

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, January 8, 2018, at 7 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. Jill VanderWal called the meeting to order.
2. **Attendance:**
  - 2.1. Elders Present: Carroll Bennink, Bill Blessing, Bill Bussell, Marge Coffey, Sandie Enders, Megan Hayes, John Heritage, Jack Jansma, Keith Konarska, Andrew LeFurge, Paul McNergney, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, Abe Overway, Rick Skodack, Michele Smith, Alishia Terrill, and Sue VandenBosch.
  - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: Nancy Levenburg, Carrie Rivette, and Tina Vander Wall.
  - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Jill VanderWal.
  - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon.
  - 2.5. Others Present: Elders elect Lynn Bosch, Calvin Clark, Jay Neitring, and Charlie Parker.
3. **Call to Worship:** Before starting the meeting, Rev. VanderWal thanked those elders whose terms are ending at the end of this month. She then read from Hebrews 11 and offered the meeting's opening prayer.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
  - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the January 8, 2018 meeting docket with one deletion.
  - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved the session meeting minutes of the December 4, 2017.
  - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the December 2017 membership report.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report  
December 2017**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Membership as of November 30, 2017        | 785        |
| Deaths:                                   | 2          |
| New Members Received:                     | 21         |
| Restored to Active Roll:                  | 0          |
| Removed from Active Roll:                 | 0          |
| Transferred from Active to Inactive Roll: | 2          |
| Transferred by Letter                     | 0          |
| <b>Membership as of December 31, 2017</b> | <b>802</b> |

| Additional Registers  | Member # | Notes            |
|---|----------|------------------|
| <i><b>Baptisms:</b></i>                                     |          |                  |
| 12/24/2017 Ivy Elisabeth Fisk, parents Chad & Emily(Fraker) |          |                  |
| <i><b>Deaths:</b></i>                                       |          |                  |
| 12/27/2018 Jane Poort                                       | 2        | Service 1/6/2018 |
| 12/30/2018 David Coats                                      | 4403     | Service 2/3/2018 |

**Membership Gains: 21**

|            |                   |      |   |
|------------|-------------------|------|---|
| 11/6/2017  | Joe Edwards       | 2598 | Restored to active                        |
|            | Suzy Edwards      | 2444 | Restored to active                        |
| 12/10/2017 | Baker, Clark      | 5778 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Curtis, Scott     | 5761 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Curtis, Sarah     | 5762 | Transfer                                  |
|            | Day, Andrew       | 5763 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Fisher, Dustin    | 5764 | Confession                                |
|            | Jackson, Ken      | 5765 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Johnson, Mike     | 5766 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Johnson, Leah     | 5767 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Losee, Karen      | 5768 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | McLaughlin, Larry | 5769 | Transfer                                  |
|            | McLaughlin, Anne  | 5770 | Transfer                                  |
|            | Miner, Rob        | 5771 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Miner, Gail       | 5772 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | Needham, Randy    | 5773 | Transfer                                  |
|            | Needham, Linda    | 5774 | Transfer                                  |
|            | Russell, Zach     | 5775 | Transfer                                  |
|            | VerHage, Josh     | 5776 | Reaffirmation                             |
|            | VerHage, Melissa  | 5777 | Reaffirmation                             |
| 8/4/2017   | Dykstra, Virginia | 5779 | Transfer/Ref: 8/4/2017<br>Session Minutes |

**Membership Losses: 2**

|           |                |      |                           |
|-----------|----------------|------|---------------------------|
| 12/4/2017 | Chuck Jennings | 4265 | Move to Other Participant |
| 12/4/2017 | Carol Jennings | 4266 | Move to Other Participant |

**Communion Served:**

12/3/2017 8:45 & 11 a.m. Service

**Home Communion: 12/3/2017**

|               |                 |                 |             |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Pat Austin    | Laurel Hendrick | Sue Roper       | Evelyn Wood |
| Barb Casemier | Roy Lindberg    | Flo Sluiter     | Norma Vyn   |
| Charlie Davis | Sue McClellan   | Gerry VanStratt |             |

4.4. The clerk reported that the “Clerk’s Annual Questionnaire” was submitted on December 7, 2017.

4.5. There was no correspondence to share at this meeting.

5. **Faith Biography** – Bill Blessing shared his faith biography.

