

River Valley Alliance Church
Governing Board
May 21, 2020

Present: Dominic Alvarez, Matt Colosky, Jason Culotta, Charlene Flint, Todd Grady, Chris Mertens, Justin Roberts, Jeremy Walker, Pastor Zimmermann

Absent: Diane Fraley, Bill Richter

Guests: Pastor Caleb Atkins, Pastor Michael Golemi, Jen Roberts, Don Vehlow, Robin Walker

This meeting was held via videoconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Jason Culotta opened the meeting with a devotion from Hebrews 12:26-28 and prayer.

Previous Minutes: Justin Roberts **moved**, second by Jeremy Walker that the Minutes from the April 2020 Governing Board meeting be approved. **Motion passed.**

Senior Pastoral Report: A written report was submitted. The Versiti blood drive was very professionally handled, and the building was left seemingly untouched. A total of 50 units of blood was donated. These 50 units will go to help roughly 150 patients in the community. The organization Building God's Way gave a presentation to the Governing Board for the purpose of creating a site plan for the planning of the parking lot and potential future expansion of the church. Extensive discussion followed. Jeff Brown, Western Great Lakes District Superintendent, will be the guest speaker on Sunday. A rough draft of the regathering plan was shared with the Governing Board. A special meeting of the Governing Board will be held on May 26 to approve the finalized plan. Discussion was held regarding regathering strategies.

Disciplemaking Ministries:

Adults: A written report was submitted. God has called River Valley to continue to offer quality video streams for outreach purposes. Pastor Atkins wants to make sure that those who feel uncomfortable with being out can continue to worship from home. He presented a plan to purchase live streaming video equipment. In the future this online platform can be used for outreach.

Technology: There are 178 River Valley YouTube Subscribers as of 5/19/20. In the last 28 days there were over 1,800 views. Overall people watched 559.2 hours.

Middle School and High School: A written report was submitted. As lockdown continued through the month of April, Pastor Golemi continued to put out videos each week. The primary focus of the videos has been a continued focus on Matthew's Gospel. Youth Group Zoom meetings have continued as well, and the same core group of students have been joining each week. The kids are ready to get back to meeting in person (and so is their youth pastor!). Pastor Golemi has been working hard to finish up his ordination requirements.

Children: A written report was submitted. Awana officially ended with kids finishing their books with their parents. Mrs. Walker was encouraged by how many kids finished, even though Awana itself came to a standstill. One of the positive things that has come out of this is parents got incredibly involved with their child and worked on the book with their kids. When it comes to kids, there are extremely strict guidelines for regathering. That is because kids naturally do not know how to social distance and they touch everything.

Mrs. Walker has taken part in 3 different kids' ministry zoom meetings to look at what it will be once kids' ministry starts up again. It was decided that Music Camp would not be held this year.

Justin Roberts prayed for the ministry team and staff.

Impacts (International Missions) Report: A written report was submitted. The Thailand Mission trip has been postponed until at least 2021. Three Thailand Mission fundraising venues have now been discussed: Kringles, services, and personal donations. The Kringles were ordered but could not be delivered. Those individuals who prepaid will be refunded their money. Finances given in response to a service could not legally be returned since services were purchased. This money will be divided into three different Alliance projects. Those individuals giving finances as direct donation will receive a letter stating that the money would be refunded to them; if the donor did not wish to receive the refund, to contact the church office.

Local Missions: A written report was submitted. Local Missions are quiet due to COVID 19. Cornerstone of Grace held their first fundraiser. Proceeds met and exceeded all expectations!

Elder Report: A written report was submitted. A large amount of the meeting centered around discussions about the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling on the Safer at Home orders. The pastors and elders determined that River Valley would wait at least two more weeks before resuming any in-person activity. Pastor Zimmermann agreed to lead the rest of the team in creating a regathering plan using information from local officials, guidelines from health experts, and direction from the CMA. An email outlining this decision was sent to everyone on the email list.

