

River Valley Alliance Church
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2017

Present: Pastor Caleb Atkins, Tim Beine, Dan Ellsworth, Charlene Flint, Pastor Michael Golemi, Joe Haberkorn, Justin Roberts, Greg Schroeder, Ron Sokovich, Pastor Dave Zimmermann.

Absent: Josh Barnet, Bruce Cochrane, Dan Ellsworth, Jeremy Walker, Robin Walker

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Pastor Atkins opened the meeting in prayer.

Previous Minutes: Tim Beine made a **motion** to approve the April 20, 2017 minutes. Second. Motion carried. Greg Schroeder motion to approved minutes from Special Governing Board meeting on May 10, 2017. Second. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Zimmermann: A written report was submitted. The titling of the Vision/Mission statement on the River Valley website has been changed to Our Purpose. This is where people will find the “Followers of Jesus: Transformed. Empowered”, Our Mission, and Our Core Values. This was done to avoid confusion between this and Vision 2022. Dan Ellsworth will preach on June 4 while all three pastors are at the CMA General Council in Ohio. The sermon series “John Part 4: Abundant Life: Jesus’ Prescription” will be finished on June 11. From June 18 through August, the Pastors will be preaching on The Reality of God (Focusing on the attributes of God). A new Digging Deeper format is being tried. It is called Dwelling in the Word. It is more of a personalized approach to Scripture and encourages those who participate to work on discerning what God is saying to them personally through a passage of Scripture. The trial period for this will be four weeks. Pastor Zimmermann has charged Mike Friedl with the task of developing policies for the frequency of Short Term Trips and the ratio between donations to product sales when it comes to fund raising.

Disciplemaking Ministries:

Adults: A written report was submitted. In an attempt to be intentional and set up a process that can be repeated, the focus of the immediate future for small group discipleship will be to go over the list of regular attenders and members and identify those who attend on Sundays, but are not involved in some kind of mid-week discipleship. The goal is getting intentional with getting people plugged in. The overarching goal then is to have all our attenders and members be involved in some type of discipleship. Sunday, May 28 is the last regular Sunday discipleship class for the spring. Starting June 4 the summer schedule will begin. During the months of June and July, there will be one single adult class. The first five weeks will cover some exciting video materials walking the group through the Holy Land. Following this, the IMPACTS team will teach four Sundays about missions awareness and engagement. During the month of August, there will be no Adult Sunday School. The Elexio team met Thursday, May 4.

Jr. and Sr. High School: A written report was submitted. The six week, The Real Jesus class has concluded. Pastor Golemi addressed common misconceptions about the life of Jesus, as well as to reinforce the biblical notions about Him. Pastor Golemi took one week to administer a survey regarding the High School students “devotional” habits. Like adults, the students see the need for devoted quiet time in the Bible and prayer, but they have not been making it a priority. What a “devotional” is was looked at – both the necessary and optional components of a “devotional.” The

goal was to encourage students to make “devotions” a priority in their lives. The High School youth group continues to reflect on the final chapters of the book of James. Two of the middle school students accepted Jesus as their Savior on Wednesday, May 10. Praise the Lord for His unrelenting grace, faithfulness, and impeccable timing!

Children: A written report was submitted. Planning has begun for Music Camp this summer. It is the last week of July (July 24 -27). This year’s theme is “God is on the Move”. Elexio will be used for the registration process this year. The Music Camp page should be ready by the end of the month. The Review Team will begin meeting on May 22 to help update the Children’s Procedures Manual.

Elder Report: A written report was submitted. The Elder board meeting was held on May 11, 2017. The Elders discussed short term mission trip support, philosophy and support of future trips. The Elders were in full support of short term trips continuing after this year’s trip to Thailand. Bruce Cochrane, as the Mission Elder, will meet with Mike Friedl to discuss budgeting plans for the future. Discussion followed on Worship policy. Josh Barnet, Pastor Zimmermann and the other worship team leaders will be fleshing out a policy on worship with a target completion date of August 2017. Pastor Caleb gave his thoughts on the path for discipleship at River Valley.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted by Tim Beine. April 2017 revenues exceeded expenses by over \$21,000. The Parking Lot Sinking Fund balance is currently at \$20,001.82. All donations to “Build the Future” and “Special Projects” are targeted to the Parking Lot Sinking Fund.

