



THE RIVER CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

*2025-2026 congregational meeting
august 24 2025 at 11:00 am*

welcome

THE CHURCH COUNCIL ENCOURAGES ALL MEMBERS OF THE RIVER TO ATTEND THE 2024 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH AT 11:00 AM. TOPICS WILL INCLUDE A FOCUS ON FUTURE VISION, DISCIPLESHIP, BUDGET, AND SELECTION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS. PLEASE BRING THIS PACKET TO THE MEETING FOR REFERENCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INFORMATION IN THIS PACKET, PLEASE CONTACT JIM NYDAM (JIMNEWHEIGHTS@AOL.COM) PRIOR TO THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

THE MEETING WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO HEAR REPORTS OF WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE THIS PAST YEAR, BUT ALSO TO SHARE IN FUTURE PLANS AND ANTICIPATE SOME OF WHAT GOD MIGHT DO THROUGH HIS PEOPLE AT THE RIVER.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

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- 8-12: PASTORS' REPORTS
- 13-16: STAFF UPDATES
- 17-21: LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATES
- 22-23: BUDGET

congregational meeting agenda

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

1. OPENING DEVOTIONAL: PASTOR SCOTT ELGERSMA
2. OPENING REMARKS: JIM NYDAM
3. MINUTES 8/25/2024- SEE FOLLOWING PAGE: JIM NYDAM
4. ELDER & DEACON NOMINEE APPROVAL: MATT HEKMAN
 - A. ELDER
 - I. DAVID OLIVER
 - II. MARK VANDERWAL
 - III. GERRIT WAGNER
 - B. DEACON
 - I. ROY NULL
 - II. RANDALL WHITMAN
5. DEACON PRESENTATION: RICHARD SMITH
7. 2025-2026 BUDGET PROPOSAL: DAVID CARNES
8. 2025-2026 BUDGET APPROVAL: MATT HEKMAN
9. CAST LOTS FOR ELDERS & DEACONS: JIM NYDAM
10. LEAD PASTOR REPORT: PASTOR SCOTT ELGERSMA
11. INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS: SCOTT ELGERSMA
12. CLOSING REMARKS & PRAYER: PASTOR SCOTT ELGERSMA



2024 congregational meeting minutes

The River CRC

Congregational Meeting Minutes August 25, 2024

1. Opening Devotional: Pastor Scott
2. Council Chair remarks: Brad Senti
3. Minutes 8/27/2023 : Approved
4. Elder and Deacon Nominee Approval: Jim Nydam presents the list of names to the congregation for approval.
5. Deacon Presentation: Nichoel Kimmerle presents the Deacon report.
6. Budget Proposal: David Carnes presents the proposed 2024 - 2025 fiscal year budget. Approved
7. Cost Lots for Elder and Deacons: Elder selections are Gordon Barents and Matt Hekman. Deacon selections are Patty De Weerd and Carol Jones
8. Installation of Office Bearers: Pastor Scott installs Gordon, Patty, and Carol to their offices. Matt Hekman will be installed at a later time.
9. Lead Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott addresses the congregation with a report for the previous year.
10. Closing Remarks and Prayer: Pastor Scott

membership information AND data

	22-23	23-24	24-25
Total Members	382	335	350
Number of Professing Members	287	250	243
Attendance	184	199	184
Family Units	115	159	155
New Members received (adults)	18	15	0
Baptisms	3	5	3
Professions of Faith	0	0	7

births

KARSON DEKOCK
FAITH LIGHTFOOT
QUINN VAN SOELEN

marriage

in memory of our loved ones

HELEN HUSBAND
ELLA JEAN MOORE
MARVALEE JORRITSMA
DENNIS HOEKSTRA
EDWARD HARRIS
PETE KREMER



elder and deacon nominee

THE PROCESS

THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING ELDERS AND DEACONS IS FOUND IN THE CHURCH POLICY MANUAL WHICH STATES, "CHURCH MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON PAPER, PRIOR TO THE NAMES BEING DRAWN BY LOT, TO APPROVE THE NOMINEES INDIVIDUALLY. ALL NOMINEES WHO RECEIVE AT LEAST 51% APPROVAL WILL GO INTO A HAT AND THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES WILL BE DRAWN BY LOT." THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHO DOES OR DOES NOT GET 51% WILL ONLY BE KNOWN BY THE COUNTING TEAM MADE UP OF DEACONS AND/OR ELDERS.

