

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, January 9, 2017, at 7:05 pm in the lounge of the church located at 508 Franklin Ave. 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: Bill Blessing, Lee Brink, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Sandie Enders, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, Keith Konarska, Andrew LeFurge, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, Keli Olson, Abe Overway, Craig Seaver, Tim Stoepker, and Sue VandenBosch.
 - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Jack Jansma, Brigitte Kemink, Nancy Levenburg, Carrie Rivette, and Alishia Terrill.
 - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Linda Male and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
 - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: None.
 - 2.5. Guests Present:
 - 2.5.1. Elders elect: Carroll Bennink, Rick Skodack, and Tina VanderWall.
 - 2.5.2. Pastor Nominating Committee: Lynne Bosch, Becky Burton, Jay Neitring, Deb Stanley, Margie Steinmetz, and Melanie Ver Duin.
 - 2.5.3. Presbytery of Lake Michigan: Rev. Nancy Clodfelder, Transition Counselor from the Committee on Ministry.
3. **Call to Worship:** Rev. Male read an excerpt from John 15 in The Message and then opened the meeting with prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
 - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the December 5, 2016 meeting docket after noting some repositioning and one addition to new business.
 - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved its December 5, 2016 session meeting minutes as presented.
 - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the transfer of David and Linda Gritter from Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 - 4.4. Upon motion and support, session approved removing David Foster, Nancy Foster, Amy Foster, and Dan Foster from the rolls at their request.
 - 4.5. The clerk had no correspondence to share.
5. **Elder Transitions** – Rev. Male reminded the elders to present non-elder committee members for session approval at our next meeting. She also asked retiring elders to handoff their materials to the committee chairs.
6. **Omnibus Motion:** Upon motion and support, the following written committee reports were accepted by omnibus motion:
 - 6.1. Children's minutes of December 13, 2016.
 - 6.2. Generosity minutes December 13, 2016.
 - 6.3. Mission minutes of December 19, 2016.
 - 6.4. Personnel minutes of December 13, 2016.
 - 6.5. Youth minutes of December 15, 2016.
7. **Committee Reports Withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
 - 7.1. Pastor Nominating Committee: Bill Blessing reporting:
 - 7.1.1. Bill described the PNC process and stated that the committee is recommending a candidate for the Pastor/Head of Staff position. Margie Steinmetz then provided the candidate's biographical and experience information. This was followed by questions and answers.
 - 7.1.2. Upon motion from the committee, session approved this candidate.

- 7.1.3. Upon motion from the committee, session approved the recommended terms of call for this candidate.
- 7.1.4. Upon motion from the committee, session approved calling a special congregational meeting on February 12, 2017, for the purpose of calling the PNC identified candidate as Pastor/Head of Staff and to approve the candidate's recommended terms of call.
- 7.1.5. Upon motion and support, session thanked Rev. Clodfelder, the PNC, and its chair for their extensive and comprehensive work.
- 7.1.6. Rev. Clodfelder and the PNC were excused from the meeting.
- 7.2. Nominations Committee: John Heritage reporting:
 - 7.2.1. John reported that Nominations Committee will be recommending Jay Neitring to the congregation to serve as a member-at-large to serve on the Nominations Committee after Bill Bussell withdrew his name.
- 7.3. Treasurer's Report: Andrew LeFurge reporting:
 - 7.3.1. Andrew reported that as of 11/30/2016, year-to-date General Fund expenditures exceed revenues by \$56,708. Preliminary data for year-end 2016 suggest a shortfall of approximately \$60,000.
 - 7.3.2. Andrew responded to questions about total restricted and designated funds and cash on hand.

Financial Recap as of November 2016:

	Nov. Actual	Nov. Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Revenues	\$66,311	\$74,408	\$748,064	\$830,355
General Fund Expenses	\$60,201	\$71,760	\$804,772	\$834,617
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$52,800	\$56,300	\$600,790	\$625,882
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$54,737	\$53,618	\$616,410	\$616,479

- 7.4. Trustees Committee: Lee Brink reporting:
 - 7.4.1. The financial review is in progress.
 - 7.4.2. Trustees plan to submit Standard Practices Bulletins 3.2 and 3.4 to session in February.
 - 7.4.3. Lee reported that the Trustees considered total expenditure budgets ranging from \$875,000 to \$950,000. There was extensive discussion about the use of Alpha and Omega distributions as well as designated funds. A motion was made, supported, and amended to establish 2017's budget and to use designated funds to cover its projected general fund budget shortfall. The amended motion reads: To approve the annual Church budget in the amount of \$912,000.00 for the 2017 fiscal year of the Church as approved by the Trustees at their meeting of December 19, 2016, and to use certain Church funds identified as "Designated Funds" and "Miscellaneous Restricted Funds" which are estimated to be in the amount of \$144,000.00 to the extent necessary to fund the 2017 annual budget in the event revenue otherwise received by the Church in 2017 is not sufficient to fund the 2017 approved budget. The motion carried.
 - 7.4.4. Upon motion and support, session directed the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation to calculate 2017's Alpha Fund annual distribution at five percent.
 - 7.5. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Nominations Committee, Treasurer's Report, and Trustees Committee.
- 8. **Unfinished Business:** "Standard Practices Bulletins" will be carried to session's February 6, 2017 meeting docket.
 - 9. **New Business:**
 - 9.1. Upon motion and support, session authorized serving communion to deacons on January 23, 2017.
 - 9.2. Upon motion and support, session approved the baptism of Karalynn Beverly Shepherd, child of Chad and Brynn Shepherd, on February 12, 2017.
 - 10. **Moderator's Comments** – Rev. Male distributed and discussed the 2017-18 communion schedule. Training will take place during our February 6, 2017 session meeting.
 - 11. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. VanderWal had no report.

12. Action Items Recap:

- 12.1. Approved the January 9, 2017 meeting docket with some reordering and one addition.
 - 12.2. Approved the December 5, 2016 session meeting minutes as presented.
 - 12.3. Approved the transfer in of David and Linda Gritter.
 - 12.4. Approved removing David Foster, Nancy Foster, Amy Foster, and Dan Foster from the rolls at their request.
 - 12.5. Under an omnibus motion, accepted the following committees' written reports: Children's, Generosity, Mission, Personnel, and Youth committees.
 - 12.6. Approved the PNC's recommended candidate for Pastor/Head of Staff.
 - 12.7. Approved the PNC's recommended terms of call for this candidate.
 - 12.8. Approved holding a special congregational meeting on February 12, 2017.
 - 12.9. Approved the 2017 budget and the use of designated and restricted funds to cover the projected budget shortfall.
 - 12.10. Approved directing GHACF to calculate Alpha Fund's 2017 annual distribution at five percent.
 - 12.11. Accepted the reports of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Nominations Committee, Treasurer's Report, and Trustees Committee.
 - 12.12. Approved serving communion to deacons on January 23, 2017.
 - 12.13. Approved the baptism of Karalynn Beverly Shepherd.
 - 12.14. Adjourned the meeting.
13. **Adjournment:** On motion and support, the session adjourned at 9:40 pm with prayer by Rev. VanderWal. The next scheduled meeting is February 6, 2017 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell
Clerk of Session