Impacts (Missions) Report: A written report was submitted. Mike Friedl has arranged for Keith Neigenfind (International Worker from Thailand) to visit when he is touring the Midwest in September. Year to date as of April 30, 2017 contributions to the Great Commission Fund continue to lag and are 20% below target. Work has begun on developing policy that establishes a process to accommodate non-ministry, personal trips that deviate from a short-term team itinerary. Also, to be addressed in another policy is how to handle the carry forward of unused funds at year end. Team bios for Unity of Faith 2017 are published and distributed. The Unity of Faith Team Members and Advocates are featured on the IMPACTS display board. As of May 7, 2017, \$28,235 has been donated for the Unity of Faith trip. Along with a Governing Board commitment (already approved) of \$7,250 from the General Fund, this project is funded! Easter Breakfast combined with Cup Cakes and Crafts sales raised \$1,969. The Walk-a-thon was lightly attended, but the fellowship was good. A “Loving Tree” was mounted to help engage the congregation by providing items requested by Thailand International Workers. In the first week, enough items had been donated to fill 2 suitcases.

Service and Benevolence Report: A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$1,010.00 were made. Disbursements for April were \$1,760.55. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund is \$2,298.35. During the monthly meeting the deacons and deaconesses discussed individuals and families that have been helped by the Benevolent fund and how it has impact both their physical needs and spiritual lives. The deacons and deaconesses spent time praying for one individual who was helped during a very trying time in her life and continues to need support.

Treasurer’s Report: A written report was submitted by Treasurer, Greg Schroeder. The results of the May 3, 2017 meeting with Church Mutual Insurance Company were given and discussed. Discussion was held regarding ransomware and our financial responsibility. Greg discussed our need for a policy on the prevention of sexual molestation. Church Mutual will be helping us to review our policies in areas of liability. Greg Schroeder made a **motion** to move \$10,000 from the general checking account to the “parking lot” Sinking Fund. No second. Motion failed.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted. In March River Valley received a letter from the City of Watertown Engineering Department indicating they need documentation on the church's retention pond. This will be a Retention Pond Policy which will require yearly maintenance with a maintenance check sheet and every five years the pond needs to be measured and recorded. A deacon and deaconesses went to Zuern Building Products and selected the make-up style of the cabinets. The cabinets are now ordered. The cabinets have a lead time of 3-4 weeks. During this time modifications to the room will be performed, electrical will be roughed in, drywall patched and painted. The facility committee met on May 16, 2017 discussed different security company options. Work began on Fob/Key issuing Policies and facility lockup policies. Next policy to be worked on is the Emergency Evacuation plan. There are now six regular weekly mowers and two backup volunteers to help with the 2017 lawn mowing season. A quote was obtained from 7 Hills Striping Inc. The cost to restripe the parking lot would be \$1,361.80. Joe Haberkorn **motioned** that we take \$1,400 out of the sinking fund to re-stripe the existing parking lot. Second. Discussion. Motion carried.

Tim Beine 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: The Policy Committees are: Elexio, Facility, Children, Financial, Missions, and Worship. These committees were reviewed. Nothing new to report. Video Update: The video equipment was purchased for \$885, \$315 less than the \$1,200 that was approved. It has arrived and has already been used in multiple ways.

New Business: Coffee Ministry: Jane Chen and Jim Zautner presented options for the coffee ministry. Justin Roberts made a **motion** to use Gold Star Coffee to provide our coffee service until the end of the year, at which time it will be reevaluated. Second. Motion carried.

Pastor Zimmermann made a **motion** to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carried. The next Governing Board meeting will be held on June 15, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the parsonage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Sokovich, Head Elder
Charlene Flint, Governing Board Secretary
River Valley Alliance Church