

Present: Pastor Caleb Atkins, Tim Beine, Matt Colosky, Charlene Flint, Pastor Michael Golemi, Joe Haberkorn, Justin Roberts, Greg Schroeder, Ron Sokovich, Jeremy Walker, Robin Walker, Pastor Dave Zimmermann.

Guest: Pastor Jeff Brown, District Superintendent; Mike Friedl

Absent: Bruce Cochrane, Dan Ellsworth

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Justin Roberts opened the meeting in prayer.

Ron Sokovich presented a devotion. Out of the Christmas story who would you like to talk to? Out of 100 Christmas songs lyrics, Joseph is only mentioned in two. And yet Joseph saved Mary from punishment of death, is an example of Godly man and Godly husband.

Jeff Brown presented letters from Janice Quinlan, Thailand Field Director; and Ed and Sue Danneker, International Workers in Thailand, both commending River Valley's Impacts Team and short-term mission trip.

Previous Minutes: A **motion** was made by Jeremy Walker to approve the November 14, 2017 Minutes. Second. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Zimmermann: A written report was submitted. Preaching: Pastor Golemi will be preaching on December 31. All three services will be held on December 31. January communion will be held on December 31. The new sermon series begins January 7, "The NEW You: The Transforming Presence of God" (Galatians 5). Teen Challenge will be visiting on January 21. Their testimonies will be the sermon for that Sunday. Bread of Stone will be leading worship on Sunday, January 28. The church office will be closed on December 25 and 26 and January 1 and 2. The response to the recent December cantata was outstanding. Over 60 musicians were involved with nearly 550 in attendance. This has become an annual outreach event and has brought a lot of people that normally do not attend River Valley, both musicians and audience. Pastor Zimmermann is planning for the tuning of the sound system and training for the sound booth operators. Pastor Zimmermann has been invited to serve on the Redevelopment Authority (RDA). This is a committee that looks at revitalizing Watertown from many different angles. His goal in this is to increase River Valley's visibility in civic affairs and, of course, to have Kingdom impact. Pastor Zimmermann, Mike Friedl, and Corey Schultz will be attending the CMA Converge (Missions) Conference in Colorado Springs from January 14-18. Dave Manske, Regional Missions Mobilizer, visited this week. He reported that since 1988, \$828,000 has been given by River Valley to Alliance missions.

Disciplemaking Ministries:

Adults: A written report was submitted. Pastor Atkins laid out the adult Sunday School offerings for January-May 2018. Two classes will be offered during the 9:30 hour; there will be a Marriage and Family-themed class. and a class on the book of Hebrews. Dwelling in the Word groups will meet during the 11:00 hour. There will be a small group Bible Study entitled, "Understanding Depression". As a community outreach, Pastor Atkins is on the Board of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Dodge County. **Middle School and High School:** A written report was submitted. The high school Sunday school class has completed the study of the book of Ephesians. The middle school Sunday school class has paused for the Christmas/holiday season. They will resume on January 7. Pastor Golemi is preparing for two major events. The first is the high school retreat – OASIS, which will be held January 19-21. The second event is the Bread of Stone outreach concert at the YMCA on January 27.

Children: A written report was submitted. Second Service Discovery Land has had strong attendance. Our third service numbers are still very small; averaging 5 kids (k-5th grade). AWANA Skate Night was a success with approximately 20 families coming to skate. Mrs. Walker will be looking at the families that attend River Valley and specifically what ministries their children are plugged into. She will be looking at Discovery Land, AWANA, and Music Camp. A few names were added to the nursery worker list. More workers are still needed to fill out the volunteer list and lighten the load on the other volunteers.

Elder Report: No written report was submitted. The Elder of the Day will be encouraged to serve as a guest spotter. This will include keeping an eye out for guests and making sure they get to the Welcome Center. The elders are considering not having Sunday School during July and August. Brian Gerike is leading worship on Sunday mornings. Ron Sokovich makes a motion to ask Brian Gerike to become Lead Worship Leader. Second. Motion carried.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted by Tim Beine. As of November 30, the balances are: Checking account, \$62,750.36 and Money Market, \$80,151.35. Credit card debt for November was \$4,133.89. Expenses exceeded revenues by over \$10,000. The Build the Future Sinking Fund balance as of November 30, 2017 is \$85,450.89.

Impacts (Missions) Report: A written report was submitted. The highlight of the last month was a visit from Chris and Sarah, CAMA International Workers from Laos. River Valley attenders were able to meet them at church and a dessert potluck held at the parsonage. The IMPACTS program has reached a milestone of having 100 different families committed to pray every day for a month for one individual International Worker. An International Worker briefing package for IMPACTS Pray-ers has been completed. The information in the package can also be used to produce an awareness pamphlet and made available to interested persons. The Great Commission Fund (GCF) contributions for YTD November 30, 2017 indicate the GCF needs about \$4,200 donated during December to meet budget. An annual review of mission's engagement at River Valley Alliance Church, Watertown, Wisconsin was completed on November 14, 2017. The results were compiled and given in the Impacts report.

