

River Valley Alliance Church
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2016

Present: Pastor Caleb Atkins, Josh Barnet, Matt Colosky, Pastor Michael Golemi, Joe Haberkorn, Justin Roberts, Greg Schroeder, Ron Sokovich, Jeremy Walker, Robin Walker, Pastor Dave Zimmermann.

Absent: Bruce Cochrane, Charlene Flint

The meeting was called to order at the church library and opened with a short devotion by Ron Sokovich and prayer by Justin Roberts.

Previous Minutes: A **motion** was made to approve the August 25, 2016 minutes. Second. Motion carried.

Pastoral Reports: Pastor Zimmermann: A written report was submitted. There were quite a few “new” things on Sunday, September 11. To name just a few: bulletin format, Sunday schedule, 4 adult classes, 2 student classes, DISCOVERY LAND, Early Childhood classes and nursery format, new purpose/vision statement artwork. Pastor Zimmermann will be offering a class for potential elders beginning Wednesday, October 9th going through the book “Elders and Leaders.” Pastor Zimmermann would like to preach through the Purpose Statement each year in September. On October 2 the congregation will take 5 minutes to fill out a survey during the service to have people evaluate where River Valley is currently in the ministry. This will help to set new goals in January. The sermon will be on Vision 2022: Increasing Impact. This is also the date that Pastor Atkins, Pastor Golemi, and Robin Walker will be installed. Beginning October 9, and for this coming school year, Pastor Zimmermann will be preaching through The Gospel of John. Pastor Atkins: A written report was submitted. Pastor Atkins has been working hard on small groups. Seven new small groups will be starting this fall. Pastor Atkins is in the process of finalizing the details for these groups. Please be in prayer as these new groups begin. On September 11, 105 people attended the four adult discipleship classes in the multi-purpose room. Individual attendance is being tracked in order to have a better understanding of who, not just how many, attend classes. This information will help reach out to those who stop attending. Pastor Atkins is also working on a list of people who are actively mentoring/discipling individuals. The goal of this project is to compile a list of people who are willing to be involved in one-on-one mentoring relationships. There are three levels of discipleship. Level one, would be small groups. Mentoring will be level two of our discipleship ministries. Mentoring would cover those who need/desire some extra discipling, especially if they would have a specific issue be worked on. Level 3 would be counseling which would cover the types of issues that only counselors are equipped to handle. All aspects of Elexio are up and running and are beginning to be utilized by ministries and the congregation. The Elexio Moments will continue throughout this month to hopefully increase awareness and understanding of the product. Discovery Land, Student Ministries, and Awana attendance are being tracked through Elexio to put name on the number of students there are. This will allow the pastors and Children’s Ministry Director to better reach out to students who stop coming as well as reach out to parents who do not attend River Valley but drop kids off for Awana or Youth Group. Pastor Atkins is working on a budget for the upcoming year’s technology that will look to replace all existing church computers, except the new laptops that were just purchased.

Children’s Ministry Report: A written report was submitted. The new Sunday School kick off was fantastic. Twenty-nine children attended preschool-5th grade. Numbers were up in all classes, with 6 children coming to Sunday School for the very first time (from regular church attenders). Of the children that are still regular church attenders, but not attending Sunday School, a take- home paper and a special invite is being mailed to

encourage them to come. Awana kicks off Wednesday, September 14. The Sewing group will be meeting to sewing Bible tunics for the kids dressing up as characters during Bible time.

Jr and Sr. High School (Pastor Golemi): A written report was submitted. Pastor Golemi is beginning to meet with each student and their parents individually (or as a family). His goal is to get to know students and parents, and to afford them an opportunity to meet him and discuss any questions or concerns they might have. He is asking each of the High School students about the extracurricular activities they were involved in so as to understand their interests and the help limit conflicts in scheduling. High School Sunday school classes will focus on apologetics for the next 13 weeks. Justin Roberts is leading the Middle Schoolers through the Bible. The focus of this Sunday school class is to see Christ in every book of the Bible. High School youth group will focus on addressing practical issues that High Schoolers and college-bound students will face. On Sunday evenings Pastor Golemi will utilize the "StickyFaith" teen curriculum. Middle School youth group will focus on heroes and heroines of the faith for the next several Wednesdays. They will examine the struggles, triumphs, and failures of many key figures in biblical history. Pastor Golemi requests prayer as he seeks qualified leadership, especially in Middle School youth group. Pastor Golemi is designing an incentive program for the Middle School youth group in order to keep the students engaged and motivated.

