

Updated January 2018

FOCUS

DISCIPLESHIP • LEADERSHIP • OUTREACH • STEWARDSHIP



Riverwood Chapel

A NOTE FROM PASTOR COLE TAWNEY

Riverwood Community Chapel was planted in 1991 with a vision of being a community of believers who worship God and serve the greater Stow-Kent communities.

As a church, we understand our calling to be rooted in four priorities:

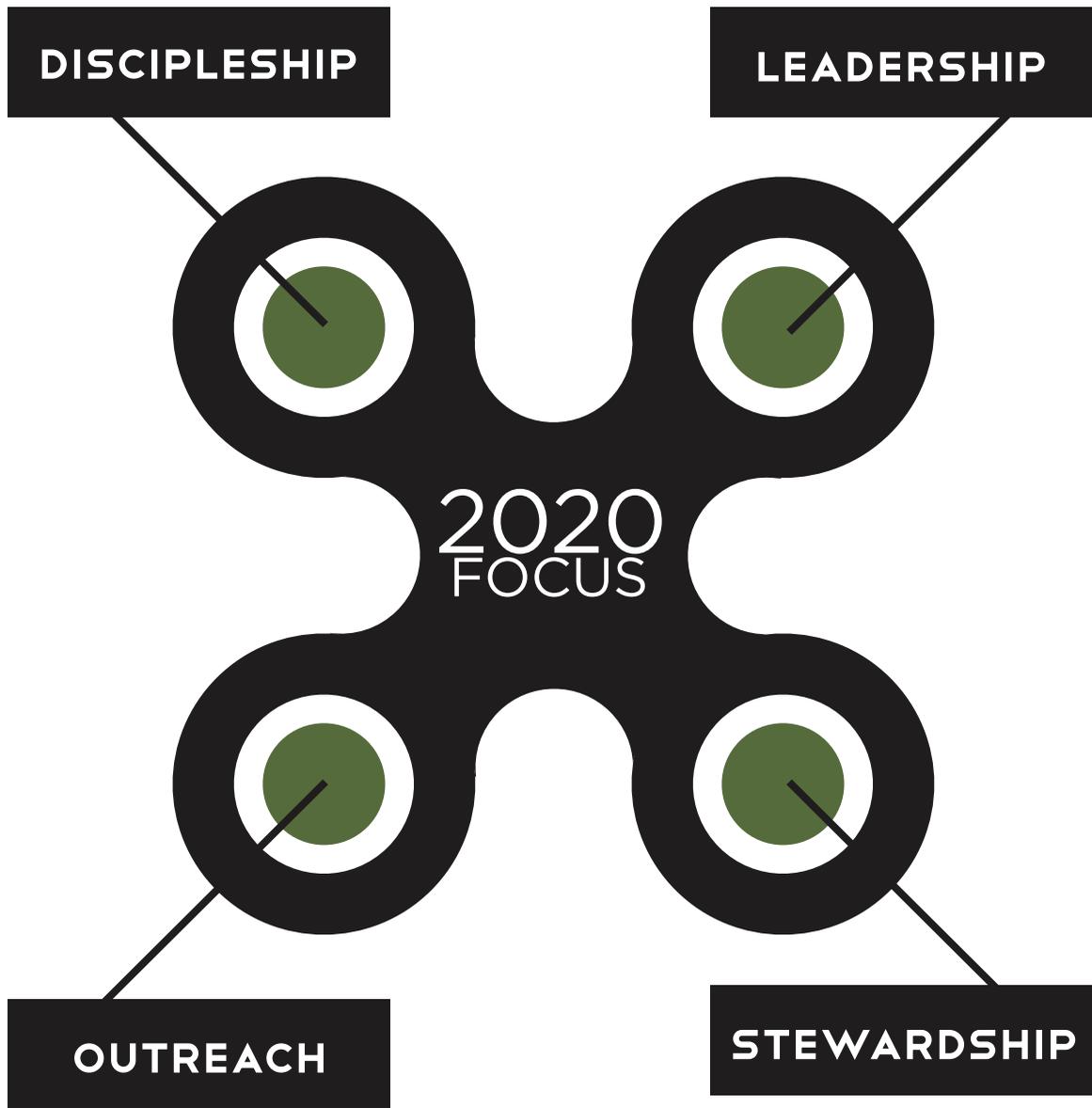
- » **Pursue Jesus** – On Sundays corporately as the church gathered, and every other day in our lives as the church scattered
- » **Grow Together** – Knowing that we need to be with each other for the benefit of our spiritual journey
- » **Serve Others** – Using the time and talents entrusted to us for greater purposes that benefit others
- » **Make Disciples** – Being intentional in how we share and live out the gospel

