GERSIE MICHAEL H

Form 4

December 19, 2006

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.

SECURITIES Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section See Instruction

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * GERSIE MICHAEL H | | 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) 711 HIGH S | (First) | | te of Earliest Transaction th/Day/Year) 5/2006 | | | | Director 10% OwnerX_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Executive Vice President/CFO | | | |
| | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check | | | | |
| DES MOIN | ES, IA 50392 | | Filed(Mon | th/Day/Year) | • | | | Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by Form filed by Person | One Reporting P More than One R | |
| (City) | (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | any | | emed ion Date, if n/Day/Year) | (A) or | | |)) | 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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| Common Stock | 12/15/2006 | | | A | 175 | A | \$ 0 (1) | 37,519 <u>(2)</u> | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/15/2006 | | | A | 30 | A | \$ 0 (1) | 3,506 (3) | I | By Spouse |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 451 | I | By 401(k) Plan |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 224 | I | By Spouse's 401(k) |

Plan

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8) | 5. orNumber 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) | | 8. Pr Derir Secu (Inst |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|-----|--|--------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |
| Performance Units | <u>(4)</u> | 12/15/2006 | | A | 13 | | (5) | <u>(5)</u> | Common Stock | 13 | |
| Phantom Stock Units | <u>(4)</u> | 12/15/2006 | | A | 1.5 | | <u>(6)</u> | <u>(6)</u> | Common Stock | 1.5 | \$ 5 |
| Phantom Stock Units | <u>(4)</u> | | | | | | <u>(6)</u> | <u>(6)</u> | Common Stock | 0 | |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

GERSIE MICHAEL H 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392

Executive Vice President/CFO

Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney 12/19/2006

**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) Grant of restricted stock units.

Reporting Owners 2

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- (2) Includes 2,889 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) Includes 1,724 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (4) Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- (5) The reported performance units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group Long-Term Performance Plan. Units under the Plan will be settled in cash or stock within a five-year period from the date of vesting.
- The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time (6) into another investment alternative under the Plan. Interests under the Plan will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

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.