Deacon\Deaconess Report: A written report was submitted. Deposits of \$618.00 were made. Disbursements for August were \$2,209.72. The end-of-month balance for the Benevolent Fund is \$1,860.23. There has been a steady stream of benevolent request in August and continuing into September. Sandy McLatchie has taken back the role of contacting those requesting assistance.

Disciple Making Ministries: Michael Golemi's resignation as DMM was submitted and accepted. The Board has decided to not look to replace the DMM at this time.

Elder Report: A written report was submitted. Reviews of the staff and pastor will be done by November 1. The Mission and Vision of the church was discussed. Our Mission, "Pointing People to Jesus and Completing the Great Commission", has not and never should change. How we accomplish that mission over time does change. The new Vision Statement will be: "Followers of Jesus. Transformed. Empowered." "Connect to..." will be phased out. Pastor Zimmermann is developing a plan to increase our impact on Watertown and the world by 2022, ie. Vision 2022. A "brainstorming" session was held covering the areas of: 1) Reaching the Lost, 2) Developing the Found, 3) Celebrating Jesus. Josh Barnett's testimony was heard and he was welcomed him as an Elder. He will be taking over elder responsibilities in worship, and Matt Colosky will transition to overseeing missions. It was discussed how visitors are welcomed to the church. A seminar was presented to four churches in the District by a consultant with expertise in church growth. His proposal would include training volunteers to implement a program of growth. Normally the cost is \$6,000. That has been cut to \$3,000 and the district will pay half, making the total cost \$1,500. The Elders felt this is a reasonable investment, pending discussion and approval by the Board. A discussion was held about Bible translations. River Valley does not require any specific translation; however, there is general agreement the ESV is a good study Bible because it is closer to a word for word translation. For general reading and use in the Sunday service the NLT will be used.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted. Loan balance as of August 31, 2016 is \$31,031.91. The loan rate is currently at 3.41811%. August 2016 expenses exceeded revenues by over \$6,000.00. A **motion** was made to supplement the "86" payment by approximately \$3,965.46 to make the August mortgage payment. Second. Motion carried.

Impacts (Missions) Report: A written report was submitted. It was reported that support for Great Commission Fund (GCF) remains ahead of budget. A video is being developed for Moments of IMPACTS and

Unity of Faith 2017 Rollout. A “Challenge Sign” is to be installed. Once approved by the Governing Board, it will be installed at the upper parking lots exit. Unity of Faith 2017 Rollout will be held on October 16 after the 2nd service. It will include a core presentation on IMPACTS Unity of Faith 2017, a Mission Possible video, recruiting presentations for Short Term International Workers, Advocates, and Financial Supporters.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted. The Trustees reviewed samples of two different types of floor from Y’s Way They agreed on the slate flooring, which would be the best value in comparison to the price difference of the two. Harley Herold agreed to help layout and install the electrical modifications to the kitchen. A form letter has been written to be presented to all committee chairmen on the procedure of locking down and securing the church after meetings.

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: A **motion** was made that Elexio security settings will be set to allow only the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Bookkeeper general access to giving records. Second. Motion carried. Report of Constitution & Bylaw Committee: A **motion** was made that the Board accept the Bylaw recommendations as presented by the Constitution & Bylaw Committee. Second. Motion carried. Audit Committee Update: Tim Beine has agreed to be an advisor. Ron Sokovich, Chris Mertens and LuAnn Barnet have agreed to serve on the committee. This should be completed in October. Sound Booth Update: Matt Colosky provided further quotes received regarding the sound system. A **motion** was made that the church purchase equipment to upgrade the sound system as presented. Costs include: Purchase of Equipment from Bread of Stone, \$6,000; Installation by Adam Fox, \$600; Incidental expenses, \$700, for a total expense of \$7,300. Second. Motion carried.

New Business: Love Offering for Debbie Vik: A **motion** was made to authorize the church to collect a Love Offering for Debbie Vik. Second. Motion carried. Nominating Committee: Matt Colosky has agreed to be a Board appointee to the committee. Other names were discussed and will be approached to serve on the committee. A congregational meeting will be held in October to officially form the committee. Positions to be elected: A **motion** was made to elect the following positions at the next annual meeting: Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Elder(2), Trustee(2), Deacon(1), Deaconess(2). Second. Motion carried. Salary for Youth Intern: A **motion** was made that the base salary for the youth intern shall be \$30,000/year. This salary shall take effect upon his completion of licensing from the C&MA. Second. Motion carried. Housing Allowance for Youth Intern: A **motion** was made that the Housing Allowance for Michael Golemi will be \$800/month. This will take effect upon his completion of licensing from the C&MA. Second. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made to adjourn. Second. Carried. The next meeting will be held October 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

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