

River Valley Alliance Church  
Governing Board  
June 18, 2020

**Present:** Dominic Alvarez, Jason Culotta, Charlene Flint, Diane Fraley, Chris Mertens, Bill Richter, Jeremy Walker, Pastor Zimmermann

**Absent:** Matt Colosky, Todd Grady, Justin Roberts

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Bill Richter opened the meeting with a devotion from James 1 and prayer.

**Previous Minutes:** Jeremy Walker **moved**, second by Dominic Alvarez, that the Minutes from the May 2020 Governing Board meeting be approved. **Motion passed.**

**Senior Pastoral Report:** A written report was submitted. Several individuals who were scheduled to go on the 2020 Thailand Mission Trip will be volunteering to do manual labor at Cornerstone of Grace. They are more than willing to reach out in love and serve in Jesus' name for seniors in the congregation that might need minor house projects done. Bill Richter explains the iWave air purifier. The Governing Board discussed Phase 2 guidelines and a draft of a letter to the congregation. The information from Building God's way organization was reviewed by the Governing Board members.

#### **Disciplemaking Ministries:**

**Children:** A written report was submitted. Discovery Land will continue virtually through August. Appleton Alliance is now producing an elementary and a preschool Discovery Land. Mrs. Walker is building a team to help launch kid ministry in the fall. The guidelines laid out by the school district will be closely followed. Mrs. Walker will also be taking part in trainings done by Appleton Alliance regarding new standards/protocols around children's Sunday school. The biggest hurdle at this point is the 'discovery' part of our program. The discoveries may have to move from group activities to individual activities, minimizing the sharing of items.

**Middle School and High School:** A written report was submitted. Summer youth group will be kicking off Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, and will continue for 6 weeks. The youth group will be using the lower level or outside to properly social distance. Pastor Golemi is going to be coaching and encouraging some of the youth that are interested in ministry as a career path to prepare some 5-10-minute devotionals/lessons for the group, and also allowing students to plan and execute the game time. River Valley is blessed to have so many of our youth interested in church leadership.

**Adults:** A written report was submitted. June 14<sup>th</sup> marked the first Sunday ever for service being streamed live from River Valley. Pastor Atkins is excited to see how God is going to use this new ministry to reach people with the Gospel. It is by God's grace that River Valley went from no video recording of services whatsoever to a fully functioning live stream in four months. Pastor Atkins is close to having an overflow room that would be capable of simultaneously broadcasting the worship service from within the building. Beyond a temporary overflow room, he hopes to set up screens in both the nursery as well as the coffee area.

Technology: There are 186 River Valley YouTube Subscribers as of 6/16/20. In the last 28 days there were over 1,300 views. Overall people watched 289.7 hours.

Chris prayed for the ministry team and staff.

**Impacts (International Missions) Report:** A written report was submitted. There was no meeting in June. Outgoing finances completed were: \$460 for the final payment to complete River Valley's commitment to Wichan's education. The amount of \$3,000 was paid for the three projects voted on at May's Governing Board meeting. This is money that was raised for the Impact 2020 trip to Thailand.

**Local Missions:** A written report was submitted. Cornerstone of Grace is praising the Lord for their 501c3 application which has been submitted. They are seeking wisdom for opening the house. The Haus of Peace has a fundraiser planned for September. They are house hunting for a larger space. They have found a house that will accommodate 5 people. Safe Families has a new family.

**Elder Report:** A written report was submitted. The Elders spent much time at their meeting discussing the regathering plans. They discussed what worked well, what didn't, what improved from week 1 to week 2, and what still needs to improve. Pastor Atkins gave an update on the tech side of Phase 1 regathering along with an update on the new streaming equipment currently being implemented.

**Service and Benevolence Report:** A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$3,910.00 were made. Disbursements for May were \$0. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund was \$21,397.45. Benevolent activity was slow in May but has picked up in June. Many of the requests have been around disruptions and rescheduling due to COVID-19. They also have been getting requests these last few months from Haus of Peace. It has been encouraging to hear the stories of women who have been helped by this ministry. Betsy Ellsworth is stepping down as deaconess. A new name will be submitted next month for approval. Jeremy Walker will be stepping down as Governing Board representative.

**Trustee Report:** A written report was submitted. The trustees reviewed the Facility and Building Use guidelines and the Emergency Procedures. They made a wording change to Sec 3c of the Facility and Building Use Guidelines. There was wonderful attendance for the mulching project. The trustees discussed having at least one of the Trustees available on Saturdays for set up.

**Finance Report:** A written report was submitted by Diane Fraley. As of May 31, 2020, statement balances were: Checking \$113,457.80 and Money Market \$5,395.75. Credit Card Debt for May was \$7,539.66. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$5,890.79. The Build the Future Sinking Fund balance as of May 31, 2020 was \$185,047.86.

**Treasurer's Report:** A written report was submitted. In the first months of 2020, income was 6.6% above budget and expenses 8% below budget. Online giving has been consistently strong, and spending maintained lower than budget during the "pandemic months." This places the church at \$36,900, or nearly 15%, better than budget and in a strong financial position as the easing out of the virus lockdown continues. The Treasurer and Committee are continuing the process of transitioning River Valley's primary banking functions to Ixonia Bank from Chase Bank. Some funds remain to be transferred from Chase and the new credit card account must be set up. The annual review (the audit) of the prior year's books and records with the Alliance staff must be rescheduled. The review had been scheduled for early April but deferred until later.

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

After a prayer over the ministry reports by Dominic Alvarez, it was **moved** by Jason Culotta to accept all ministry area reports. Second by Chris Mertens. **Motion passed.**

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

**Old Business:**

Policy Review: Any changes in policy can be included in and approved at the July or August meeting.

Site Planning: Dominic Alvarez moved to remove the following motion from the table: Chris Mertens seconded. Discussion.

Pastor Zimmermann **moved** that River Valley Alliance Church 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. **Motion passed.**

**New Business:**

Phase 2: Diane Fraley **moved** to approve Phase 2 of River Valley's Regathering plan as discussed by the Governing Board. Second by Charlene Flint. Discussion. In the event that there is a cluster of people from River Valley that test positive to COVID-19, The Governing Board will automatically call an emergency meeting to determine the course of action required. **Motion passed.**

iWave: Jeremy Walker **moved** to allocate up to \$1,500 to install three iWave-R Air Purifier systems. Second by Diane Fraley. **Motion passed.** Bill Richter abstains from voting.

Governing Board Representative: Jeremy Walker **moved** to have Don Vehlow replace Jeremy Walker as the representative to the Governing Board from the Service and Benevolence committee. Second by Jason Culotta. **Motion passed.**

Jeremy Walker closed the meeting in prayer. Don Vehlow **moved** to adjourn. Second by Charlene Flint. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Flint  
Governing Board Secretary  
River Valley Alliance Church