

River Valley Alliance Church  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2021

**Present:** Dominic Alvarez, Jason Culotta, Todd Grady, Matt Keever, Chris Mertens, Greg Schroeder, Don Vehlow, Ray Werth, Pastor Dave Zimmermann

**Absent:** Justin Roberts, Jen Roberts, Caleb Atkins

**Guests:** Robin Walker

The meeting was called to order at **6:30 p.m.**

Jason Culotta opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer.

**Previous Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Don Vehlow

**SECOND:** Chris Mertens

Minutes from the regular March 2021 Governing Board meeting be approved.

**PASSED**

**Reports:**

**Disciple making Ministries Report:**

**Children:**

A written report was submitted by Robin Walker. Robin reported that Discovery Land's attendance has been averaging around 35 students (previous number- 40 students). They are continuing to study the New Testament and have started learning about Paul's ministry. There were 8 new students attending on Easter Sunday! The nursery has been staffed for the 9:30am service and is averaging 5 children each Sunday. The goal is to get volunteers to staff the 8am and 11am services as well.

**Middle and High School:**

AWANA is wrapping up for the year and follow up is occurring to check on progress in AWANA books. There will be an awards table at the Spring Fling for students to pick up their book achievement awards for the year. The youth group just started a new series with Pastor Caleb. They are integrating Right Now Media resources into the series. The middle school aged students will be studying a general overview of the gospels and where Jesus lived and taught. High school students will be doing an in-depth study of the Book of Ruth. It will focus on teaching lessons of God's faithfulness, love and providence throughout the book.

**Adults:**

A written report was submitted by Pastor Caleb. Pastor Caleb was absent from the meeting. Pastor Zimmermann presented the information in this report during the meeting. It was reported that new growth groups will be starting soon. The College & Career group is scheduled for April 18, 2021. The Young Parenting group will start shortly after. The start date is to be determined. A Grief Share group, hosed by Dawn Jeanson will start May 9, 2021. Charlene Flint is currently working with someone using the Divorce Care program and that there is another person interested in talking to someone about Divorce Care. Pastor Caleb attended a Mental Health webinar and will be looking to apply insights learned to upcoming ministry opportunities.

**Technology Report:**

There is now a TV in the coffee area to serve as an overflow attendance area. There is a plan to permanently mount the streaming camera in a better location. Cables have already been run.

**River Valley Online Stats:**

River Valley YouTube Subscribers as of 4/13/21:	241	(3/16/21:	236)
Overall Views in the last 28 days:	905	(3/16/21:	1,253 views)
Overall Watch Time in the last 28 days:	238.2	(3/16/21:	385 hours)
Unique Views in the last 28 days:	275 viewers	(3/16/21	317 viewers)

**Senior Pastoral Report:**

A written report was submitted by Pastor Zimmermann. It was reported that in person church attendance numbers are rising. An attendance graph was also submitted. Pastor Zimmermann is currently preaching the series “Love Reigns” which has two remaining sermons. He will then continue with a series on Joshua until the end of June. It was noted that Pastor Zimmermann and the new Student Ministries Pastor, Logan are beginning an apartment search. They are in search of an apartment of under \$900.00 per month. It was reported that books have been cleaned out and assembly of the new office furniture has started for the shared office space of Robin Walker and Logan Esposito. Old/outdated books will either be taken to Half Priced Books or donated to St. Vincent DePaul. Pastor Zimmerman reported that job descriptions for all paid River Valley staff had been revised and approved by the elder team in 2020. They now need to be approved by the Governing Board for final approval. There have been a total of 22 “Peace Making” conversations to date. Pastor Zimmermann shared the honor that he has been appointed the chair of the Fundraising Team for the Town Square. He will also be giving a brief message for the Elks Flag Day Ceremony in May. The Pizza with the Ministry Team lunch was a success with 3 couples attending. There will be a new member class offered on May 2, 2021. Pastor Zimmermann shared that he and Nancy have been tutoring at Cornerstone of Grace and that he did an interment on April 13, 2021.

Chris Mertens prayed for the ministry team.