NOMINEE

THE TASKS OF ELDERS AND DEACONS CALL FOR BELIEVERS WHO ARE CHRIST-LIKE, WHO ARE MATURE IN THE FAITH, AND WHO EXERCISE THEIR OFFICES WITH PRAYER, PATIENCE, AND HUMILITY. IN FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THE MANUAL OF CHURCH ORDER AND THE CHURCH POLICY MANUAL, COUNCIL IS CONFIDENT THAT THESE NOMINEES MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES AND THAT THE GIFTS EACH OF THEM POSSESS WILL SERVE THE CHURCH.

elder nominees



David Oliver

Greetings. My name is Dave Oliver. My wife, Margie, and I have been a member at the River for 4 years now. We have 3 children and 7 grandchildren; 6 in Redlands, 1 at Cal Poly SLO, and 1 in Austin, Texas.

We came to Redlands from Visalia where we were members of Visalia CRC. I was a member there since 1965. At Visalia I served 1 term as Deacon and 3 terms as Elder.

As far as my work life I've been a Baker and Bakery manager for 52 years and retired from Vons/Safeway in 2021.

I am currently the chair of the Prayer and Worship team. I look forward to serving the people of the River in any way God sends me.

elder nominees



mark vander wal

Kathleen and I were members of The River from 2003 through 2016. We have been attending again since November 2023, and renewed our membership in June 2024.

Before relocating to Redlands in 2003 we were longtime members at Christ Community CRC in Hayward, CA. We raised our family in the Bay Area and are now also blessed with three grandsons.

Over the years I've served in a number of capacities within the church, including drama ministry here at The River.

I'm originally from Michigan. Kathleen (a Redlands native) and I met at Calvin College and this August will be celebrating our 48th anniversary.

I currently work remotely as Director of Estimating with Ideal Homes of Norman, OK.

Kathleen and I do some traveling, enjoy the outdoors, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

I am honored to be considered for office and continually pray for the Spirit's provision, protection, and direction for The River as we seek to serve and glorify our Lord in our community and the world.



gerrit wagner

Gerrit Wagner has been a lifelong member of The River Church, attending since birth. He previously served as a deacon and currently serves as the head counselor for the Cadet program at The River. Gerrit is a chiropractor and acupuncturist in Redlands. He is married to Erin and has two children, Noah (10) and Hollyn (8). It has been an honor for him to be part of The River community over the years.

deacon nominees



roy null

I have been married to my wife, Pam, for 42 years. We have been part of the River Church since 2000.

I was raised in a casually practicing Christian family in the mid-west. I began to see God working more clearly in the lives of fellow students while in college and I accepted Christ at college in 1978. Pam and I lived in Houston for four years and were members of a fundamental Brethren teaching church there. Upon moving to Redlands we joined an Evangelical Free church where we experienced the blessings of participating in a dedicated small group for ten years.

Pam and I moved to the River in 2000. Our two children were raised in this church, attended RCS and bless us by their continued walk with Christ. We have participated in small groups and other activities while at the River. I retired from the Riverside County Transportation Department in December 2019. I chaired the Generosity and Outreach (GO) Team for four years, participated two more years as a voluntary team member and continue to serve there. I also support Care Portal by periodically participating in the pick up and delivery of furniture and appliances.

I am honored to be considered for the office of deacon and look forward to continued service to the River community as God leads.



randall whitman

Randall Whitman is married to Cecilia and has two daughters, Karla and Daniela. Randall has been a member at the church for a couple decades and has served as a deacon once before. He serves on tech team on Sundays.

lead pastor report



Friends,

I remember driving down the 210 in August 15 years ago. We were coming from the Central Valley after having packed up all our earthly belongings and sending them from Michigan to California in the moving truck. We had taken a week to drive across the country and had stopped to see some friends and family along the way before beginning our work here at the River. It was a wonderful trip, but I was getting anxious to get to Redlands and settle into the life that God had for our family in our new community. In my mind, it was time to get to work.