Three years ago the pastors and elders of Riverwood Chapel spent time prayerfully seeking God to discern his leading for our church over the next five years. As a result the 2020 Focus was created with four areas of priority: Discipleship, Leadership, Outreach and Stewardship. We are now in the midpoint of this incredible five-year journey of faith.

The God that we worship is doing an amazing work in and through his church. Please continue to join us in prayer and action as we continue to follow God's leading in many areas, but primarily in the ways described in this 2020 Focus.

In Christ,

Pastor Cole Tawney
January 2018



"... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:17-19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Discipleship is living a life that is intentional in following and growing in Jesus Christ. At Riverwood, we believe discipleship happens best in relationships that are intentional, spiritual and missional. The disciple’s journey produces a portrait that increasingly resembles Jesus the longer the one walks with him. This journey includes important phases, and the objective of each phase is to become more deeply rooted in Christ.

Our focus in these five years will be intentionally growing in Jesus Christ and seeking to produce 30, 60 or 100 times what was sown (*see Jesus’ Parable of the Sower*).

This intentional process of growth involves every person...

- » Learning a life of worship, growing trust in the one whom we believe.
- » Being discipled by another who is speaking into one’s life.
- » Discipling another and speaking into their life.
- » Investing in group life, a place of belonging.

DISCIPLESHIP



“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11

The apostle Paul wrote these words to the early church, calling for leaders to step up and lead God’s people into greater relationship with Christ. To the Corinthians Paul said that the fellowship of believers is like a body, with each person playing a role in the overall vitality of the community.

Riverwood has a long list of ministries with many people active in the work of the ministry. However, we do not have a consistent, focused approach to developing leaders to lead the work of these ministries.

Over the next five years, we will **focus on leadership development** in the following ways:

1. Creating necessary structures to develop future ministry leaders
2. Promoting continuing leadership education
3. Creating structures for leadership recognition and accountability

LEADERSHIP

OUTREACH

The Bible is a story of rescue, of God reaching out and rescuing his people and restoring his world. Riverwood's role in reaching out to our neighbors and the nations is the inevitable outcome - even the logical outworking of God continuing his story of rescue and restoration.

Over the next five years, our **focus for outreach** is to see the following:

1. Greater impact on our immediate community and local neighborhoods
2. Initiating involvement in refugee resettlement in partnership with World Relief
3. Increasing awareness of and prayer for the Akkin people of the Caucasus Region



THREE DIMENSIONS OF STEWARDSHIP:

FUTURE INVESTMENT

DEBT ELIMINATION

PERSONAL FINANCE



Stewardship is about more than money. For example, in Genesis God gave stewardship of creation to humanity to plant, invest, cultivate and create. As a church, we are called to steward our resources, individually and corporately, toward the expansion of God's kingdom.

Our focus over the next five years will be these **three dimensions of stewardship**:

1. Individual stewardship of personal finances
2. Corporate stewardship of finances through debt elimination
3. Future stewardship of ministry growth through expanding facilities debt free

STEWARDSHIP

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21



Riverwood
Chapel

riverwoodchapel.org
1407 Fairchild Avenue Kent, Ohio 44240
330.678.7000