6. **Treasurer’s Report:** Andrew LeFurge reporting:

6.1. Andrew advised that the month of November was a good month with revenue close to budget.

6.2. Year-to-date expenses continue to track close to budget as well.

Financial Recap as of November 2017:

|                       | <b>Nov. Actual</b> | <b>Nov. Budget</b> | <b>YTD Actual</b> | <b>YTD Budget</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund Revenues | \$72,340           | \$72,000           | \$825,988         | \$820,000         |
| General Fund Expenses | \$66,035           | \$70,951           | \$792,239         | \$818,027         |
| Joyful Noise Revenues | \$57,043           | \$61,465           | \$669,026         | \$664,271         |
| Joyful Noise Expenses | \$50,969           | \$60,096           | \$586,221         | \$635,038         |

6.3. Upon motion and support, session accepted the Treasurer’s report.

7. **Omnibus Motion:** Upon motion and support, the following written committee reports were accepted by omnibus motion:
  - 7.1. Adult Education minutes of December 12, 2017.
  - 7.2. Board of Deacons minutes of December 18, 2017.
  - 7.3. Children's minutes of December 12, 2017.
  - 7.4. Personnel minutes of December 11, 2017.
  - 7.5. Trustees minutes of December 5, 2017.
  - 7.6. Youth minutes of December 12, 2017.
8. **Committee Reports withheld from the Omnibus Motion:**
  - 8.1. Generosity Committee: Sue VandenBosch reporting:
    - 8.1.1. Upon motion, session approved the following non-elders to serve on this committee: Steve Groters and Sue VandenBosch.
  - 8.2. Mission Committee: Jack Jansma reporting:
    - 8.2.1. Upon motion, session approved the following non-elders to serve on this committee: Carole DeYoung, Ken Ennega, Nancy Hunter, Karen Losee, Joe McCrea, Michelle Potter, Scott Reenders, and Donna vandenBerg.
  - 8.3. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of Generosity and Mission.
9. **Unfinished Business:**
  - 9.1. There was no unfinished business.
10. **New Business:**
  - 10.1. Upon motion and support, the session approved 2018's "Declaration of Intent to Support the Mission of the Presbyterian Church USA" in the amount of \$18,000.
  - 10.2. Upon motion and support, session approved recommending Rev. Hauser Brydon's terms of call to the congregation at a total position cost of \$133,096.
  - 10.3. Upon motion and support, the session approved four weeks study leave in 2018 for Rev. Hauser Brydon.
  - 10.4. Upon motion and support, the session approved allocating \$3,000 per month of Rev. VanderWal's compensation as "housing allowance".
11. **Moderator's Comments** – Session was referred to Rev. Hauser Brydon's written report in the session packet.
12. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. VanderWal reporting:
  - 12.1. Rev. VanderWal referred session to her written report.
  - 12.2. She also advised session that three employees have resigned: Patty Warner, Becky Yonan, and Caleb Zokoe. The Personnel Committee will conduct exit interviews. A letter from Rev. Hauser Brydon will be sent to the congregation informing them of these resignations. Session affirmed its appreciation for the service and dedication the three have provided and wish them the best in future endeavors.
  - 12.3. Rev. VanderWal reminded session of the upcoming installations/ordinations, the "Congregational Conversation", and the annual meeting.
13. **Action Items Recap:**
  - 13.1. Approved the January 8, 2018 meeting docket with one deletion.
  - 13.2. Approved the minutes of the December 4, 2017 session meeting.
  - 13.3. Approved the December 2017 membership report.
  - 13.4. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
  - 13.5. Under omnibus motion, accepted the following written reports: Adult Education, Deacons, Children's, Personnel, Trustees, and Youth.
  - 13.6. Approved non-elder committee members for Generosity and Mission.
  - 13.7. Accepted the reports of Generosity and Mission.
  - 13.8. Approved 2018's "Declaration of Intent" at \$18,000.
  - 13.9. Approved recommending Rev. Hauser Brydon's terms of call to the congregation.

- 13.10. Approved four weeks study leave in 2018 for Rev. Hauser Brydon.
- 13.11. Approved allocating a portion of Rev. VanderWal's compensation as "housing allowance".
- 13.12. Adjourned the meeting.
- 14. **Adjournment:** The session adjourned at 8:15 pm with the Lord's Prayer. The next scheduled meeting is February 5, 2018 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell  
Clerk of Session