I remember seeing the highway sign that said "Redlands". We were close. Our kids were excited to finally arrive after all the travel and each of them had their own thoughts and questions. Katie was getting ready for her junior year. "Who are my friends going to be?" That's an important question. Kamryn was going into 5th grade. "What is it going to be like in our new home?" Also, an important question. Troy was starting 1st grade. "Am I going to like it here?" Kristin was coming with questions about the kids settling in and finding her own employment. "Will this be a good place for our family?"

I also remember thinking that I was ready for this. I had never been in an ordained ministry position but had worked for over a decade in youth ministry as the youth guy. I was ready to live into a new season where I preached every week, worked with and led great people on staff, empowered office bearers to be the best elder or deacon they could be, and cared for the people that were a part of the community. I remember thinking, "Now that I'm in charge, we can do things the RIGHT way!"

What hubris. What arrogance. What foolishness. I had and still have so much to learn.

Frankly, all our questions have been answered. Our kids built meaningful and beautiful friendships. The two houses that we've lived in over the last 15 years have brought us a powerful sense of community and belonging. We love being a part of the Redlands community and most specifically, a part of the River community. God has been so very, very good.

lead pastor report

But I'm still not ready for this. I'm still not the leader, or pastor, or preacher, or husband, or father, or anything that God intends for me to be. None of us are. God has done many good things, but he will never be done with me or any of us. We are still not ready for what is ahead. We are still not capable of navigating our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, or our lives with everything we need for us to flourish in all things.

But that's the point. We're not ready, but God is. The Father is leading us. Christ is redeeming us. The Spirit is empowering us. Although our family trip ultimately ended at our new home, our spiritual journey is still in progress. We will not arrive until we arrive at 'home', our heavenly home with God's eternal presence as our destination.

Which means that the questions for us will remain. Questions for the church will remain. What does God have ahead for the River? What is his plan for us in the coming year? What is the future that we are called to pursue as his people in this community?

I do not know all the answers to those questions. The Spirit has given us his leadership. We see things on the horizon that we sense are his leadership and his activity among us. We will pursue his leading anticipating that the answers will come in his time and in his way.

We will teach our children about the love and grace of Christ. We will call the community to worship together in Spirit and in truth. We will focus on God's word and the hope, encouragement, and challenge that it brings us. We will faithfully proclaim the gospel to those who do not know Jesus. We will love each other and our community to the best of our ability. We will step into places of faith without knowing the answers to the questions we have while knowing the One who knits all things together for his glory. We will follow Jesus and go wherever it is that he takes us. We will bathe each step in the posture of prayer that God has called us to.

My journey of growing as a disciple of Christ continues. That journey continues for all of us. May we journey together focused on God's plan and purpose for us and our community trusting that as we are faithful, the River will continue to be a place where Christ is glorified!

-Pastor Scott

pastor of faith formation report



Dear River Family,

This past ministry year has been such an amazing year. I think it's so easy to forget what God has done and being able to stop, reflect, and remember, I was reminded of all the things God blessed us with this year. To give you all an update regarding my role as the Pastor of Faith Formation, I oversee children's ministry through college age ministry and as of recently will be overseeing our new members classes. I am excited to continue to work alongside Becca Triemstra as our Children's Ministry Director and Karen Verhoeven, our New Members and Hospitality Coordinator.

As far as Youth Ministry, we had increased our numbers in attendance and participation for both middle school and high school youth group. This year we were able to do a High School Winter Conference, Camp Dunamis, and SERVE. Thank you to all who prayed for us, supported us, and encouraged us as we planned and attended these different events. With that, we also had 6 students make profession of faith and will be doing more this coming fall!

As we enter a new ministry year, my hope is to continue to grow the ministries that I oversee and participate in as well as develop new areas of ministry in our church. As the Pastor of Faith Formation, my role is to create space and opportunity for faith to develop and my prayer is that God will continue to use me and guide me to do just that, here at the River!

