Lisa Hurley, and Heather Force.
- 9.4. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of Trustees, Worship, and Youth Committees.

10. Unfinished Business: Upon motion and support, session removed a motion from the table. The original motion was authored by the Personnel Committee and was tabled on March 7, 2016. This motion reads: "Personnel Committee moved to recommend to session that committee members (who serve one-year renewable terms) serve a maximum of six consecutive years on a committee."

- 10.1. Following a lengthy discussion, session voted unanimously to defeat this motion.

11. New Business

- 11.1. Upon motion, session approved the following non-elder member to serve on the Personnel Committee: Staci LeFurge.
- 11.2. Upon motion and support, session approved the following baptisms:
 - 11.2.1. May 24: Jaxon Lee Green (parents Jordan Green and Taylor Rezny Green)
 - 11.2.2. Dates to be determined: Hayden Miller (parents Craig Miller and Amy Larson Miller), David Barber, Calla Barber, and Ava Duell (parents Patrick Duell and Tabatha Barber Duell)

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

- 12.1. Rev. Male reminded those elders serving communion to meet in the Bride's Room prior to worship for prayer and a review of instructions.
- 12.2. Rev. Male stated that the season's final Community Artist Series event will be a panel discussion on May 15 about LGBTQ issues within the global Christian church. This discussion could assist elders to become more knowledgeable on this topic.

13. Associate Pastor's Comments – Rev. VanderWal reporting:

- 13.1. Rev. VanderWal had no report beyond the information she shared about TAG Consulting with elders and deacons following the joint dinner meeting.

14. Action Items Recap:

- 14.1. Approved the April 11, 2016 meeting docket after identifying some spelling errors and one additional new business item.
 - 14.2. Approved the March 7, 2016 session meeting minutes are presented.
 - 14.3. Approved the April 3, 2016 special session meeting minutes as presented.
 - 14.4. Approved the March 2016 membership report.
 - 14.5. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
 - 14.6. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees' written reports: Adult Education, Board of Deacons, Children's, Hospitality, and Mission.
 - 14.7. Approved changing worship times from May 29 through September 2.
 - 14.8. Approved the following individuals to serve as non-elders on Youth Committee: Jay Neitring, Eric Snyder, Becky Sanchez, Leanna Sanchez, Lisa Hurley, and Heather Force.
 - 14.9. Accepted the reports from Trustees, Worship, and Youth.
 - 14.10. Removed from the table from Personnel Committee to limit the terms of non-elder committee members.
 - 14.11. Defeated the motion to limit the terms of non-elder committee members.
 - 14.12. Approved the baptisms of Jaxon Lee Green, Hayden Miller, David Barber, Calla Barber, and Ava Duell.
 - 14.13. Adjourned the meeting.
15. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 8:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer. The next scheduled meeting is May 2, 2016 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell
Clerk of Session