

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION MEETING OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

1. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan assembled in God's name on Monday, November 6, 2017, 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. Troy Hauser Brydon 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, Nancy Levenburg, Paul McNergney, John Nametz, Katie Neitring, Abe Overway, Carrie Rivette, Rick Skodack, Michele Smith, Alishia Terrill, Sue VandenBosch, and Tina Vander Wall.
 - 2.2. Elders Absent or Excused: None.
 - 2.3. Teaching Elders Present: Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon and Rev. Jill VanderWal.
 - 2.4. Teaching Elders Absent or Excused: None.
 - 2.5. Others Present:
 - 2.5.1. Elder nominees: Lynne Bosch, Calvin Clark, Jay Neitring, and Charlie Parker.
 - 2.5.2. Deacon nominees: Nicole Coffin, Marilew Helmers, Chuck Holmes, Nancy Holmes, Lisa Hurley, Sally Kenrick, Joan Tandler, Ann White.
3. **Call to Worship:** The pastors, elders, and nominees moved to the sanctuary for a time of meditation and prayer. After a period of silence, Rev. Hauser Brydon read passages from the Bible which reflect on God's patience. The attendees returned to the lounge for the remainder of the meeting.
4. **Clerk's Report:** Bill Bussell reporting:
 - 4.1. Upon motion and support, session approved the November 6, 2017 meeting docket with one addition.
 - 4.2. Upon motion and support, session approved the October 2, 2017 session meeting minutes.
 - 4.3. Upon motion and support, session approved the October 2017 membership report.

**First Presbyterian Church Membership Report
October 2017**

Membership as of September 30, 2017	790
Deaths:	4
New Members Received:	0
Restored to Active Roll:	0
Removed from Active Roll:	0
Moved from Active to Inactive Roll:	0
Transferred by Letter	0
Membership as of October 31, 2017	786

Additional Registers		Member #	Notes
	Baptisms: 2		
10/8/2017	Tatum Reece Geren, parents Steve & Amy (Norton)		Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon
10/15/2017	Deklen John VerDuin, parents Joe & Emma (Loding)		Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon

Deaths: 4

10/6/2017	Phyllis Papanoli	5275	Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon
10/7/2017	Ruth Edward	1198	Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon
10/13/2017	James Swart	2190	Rev. Jill VanderWal
10/20/2017	Harvey Heyer	5450	Rev. Jill VanderWal

Communion Served: 8:45 & 11 a.m. Services

10/1/2017

Home Communion: 10/1/2017

Harvey Beute	Laurel Hendrick	Sue Roper	Connie VanGeldereren
Sandy Beute	Sue McClellan	Flo Sluiter	Gerry VanStratt
Barb Casemier	Marie Pfeiffer	Norma Vyn	Carol Winton

Action Items: **Approved by 11-06-2017 Session**

10/26/2017	Joe Edwards	2598	Restored to Active per his request
	Suzy Edwards	2444	Restored to Active per her request

- 4.4. Upon motion and support, session approved restoring Joe and Suzy Edwards to “Active” status per their request.
- 4.5. The clerk circulated a letter from Flo Sluiter stating her appreciation for visitations with her and other Grand Pines Assisted Living Center residents.

5. Faith Biography – Alisha Terrill shared her faith biography.

5.1. **Visioning** – The ruling elders and the elder and deacon nominees divided into three groups to learn more about the nominees’ individual faith journeys. The meeting reconvened with an opening prayer by Rev. Hauser Brydon. The nominees excused themselves from the meeting.

6. Treasurer’s Report: Andrew LeFurge reporting:

- 6.1. Andrew advised that September year-to-date revenues are approximately \$14,000 below budget.
- 6.2. Year-to-date expenses are slightly less than budgeted as Missions expenditures are now closer to its budget.

Financial Recap as of September 2017:

	Sep. Actual	Sep. Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Revenues	\$60,199	\$76,000	\$661,735	\$676,000
General Fund Expenses	\$83,935	\$70,951	\$665,209	\$676,126
Joyful Noise Revenues	\$63,820	\$69,550	\$555,908	\$541,341
Joyful Noise Expenses	\$51,678	\$55,740	\$486,943	\$519,672

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. Board of Deacons minutes of October 23, 2017.
- 7.2. Hospitality minutes of October 10, 2017.
- 7.3. Mission minutes of October 16, 2017 distributed at the meeting.
- 7.4. Youth minutes of October 19, 2017.

8. Committee Reports withheld from the Omnibus Motion:

- 8.1. Generosity Committee: Sue VandenBosch reporting:
 - 8.1.1. Sue provided an update on 2018’s pledges. Approximately \$568,000 or 59% of the target has been pledged through today.
 - 8.1.2. Sue stated that follow-up letters will be sent to those who regularly support the church, but have not pledged.

- 8.2. Trustees: John Nametz reporting:
- 8.2.1. Upon motion, session approved taking the Mission Fund's 2017 annual distribution from Grand Haven Area Community Foundation in the amount of \$14,222.
- 8.2.2. John encouraged the elders to assist in the fall grounds clean up this week.
- 8.3. Upon motion and support, session accepted the reports of Generosity and Trustees.
9. **Unfinished Business:**
- 9.1. There was no unfinished business.
10. **New Business:**
- 10.1. Upon motion and support, the session approved its 2018 session meeting schedule.
- 10.2. Session discussed the pastor photos displayed in the lounge. The consensus is to seek photographs of those whose photos are missing, including interims.
- 10.3. At the request of an elder, session discussed violence in American society and in the church. This discussion was prompted by the recent mass murders in Las Vegas, New York City, and Sutherland Springs, Texas. There are two distinct threads to this conversation:
- Security and safety of those on the church campus.
 - Possible responses, reactions, and other positions to violent acts as a Christian organization.
 - Trustees will consider physical security aspects of this topic and session will continue to discuss our church's role as a Christian organization.
11. **Moderator's Comments** – Rev. Hauser Brydon reporting:
- 11.1. Rev. Hauser Brydon thanked session for its roles and assistance with this year's stewardship campaign.
- 11.2. He reminded session of the upcoming new officer training on November 10.
12. **Associate Pastor's Comments** – Rev. Jill VanderWal reporting:
- 12.1. Rev. VanderWal reported on this year's all church retreat.
13. **Action Items Recap:**
- 13.1. Approved the November 6, 2017 meeting docket with one addition.
- 13.2. Approved the October 2, 2017 session meeting minutes.
- 13.3. Approved the October, 2017 membership report.
- 13.4. Approved moving Joe and Suzy Edwards to "Active" status.
- 13.5. Accepted the Treasurer's report.
- 13.6. Under omnibus motion, accepted the following written reports: Deacons, Hospitality, Mission, and Youth.
- 13.7. Approved taking 2017's annual distribution from the Mission Fund held at GHACF.
- 13.8. Accepted the reports from Generosity and Trustees.
- 13.9. Adjourned the meeting.
14. **Adjournment:** The session adjourned at 8:45 pm with a closing prayer by Rev. VanderWal. The next scheduled meeting is December 4, 2017 at 7 pm in the church lounge.

William Bussell
Clerk of Session