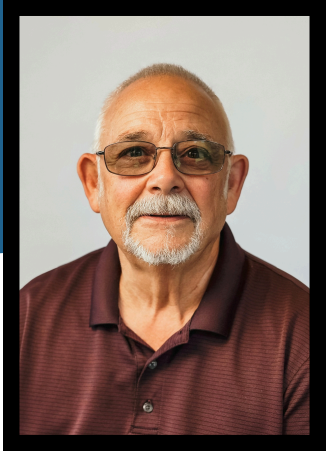
In Hopes of Greater Things,

Rev. Mario Perez Jr.

Pastor of Faith Formation



pastor of visitation report



Dear Friends, thank you for the opportunity to live out our ministry with you. This year we continued to call on our seniors, produce the Senior Newsletter, and host quarterly Senior Fellowship Luncheons. All of these have helped our senior community feel connected and cared about. We have enjoyed the fun and fellowship and have been able to provide special care for those who have gone through difficult times or may not be able to come to church regularly.

This year we also took a small group to see Esther at the Lifehouse Theater. After the show we came back to the church for a light meal with sandwiches from Olive Avenue Market. Ruth and Pilgrim's Progress are playing in 2026. We'll have to see if there's a group interested in going together.

We also launched a new Care Leadership Team this year. In prior years there was a leadership team for Hospitality and Care. We split that team into two, creating the Hospitality and Events Team and the Care Team. The purpose of the Care Team is to collaborate with the pastors, office bearers, staff, and care groups to foster deeper levels of care and community as we support all members and regular attenders of the River Church . You can read about the Care Team elsewhere in this packet.

Sadly, this year we lost three of our longtime members: Pete Kremer, Marvalee Jorritsma, and Ella Jean Moore. We give thanks for their lives, all that they brought to the River over the years, and that we know that they are with Jesus. We remember their families as they transition to life without their loved ones. We also lost two newer people, Helen Husband and Ed Harris. Interestingly they were both people that Pete VanderKooy knew from Mission Commons and invited them to church.

pastor of visitation report

I want to thank Gladys, who is by my side in so many ways, and in our senior ministry visiting when she can, helping to organize the Senior Luncheons, and working to get the newsletter out. Thank you too, to Dave Cameniti, Marcia VanMouwerik, Marlene Hekman, and Darlene Barents who help plan the senior luncheons as well as Gordon Barents, Mike and Patty Turley, and Glenn and Claire Huibregtse who join us to prepare, serve, and clean up after the lunches. Thank you, too, Patty Turley and Rachel Peters for helping proof the newsletter. Thank you to the Care Team, Dennis Barton, Carol Jones, Brad and Leslie Senti, and Gordon and Darleen Barents for all you do. And finally, thank you to all of you at the River who make our ministry possible and so richly rewarding.

staff updates



Rachel Peters- Director of Operations and Communications

As I reflect on this past year, I'm deeply grateful for the work God continues to do in and through our church community. It has been a full and fruitful season in my role as Director of Operations and Communications, and I'm excited to share a brief update on the areas I've had the privilege to oversee and support.

Facilities & Campus Improvements

Over the past year, we've made several key upgrades to improve the safety, functionality, and hospitality of our campus:

- Repaved the parking lot to enhance safety and flow
- Installed new door signage to make building use easier and more intuitive
- Coordinated weekly and seasonal maintenance to keep our spaces clean, safe, and welcoming

Financial Stewardship

In partnership with our admin team and church leadership, we've:

- Maintained a balanced budget while continuing to invest in ministry growth
- Continued efforts to streamline reporting processes for greater transparency and accountability
- Funded a variety of ministry and facility needs through our Admin Grant Fund, supported by COVID relief resources

Operational & Event Planning

Behind the scenes, we've worked to strengthen systems that support the mission of the church:

- Launched a new online church directory to better connect our church family
- Provided consistent support to the outside groups who rent and use our campus each week
- Led the Love Redlands team in serving at Lugonia Elementary, with 25 participants from The River involved
- Collaborated with staff to coordinate a wide range of campus events, including Classis Meetings, the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, and many more