## **Global and Local Missions Report:**

### Local Missions:

A written report was submitted by Justin Roberts. Justin was absent from this meeting. Pastor Zimmermann presented his report during the meeting. It was reported that there have been two more churches that have committed to operating Safe Families and the plan is to start receiving families again at the end of April. As for Cornerstone of Grace, one of the mothers now has a job and a new family with two children has joined the home. The flower fundraiser was noted as a success!

### International Missions (IMPACTS):

The first meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 and members are slowly being added to the team. There have been changes made to the Great Commission Fund (GCF) by the Alliance. Those will be presented to the Governing Board at the next meeting after discussing with the Elders.

### **Elder Report:**

A written report was submitted by Chris Mertens. It was reported that the Elders met on April 8, 2021. The report includes updates for individual ministries. New member interviews will take place on May 17, 2021. The Elders also reviewed the membership list and reviewed the list of topics to be discussed in 2021. The elders are considering an outdoor all congregation service for the summer. A proposed location is Riverside Park.

### **Service and Benevolence Report:**

A written report was submitted by Don Vehlow. It was reported that in March there was financial assistance given for rent and a scholarship to Cornerstone of Grace. Donations exceeded disbursements and the ending balance on March 31, 2021 was \$18,660.91. It was noted that the February 2021 checking balance amount was revised due to checks that were sent out in February but not cashed until March.

### **Trustee Report:**

A written report was submitted by Todd Grady. It was reported that the Trustees met on April 14, 2021 and discussed the remodeling of the library into offices. There was also discussion about the parking lot repaving in May 2021. Wolf Paving will be pulling up the existing parking lot and expects (weather permitting) to be finished on May 10, 2021. The new asphalt will be put down on May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>. If weather permits, the parking lot will be available on May 16<sup>th</sup> for Sunday service. Other arrangements for parking will need to be made for other activities that week. Other topics discussed at the meeting were the music room window, garden faucet, lawn mower maintenance, building use requests and concrete cutting.

**Employee Handbook Committee:**

A written report was not submitted. Greg Schroeder provided a verbal report during the meeting. The Employee Handbook Committee’s first meeting will be on Monday April 19, 2021. The committee members are Greg Schroeder, Caleb Atkins, Dawn Jeanson, Diane Fraley, Ron Sokovich and Pastor Dave Zimmermann

**Finance Report:**

A written report was submitted by Matt Kever. It was reported that as of As of March 31, 2021, statement balances were: Checking \$195,592.00; Credit Card Debt \$3,828.00.. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$25,729.00. The Build the Future Fund balance as of March 31, 2021 was \$212,173.00

**Treasurer’s Report:**

A written report was submitted by Jason Culotta. It was reported that despite traditional giving being flat, strong online giving boosted River Valley to a strong month and quarter. Revenue was 12 % over budget for the quarter. On expenses, the \$20,000 Build The Future (BtF) transfer in January shows up as a large facility expense. With that transfer, total expenses are 3% above budget. Without it, expenditures would be 11.5% under budget. The continued strong income and low expenses yielded 9% above budget (or 24% excluding the BtF transfer). The report concluded that River Valley maintains a strong financial position. Jason suggested that with the upcoming hiring of the new Student Ministries Pastor, completion of the driveway repaving in May that the time might be coming to consider new ways of using the Lord’s financial blessing to advance the Gospel of the Kingdom.

**Monthly Calendar:**

Greg Schroeder reviewed the events on the Governing Board monthly calendar for April and May 2021.

**Reports:**

**MOTION:** Greg Schroeder

**SECOND:** Dom Alvarez

Approve reports from leaders.

**PASSED**

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

Matt Kever prayed for ministry leaders and the reports that were given.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**MOTION:** Jason Culotta

**SECOND:** Ray Werth

To approve the revised staff Job Descriptions as approved by the Elders in 2020.

**PASSED**

**Items for Future Discussion:**

River Valley church building emergency exit maps

**Meeting Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** Greg Schroeder

**SECOND:** Jason Culotta

To adjourn meeting

**PASSED**

Greg Schroeder closed the meeting in prayer.

The next meeting will be May 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted and in service to the Lord,

Colleen Kluber  
Governing Board Secretary  
River Valley Alliance Church