

River Valley Alliance Church
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2016

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

Absent: Bruce Cochrane

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. Ron Sokovich shared a devotion based on Habakuk 1:2-4 regarding persistence, faith and trust in God's timing....faith, trust, persistence. Pastor Dave opened the meeting in prayer.

Previous Minutes: A **motion** was made to approve the March 17, 2015 minutes. Second. Motion carried.

Pastoral Reports: Pastor Zimmermann: A written report was submitted. Robin Walker accepted the position as Children's Ministry Director. Even though she doesn't officially begin until August 1, Robin has already begun to make some changes. In accepting the position, Robin requested 7 weeks of unpaid leave during the year. As a result, Robin's salary has been changed to reflect these 7 weeks of unpaid leave. Pastor and Nancy are extremely grateful for the opportunity to be living in the parsonage. They will be using it for the church's benefit and for the glory of God. In an attempt to get people talking about their faith, their relationship with Jesus, and how they see God at work in their lives, "What if?" devotionals written by River Valley for River Valley are being instituted. Everyone is encouraged to choose a Bible verse and write only 50-100 words of personal application of that verse. These devotions will be shared via email on a daily basis or a hard copy (for those without email) each Sunday. The summer sermon series will be: A Summer of Promise (The Promises of God to His children). Pastor Atkins: A written report was submitted. Middle School youth group is entering into an exciting year end post-Awana phase. Biblically based lessons will continue along with building relationships through more game and activities. Strong attendance numbers continue, and they are not experiencing the same drop-off as last year around this time. Summer events are being planned with calendars coming out soon. High School youth group will wrap up their study on Song of Solomon this week. At this time 4 students and 2 leaders have registered for Life 2016 in Kansas City. Pastor Atkins enjoyed the time at district conference this month in St.Croix Falls. They received excellent teaching from speakers as well as voted in legislative sessions. Pastor Atkins participated in two district leadership positions by being on the Committee for District Ministries and being chairman of the tellers.

DMM (Disciple Making Ministries) Report: A written report was submitted. Michael Golemi reported on the adult and youth classes being held. There was no DMM meeting this month as there has been little change and nothing to discuss. Adult classes are going well. Discussion as to Year of the Bible critique from those reading through the Bible. Discussion of attendance.

Deacon\Deaconess Report: A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$642 were made. Disbursements for March were \$2,587.66. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund is \$3,438.27. This past month the deacons/deaconesses assisted a family from the community with a funeral luncheon here at River Valley. It was for a young mother who passed away. It was a ministry to the family to have a place to host this meal. The deacons/deaconesses helped with the luncheon for the Owen Pritchard family on April 22. The move for the Zimmermanns into the parsonage went smoothly on April 16. A big thank you for all those who helped with the move.

Elder Report: A written report was submitted. Pastor Zimmermann presented his idea of “What If Devotionals” and asked the elders to write some of these for him to review. Pastor Atkins continued his presentation on “Making Disciples” followed by discussion on developing relationships and how this involves the aspects of time, truth and love. Not just doing activities, but forming relationships to make disciples.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted. Loan balance as of March 31, 2016 is \$69,241.20. The loan rate is currently at 3.3439%. March 2016 revenues exceeded expenses by over \$10,600. A **motion** was made to supplement the “86” payment by approximately \$3,854.46 to make the March mortgage payment. Discussion. Second. Motion carried. Donations to 86 the mortgage are \$7,700 (60%) less than anticipated. It may be beneficial to remind the congregation of the goal pay down the debt. While they see the balance falling they do not recognize the balance is being paid out at the expense of the general fund. Last month it was necessary for the Treasurer to transfer \$10,000 from the money market to cover payroll. The Treasurer updated the Governing Board on the financial situation. There was discussion of giving options and which is most popular. There was discussion as to how to notify congregation on 86 the debt.

Impacts (Missions) Report: A written report was submitted. In addition to Mr. Wichan Sayphin, the first missionary who has become involved in the IMPACTS program, there are 5 other missionaries interested in participating. Three are CMA International Workers assigned to Thailand. Ekkachai Vajana, a Thai pastor is also interested. He is a key person in River Valley’s effort to establish a partnership with a Thai church. We have a good response at River Valley in recruiting Pray-ers but only moderate interest in congregational participation as Advocates with only 3 individuals interested. Emmi Hanus has been approved to join Envision as an intern to Taiwan for 18 months and has requested financial support from River Valley. Gary Stanwood is her IMPACTS Advocate.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted. After 3 announcements requesting people to slow down in the parking lot there still are people speeding up under the carport. Someone may get seriously hurt unless something is done. Portable barricades along with pedestrian crossing signs are going to be tried at the cost of \$90. Initial plans have been drawn up for the kitchen area. There will be continuing discussion on the kitchen and improving the flow pattern. The trustees are looking for a Saturday in June to do a more thorough cleaning of the church and any areas outside. The garage is in need of a new roof. The Trustees are getting estimates for both shingles and metal roofing. A new service door needs to be installed on the garage as the door frame is rotten. The cost to replace about \$200.00. The Trustees are also obtaining pricing to redo the cement area in front of the basement door as the concrete is badly cracked and broken up. Heritage Homes using property for garden. The Head Trustee submitted a Hold Harmless Agreement. The Board approved the use of this Hold Harmless Agreement.

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: Elexio: Pastor Atkins has finished the coaching section of Elexio and is currently working on 1, 3, 6, and 12-month goals. He is developing training for other staff members. The website and app should be up and running within the next month or two. Check-in will also begin to be implemented in the nursery and children’s ministry. Long-Term Data Storage: The external hard drive is on the network. Justin Roberts has set it up on all PC’s. He wants to set up MAPS drive, and will train those who need to know. He will be working with office staff. 1) Documents – PDF and Word. There is backup on flash drive. 2) Off site storage. Microsoft OneDrive. 3) Password protection. The Board Secretary will work with Justin Roberts on Long-term safe storage of documents. Committee to Review Constitution/Bylaws and Job Descriptions: C&MA National Constitution cannot be changed. Our local bylaws can be changed. Discussion. Pastor Zimmermann

Installation: A celebration will be held June 26. Two Governing Board members were appointed to organize the service and celebration. Pastoral Compensation: Pastor Zimmermann will not be receiving an increase in salary because of use of the parsonage. Parsonage: At the Special Governing Board meeting on March 31 the Governing Board voted to allow the Zimmermanns to use the parsonage. Reminders: The Board is reminded of Peacemaking Training, April 23; Service Sunday, May 22; Greater Things, August 13; and there will be no Sunday School during August.

New Business: Emmi Hanus – Envision: Emmi is graduating from Carroll College this spring. She gave a presentation to the Governing Board. She has been approved to join Envision as an intern to Taiwan for 18 months and has requested financial support from River Valley. Discussion. The matter was tabled. Quarterly Governing Board Update: An announcement will be made the 2nd Sunday in May. It will also be posted on the Board with the Minutes. Articles of Incorporation: Amended Articles of Incorporation are encouraged by C&MA because of new laws. Groups are threatening to sue churches. These changes will place River Valley under the umbrella of the C&MA. Certain language needs to be in the Articles of Incorporation. **Motion** to amend the Articles of Incorporation. Second. Discussion. Motion carried. They will be filed with the State.

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