Communications

This year brought growth and clarity in how we share our story and stay connected as a church:

- Refreshed our weekly email and bulletin formats to make communication more clear and engaging
- Promoted events and ministry updates across digital and print channels
- Maintained and regularly updated our church website to reflect current ministries and opportunities
- Partnered with Karla Whitman over the summer to strengthen our social media platforms and increase engagement

As I look ahead, I'm energized by the vision we share and the opportunities on the horizon. In the coming year, I hope to focus on continued updates to our Fellowship Hall, strengthening team culture, and ensuring that our behind-the-scenes operations continue to support ministry done with excellence, joy, and purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this community. It is a true honor to be part of what God is doing here.

staff updates



Jeff Mercer- Worship Director

As the Director of Music and Worship, I train and lead multiple teams throughout the week to lead music for the community. This year I have been involved in Redlands Christian Middle School Chapel, and Redlands Christian Lower School Chapels. Also midweek streaming worship for the River on our social media platforms, leading our younger students during our Legacy night meetings, as well as the River's Sunday morning services.

I have also been working with and training younger musicians and technicians throughout the school year in school programs on school campuses called "Worship Technology & Worship Arts".

I look forward to continuing to grow our ministry, connect with the community, and share God's love through music.



Karen Verhoeven- Connection Coordinator

My role as Connection Coordinator is to welcome guests and enfold them into life at The River Church, using their God-given abilities to further His Kingdom. Highlights for me in this ministry, include learning personal stories of God's love and provision and connecting specific giftings to opportunities of service.

Also, a Women's Ministry Team has planned several events for the fall, encouraging fun opportunities for women of all ages to gather and fellowship. Be sure to get the details and plan to join!

May God continue to bless The River Church in 2025-2026!

staff updates



Don Morris- Technology Coordinator

As Technical Coordinator at The River, I oversee all aspects of production for both our in-person and online worship experiences. I lead and develop our Production Team, working closely with volunteers and staff to ensure our services are welcoming, smooth, and free from technical distractions—helping people stay fully engaged in worship, whether they're in the sanctuary or joining us online. Beyond Sunday services and other events, I serve as the go-to resource for anything tech-related across our church staff, providing solutions, training, and support for everything from basic troubleshooting to more complex digital initiatives. I also manage our church's website and social media presence, ensuring our messaging is clear, current, and aligned with the heart of our ministry. One of the most exciting recent developments has been the continued growth and quality of our livestream production. What started as a necessity has now become a strength—gaining attention and appreciation from a nationwide online community. We're now in a great position to grow our Production Team, especially in the areas of in-house and livestream audio, opening the door for more people to serve, learn new skills, and be part of something meaningful and mission-driven.



Rebecca Triemstra- Children's Ministry Director

Hi, I'm Becca, Director of Children's Ministry. I work with the children of The River from infancy to 5th grade. I get to help facilitate Sunday morning classes and the Legacy Night groups of Legacy Kids, Cadets, and GEMS. One of the most important parts of my job is connecting the adults of The River with the kids, which is accomplished through the volunteers who spend time with the kids in their groups sharing Jesus and their own faith with the kids. Students in middle school and high school are also welcome to volunteer. I am always happy to talk to anyone thinking about volunteering or just looking for more information.

This year we'll be starting a new curriculum that will change the format of Sunday mornings a little. All of the kids will start their morning together for group learning, then split into their age groups for small group time. We'll be using The Gospel Project curriculum.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for both the kids and the volunteers in River Kids this year!

staff updates



Kathleen Nagelkerk- Custodian

I am enjoying cleaning the church. It is a joy to keep the church ready to serve our members as well as visitors who come to attend our services.

Blessings!



