

Present: Mike Cederberg, Bruce Cochrane, Matt Colosky, Charlene Flint, Michael Golemi, Joe Haberkorn, Justin Roberts, Greg Schroeder, Ron Sokovich, Jeremy Walker, Pastor Dave Zimmermann.

Absent: Pastor Caleb Atkins

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Ron Sokovich shared a devotion, reading from Deuteronomy 16:13-15 regarding the Feast of the Tabernacles and being joyful in our service. Mike Cederberg opened the meeting in prayer.

Previous Minutes: A **motion** was made to approve the February 18, 2015 minutes as revised. Second. Motion carried.

Pastoral Reports: Pastor Zimmermann: A written report was submitted. Pastor Zimmermann and Greg Schroeder have been working on a vision statement for River Valley. The current version was distributed to the Governing Board and discussed. This would replace the "Connect" statement we have been using for quite some time. Pastor Atkins and Pastor Zimmermann have both been putting in long hours each week. They are willing to do this for "such a time as this", but this is not sustainable long term. The pastors have divided up the duties of the former Adult Ministries position, but most of these have been added to Pastor Atkins' list of responsibilities along with his Student Ministries activities. Pastor Zimmermann suggests a part-time Children's Ministry Director be hired. It has been discussed that Pastor Atkins' position be changed to Pastor of Discipleship. This would allow him to keep his influence with the youth, but also expand it to adults as well. The Governing Board was asked to ask God if He would have us hire some more part-time people, use more volunteers, or hire a full-time youth pastor. Pastor Atkins continues pursuing his Masters' Degree through the University of Northwestern-St Paul. Per the Employee Handbook he is being reimbursed for his classes up a total of \$5,250. He has received all "A's" for his classes this term. Pastor Zimmermann cautions that acronyms (GCF, CAMA, etc.) can put off newcomers and requests that whenever possible we avoid them and when we need to be brief we refer to River Valley Alliance Church as "River Valley" not "RVAC". Pastor Zimmermann will be on vacation from April 3-10. Pastors Zimmermann and Atkins will be attending the Western Great Lakes District Conference in St. Croix Falls, WI, April 11-13. Mike Cederberg will also be attending as a lay representative. Pastor Atkins: A written report was submitted. The Middle school youth group is involved in a study on Romans. Romans is now being used to talk about the day-to-day life of a Believer. Attendance has been staying around 30. Last year there was a steep drop off after Christmas. The Senior High is about half done with the Song of Solomon Study. Attendance has been averaging about 20 students as opposed to the normal 7-10. The Sunday discipleship class has been going well. The Awana Move assessment is going to be used to look at 5 of the ministries here at River Valley. Awana Move looks at 9 core principles of ministry. The Move assessment will be taken by an assortment of leaders, volunteers, and parents of participants. The results will then be communicated to the relevant ministry leaders with an emphasis of strengths and weaknesses. This service will be free. Updates will follow as soon as the assessment process is begun. The launching of Elexio is going well. So far Elexio is being used for the internal database, the member portal, and online giving. The next immediate step is purchasing the hardware to use the check-process. Check in will allow safe and secure check-in of students in the nursery and children's discipleship class.

DMM (Disciple Making Ministries) Report: A written report was submitted. Michael Golemi reported on the adult and youth classes being held. Taking the month of August off from Sunday School was discussed. This would give workers time to re-evaluate, re-invest in themselves, and rest. May 22 was set as "Service Sunday" The goal is to establish what service is (and is not), and to help congregants to realize their potential. A "gifts" assessment may be held in the future.

Deacon\Deaconess Report: A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$852 were made. Disbursements for February were \$730.95. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund is \$5383.93. Sandy McLatchie has taken on the role of intake for benevolent request. The Deacons and Deaconesses recommend Dianne Cochrane as an additional deaconess. A **motion** was made to approve Dianne Cochrane as Deaconess. Second. Motion carried.

Elder Report: A written report was submitted. Elders continue to go over the membership list. This should be completed by April's meeting. Michelle Beine will be helping with the Easter Choir and taking over much of the responsibility for the music aspects of Music Camp. Julie Arant, who serves at the University of Nebraska in missions to international students, will be invited to speak at the Women's Christmas Brunch this year. She has a powerful message. She will also be invited to speak at the Sunday services that weekend.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted. Loan balance as of January 29 is \$77,632.61. The loan rate is currently at 3.3295%. February 2016 expenses exceeded revenues by over \$21,000. A **motion** was made to supplement the "86" payment by approximately \$4,075.46 to make the February mortgage payment. Discussion. Second. Motion carried. There was a transfer \$10,000 from money market to the checking account. Not a big concern, but something to be aware of.

