

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC  
 Form 4  
 February 17, 2016

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**MCCAUGHAN JAMES P**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**711 HIGH STREET**  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**02/16/2016**

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
**President - Global Asset Mgmt.**

**DES MOINES, IA 50392**

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	Price	
Common Stock	02/16/2016		S <sup>(1)</sup>		10,000	D 35.75 (2)	235,222 <sup>(3)</sup> D
Common Stock	02/16/2016		M <sup>(4)</sup>		10,000	A \$ 22.21	245,222 <sup>(3)</sup> D
Common Stock	02/16/2016		S <sup>(4)</sup>		10,000	D \$ 36.14 (5)	235,222 <sup>(3)</sup> D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Share
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 22.21	02/16/2016		M <sup>(4)</sup>	10,000	02/23/2013	02/23/2020	Common Stock	10,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
MCCAUGHAN JAMES P 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392	President - Global Asset Mgmt.

## Signatures

Patrick A. Kirchner, by Power of Attorney  
Date: 02/17/2016

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 plan adopted by the reporting person on November 12, 2015.  
The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$35.59 - 35.95, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to Principal Financial Group, Inc., any security holder of Principal Financial Group, Inc., or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in this footnote.
- (3) Includes 9,692 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (4) Pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on December 4, 2015.
- (5)

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The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$35.60 - \$36.46, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to Principal Financial Group, Inc., any security holder of Principal Financial Group, Inc., or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in this footnote.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.