Service and Benevolence Report: A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$1,042.00 were made. Disbursements for November were \$713.19. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund is \$6,508.32. At the monthly meeting earlier this month, the food and gas card review was finalized and recording the incoming cards from the Benevolent account was put in place.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was submitted. The Tax Policy Center estimates that the new Tax Reform will reduce donations by 7%. From 15%-20% of River Valley donors are affected by Tax Reform. Because of this, Treasurer Schroeder anticipates higher 2017 year-end giving and reduced 2018 giving. Discussion was held regarding discretion for the Senior Pastor to compensate temporary help for office coverage when office staff is absent. According to Article IV of the Bylaws, the Governing Board has the power to hire staff; and according to Article VIII of the River Valley Bylaws, the Compensation Committee has the responsibility to set wages and benefits. Greg Schroeder made a **motion** that if the Senior Pastor needs flexibility to hire temporary help, it is not to exceed \$10 per hour on a daily basis. Second. Discussion. Motion carried.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted. Countertops for the kitchen remodel were discussed by the Trustees. After getting quotes from Zuern Building Products, the Trustees recommend purchasing Laminate counter top. Joe Haberkorn made a **motion** to purchase laminate countertop for the kitchen at a cost of \$2,200 with the deaconesses selecting the color. Second. Motion carried. Four quotes were obtained from four companies. The trustees selected AMI Telecom LLC, Germantown WI. This will be installed in three

phases: 1) Install Linear Emerge Card Access System, 2) Install 2 Sony 1080 IP cameras, 3) Upgrade phone system to include building paging option. Training for ushers and possibly a security team. Greg Schroeder **motioned** we afford Phase 1 of \$13,000. Second. Motion carried.

Joe Haberkorn made a **motion** to accept all ministry area reports. Second. Motion carried. Each of the reports in their entirety is available in the church office upon request.

Old Business:

Policy Committees: Facility: Did not meet in December. Worship: Traditional worship service policy still to be done. Benevolent Fund Policy: Work has begun to gather all the information from the past on procedures, and they will be reviewed over the next month. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee has concluded its work. It will be posted throughout the church. A full report will be available at the January Governing Board Meeting. Ron Sokovich makes a **motion** to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Second. Motion carried. Vision: The Build the Future Committee has concluded its work for now and put forth its findings and recommendations. The Build the Future Committee feels there are not any urgent facility “Needs” at this point. The congregation has a general/broad vision for community outreach focus, but lack of clarity. Pastor Zimmermann made a **motion** that the Build the Future Committee be reconvened in June and December of 2018 to check on clarity of vision for outreach and changes in attendance.

New Business: Approval of Housing and Parsonage Allowances: Pastor Zimmermann requests a parsonage allowance of \$5,300. Greg Schroeder **motions** to accept. Second. Motion carried. Pastor Atkins requests a housing allowance of \$18,500. Greg Schroeder **motions** to accept. Second. Motion carried. Pastor Golemi requests a housing allowance of \$12,000. Greg Schroeder **motions** to accept. Second. Motion carried. These housing/parsonage allowance resolutions are kept on file. Budget: The 2018 RVAC Budget maintained the same General Fund income from the actual YOY income from 12/1/2016 through 11/30/2017. This is an 11% increase from the 2016 budget. Greg Schroeder made a **motion** to approve the 2018 budget with an income of \$582,280.00 and total expense of \$582,280.00. Second. Motion carried, subject to approval by the congregation at the annual meeting. Report of the Committee on Membership: The membership list has been updated which includes 13 new members who were received in December. Ron Sokovich makes a **motion** to accept report of the Committee on Membership. River Valley History Update to Handbook: The church history is to be updated by the Governing Board Secretary. Storage of Minutes and Records: The Governing Board Secretary will send all Minutes from 2017 to River Valley’s Treasurer for permanent storage.

Pastor Brown makes comments and observations. He is pleased with the Governing Board’s sense of teamwork, responsibility and commitment. He applauds the discussion on security measures. Pastor Brown urged the Governing Board to take time for “soul care” ... to make it a number one priority.

Ron **motioned** to adjourn. Second. Motion carried.

Justin Roberts closed the meeting in prayer. The next Governing Board meeting will be held on January 18, 2018 at 6 p.m. The annual meeting will be held January 28, 2018 at 1 p.m.

The minutes contained in this report pend final approval by the Governing Board at the next formal meeting.

Charlene Flint,
Governing Board Secretary
River Valley Alliance Church