Impacts (Missions) Report: A written report was submitted. Missions Emphasis Weekend was February 26-28, which included a Friday night multi-cultural potluck (59 attending); a Saturday brunch for RVAC leaders, teachers, and influencers (44 attending); and a Saturday afternoon missions exhibition representing the missions effort of 14 missionaries, countries, or ministries (68 attending). During worship on Sunday, the Sunday School children had a parade of flags. Mike Cederberg preached on Acts 1:8. Mr. Wichan Sayphin, a student at the Northeast Bible School in Thailand, is the first missionary to come into our IMPACTS program and has been assigned a River Valley Pray-er and a River Valley Advocate.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted. Richard Panfil has resigned from the Trustees Board as of February 21, 2016 indicating it doesn't work with his schedule. The Bylaws state that the Trustees Board is to be made up of a minimum of 5 Members. Currently the Trustees have five members on the board. Heritage Homes has requested to use a portion of our property for their residence gardens like in the past. They will have the area tilled and provide the water for watering from their residence. A **motion** was made that Heritage Homes is allowed to use a portion of River Valley property for gardens. They will supply the water and have an outside person till up the ground. Second. Carried. Joe will create a release of liability for them to sign. Discussion was held regarding what could be done to improve the flow pattern in the kitchen area. Ideas were discussed and plans will be drawn up to obtain pricing. The lower men's bathroom is almost complete. Easter decorations have been made, are being painted, and will be set up Holy Week. All classrooms are fitted with fire rated doors. These doors must be closed at all times when the building is not occupied per fire code regulations. The Trustees are checking all doors and adjusting the self-closing hinges so they work properly and any doors not fitted with self-closing hinges will be fitted with new hinges.

A **motion** was made 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: Historical Minutes and Essential Corporate Documents: The Treasurer has digitized all historical GB Minutes and saved them on a flash drive held in the office safe. Compensation Items: Pastor Zimbelman's payroll ended March 8. He was approved for Long Term disability on March 9 that represented 60% of his full payroll including the parsonage allowance based on his 2016 compensation agreement. His Long Term Disability will be paid until age 65. Call of Lead Pastor: Pastor Zimmermann accepted his call and became the Lead Pastor effective Feb. 19. Calendar Items: Multi-Parcel Tax Exempt Report with City of Watertown was submitted. This must be filed every two years.

New Business: Elexio: To effectively start using check-in Pastor Caleb recommends the purchase of two Elexio tablets, one Elexio label printer, as well as a roll of labels to use in the printer. We may be able to purchase less expensive Windows tablets to use with check-in in the future, but the Elexio tablets come with support. A **motion** was made to purchase 2 tablets at \$780 each, one label printer at \$570, and an initial roll of labels at \$175 for a total cost of \$2,305. Discussion. Second. Motion carried. Peacemaker Training: The GB was reminded of Peacemaker Training on April 23 from 8 – 4:30. Long-Term Data Storage: There are 4 areas to look at with long-term storage: 1) Documents should be distributed in PDF format, but use Word version for editing and keep in safe. Discussion. 2) Justin recommends the purchase of a storage drive on which to keep documents. The GB Secretary is charged with the storage of documents. 3) Storage offsite. He recommends everything be stored on Microsoft One Drive, which is already used by several staff members. 4) Passwords and password administration. These need to be collected and kept in one place. Committee to Review Constitution/Bylaws and Job Descriptions: A **motion** was made to form a committee to review Constitution and Bylaws. Second. Carried. Ron Sokovich, Greg Schroeder, Bruce Cochrane, and Dave Smith will be on the Committee. Usher Coordinator Appointment: Dan Ellsworth was approved as usher coordinator. Deacons: The Benevolent portion of the Deacons/Deaconesses has been acting as a committee of 7. It will now be a team of 5. Organizational Flow Chart: The Organization Flow Chart was presented to the GB. It will be a work in progress. Discussion. Changes will be made. Children's Ministry Director: Pastor Zimmermann suggests a Children's Ministry Director be hired. This would not be in lieu of hiring a third pastor. A Job description was submitted to the GB. This would include the areas of nursery, children's Sunday discipleship classes, Awana, etc. A **motion** was made to create a position of Children's Ministry Director. Second. Discussion. Motion carried. Staffing needs will be continually evaluated. Jeremy Walker is excused. Discussion regarding offering the position to Robin Walker. She is gifted in this area and the Lord seems to be leading her in this direction. A **motion** was made to offer the position of Children's Ministry Director to Robin Walker as a part-time salaried position based upon the presumption of \$20 per hour and 20 hours per week. Second. Carried. Jeremy Walker re-enters meeting. Pastor Zimmermann Installation: A celebration will be held June 26. A committee will be formed to organize the service and celebration. Change in Pastoral Compensation: Pastor Zimmermann is excused. Discussion was held as to the use of the parsonage. The GB was asked to pray about this. Pastor Zimbelman Offering: There will be a bulletin item regarding monetary gifts to the Zimbelmans. Due to IRS regulations, the church cannot collect any monies for them. The Future: Mike Cederberg shared what God has been showing him regarding the future of our country. He suggests we buy storage food so that we can be a light in the darkness during possible tragic times. This will be addressed with the Elder Board.

Motion to adjourn. Second. Carried.

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

Charlene Flint,
River Valley Alliance Church Governing Board Secretary