Service and Benevolence Report: A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$2,578.00 were made. Disbursements for April were \$936.44. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund was \$17,611.43. The Benevolent Committee has been averaging only one or two requests per month, which is far less than normal. Perhaps it is because there are many forms of help available now and that the need for more help may come in the future. Decisions will need to be made in conjunction with the pastors on how to perform communion in a safe way. Also, the kitchen and any gatherings with food may need to have adjustments made.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted. Don Coleman and Rod Billington have assembled a new backdrop for the recording studio. Richter Heating and Air has installed a new on-demand water heater. The visitor signs in the parking lots have been removed to create more regular parking. An additional hard drive has been installed and has doubled recording capacity.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted by Diane Fraley. As of April 30, statement balances were: Checking \$107,567.05 and Money Market \$5,395.71. Credit Card Debt for April was \$1,683.97 Revenues exceeded expenses by \$14,033.83. The Build the Future Sinking Fund balance as of April 30, 2020 was \$184,810.41.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was submitted. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are continuing the process of transitioning the primary banking functions to Ixonia Bank from Chase Bank, which should conclude in May. For the first four months of 2020, income was nearly 5% above budget and expenses 8% below budget. Online giving has been strong and lower spending than planned resulted from the building and activities being curtailed during the second half of March and April. This places the church at \$26,100, or 13%, better than budget and maintains a stable financial position as this shelter-in-place concludes.

Chris Mertens presented the Governing Board monthly calendar for April, May, and June.

After a prayer over the ministry reports by Matt Colosky, it was **moved** by Chris Mertens to accept all ministry area reports. Second by Matt Colosky. **Motion passed.**

All reports are available in their entirety in the church office upon request.

Old Business: None

Blood Bank: On May 14, 2020 Pastor Zimmermann **moved** *via email* to allow Versiti Blood Center to use River Valley facilities for the purposes of conducting a Blood Drive on Saturday, June 27, 2020. They would have access to the lower level of the building from 6:30am-5:00pm on that day. Second by Matt Colosky. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Future Blood Banks: Charlene Flint **moved** to give Pastor Zimmermann the authority to approve the scheduling of future blood drives with Versiti to be held at River Valley when the facilities are available. Second by Matt Colosky. Discussion. **Motion failed.**

Charlene Flint **moved** to allow Versiti hold a blood drive July 25. Second by Jason Culotta. **Motion passed.**

Site Planning: Pastor Zimmermann **moved** that River Valley Alliance Church would enter into a contract with Building God's Way to develop a facilities masterplan tied to the church's mission. Cost will be \$3,500 which includes preparation of drawings, setting up on-site meetings, preparation for these meetings, and all travel related expenses including airfare, hotels, ground transportation and per diem expenses for on-site meetings. Funds for this contract will be taken from the Build the Future Fund. Second by Dominic Alvarez. Discussion. Jeremy Walker **moved** to table until the June GB meeting. **Motion to table passed.**

Impacts Funds: Justin Roberts **moved** to release a total of \$3,000 from the IMPACTS short-term mission income fund to Thailand to be divided equally among three CMA Projects equally: Mahapawn Living Water Church Land & Bldg, (Sukprasan & Eve); Church Planting, (Ed & Sue Danneker); Rice (Soeuth & Syna Lao). Second by Jason Culotta. **Motion passed.**

Streaming Setup proposal: Pastor Zimmermann **moved** to purchase live streaming equipment as detailed in the streaming setup proposal for an amount not to exceed \$7,500. Second by Matt Colosky. Discussion. **Motion passed.**

Sanitizing Products: Jeremy moved to authorize up to \$2,000 for supplies for regathering. Second by Chris Mertens. Motion passed.

Jason Culotta closed the meeting in prayer. Chris Mertens **moved** to adjourn. Second by Dominic Alvarez. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Flint
Governing Board Secretary
River Valley Alliance Church