Debbie Bueermann- Director of Outreach and Support

As The River's Director of Outreach & Support, I develop and maintain partnerships with local agencies, religious organizations, and other non-profits that serve the low-income residents in the Inland Empire. Some of those are: Redlands Family Service, Youth Hope, Careportal, and Olive Crest (Safe Families). I have discovered that "Outreach" requires me to look beyond myself and focus on those in need, and I believe I've been gifted to be able to do that. As most of you know, the Careportal ministry keeps me very busy. I'm in awe of the way God has equipped me for this ministry, and I love it. If you haven't read the Careportal updates that I've posted, please try and do so. It is amazing to see how many families The River Church has helped. I could not do this alone and have been blessed to have a few volunteers join me again this year. I won't list them. They know who they are and how important they are to this ministry. The "Support" aspect of my position is simple; I discover ways to help and support those who are regular attendees here at The River Church. At times, I work with the deacons to notify them of needs, and I promote events that are all inclusive to those that call this church home. One such ministry is our Legacy Nights ministry. Again, I could not lead this ministry without a loyal team of volunteers. Thank you, Legacy Night Meal team! I also serve on the Generosity & Outreach team. This team exists to encourage partnerships with organizations to enrich God's kingdom and support those who share the love of Christ with those who don't know Him.

ministry team reports



Discipleship and Faith Formation

This year we were able to see God work in many ways in our community! Through different studies and service projects, God was glorified and opportunities for faith formation took place! This upcoming year we are excited for new opportunities such as ways for us as congregation to care for our college age students and young adults, revamping and supporting women's and men's ministries, and different service opportunities that can bring multi-generations together. May God continue to be the center of our conversations and guide us as we enter this new ministry year!



Prayer and Worship

Know God's love every day. Show Christ's love to everyone. Go every where the Spirit leads.

To connect people to God and to each other in tangible ways through prayer and worship.

This is the Calling of Your Prayer and Worship team.

This year we achieved the following:

National Day of Prayer / 24 hrs. of Prayer and Prayer Dinner

Congregational Prayer every 3rd Sunday

Produced Advent calendar

Sent we're praying for you cards for those in need

We are now sending birthday cards to our Seniors

We support Jeff in any way we can with the worship services

Your Prayer and Worship team



ministry team reports



The Generosity and Outreach (GO) Team has been greatly blessed by the generous donations that have been given this past fiscal year. God be praised. Eternity will reveal the bountiful harvest from this generous support. The GO Team is involved in selecting the missionaries supported by the River and determining the outreach ministries that are categorized as Kingdom Partners. The missionaries are provided with budgeted monthly support, and the

Kingdom Partners are supported by designated donations from congregants.

The GO Team has been blessed by a strong membership, which includes staff, officers (Deacons and Elders) and lay members. These GO Team members are Debbie Bueermann (Staff), Sharon Sibley (Deacon), Jim Nydam (Elder) and lay members Patty Turley, Mike Turley, Roy Null, and Cecil Miller (chair).

The GO Team annually reviews the list of missionaries and the monthly support each receives. It makes decisions regarding changes that are prudent. There currently are 8 missionaries that receive monthly support. They include Andy and Angie Prins, Steve and Frankie Wunderink, Pete and Laura Blackburn, Tim and Courtney Banks, Nick In't Hout, Bert Block, Paul VerHoef, and the Loatian church. We are planning to add Moses and Eunae Chung as missionaries to Korea this coming year. We are grateful for the generous support for our missionaries and trusting God to provide for this addition to our missionary family.

There are currently 12 Kingdom Partners that receive support in various ways. This support occurs by a combination of designated monetary donations, gifts in kind (donating furniture, housewares, etc.), and by a labor of love. Three examples of providing a labor of love are uniting families through Care Portal, an outreach work day at Grace Valley Church in Las Vegas, where we repaired a monument sign and completed landscape clean-up, and the monthly MCCA (Mexican Christian Children's Aid) trips to Mexico that bless 58 ministries in Mexico (32 orphanages and 26 childcare centers/community feeding programs) by bringing food each month.

The GO Team is also responsible for communication with the missionaries and kingdom partners, scheduling short presentations on Sunday mornings, arranging and hosting missionary lunches and planning missions/outreach events. The next event we are planning is the second annual 5K run/walk in Fall as a fundraiser for one of our Kingdom Partners, Beautiful Gate (an orphanage) in Lesotho, South Africa.

The Kingdom Partners that are currently supported in various ways include Beautiful Gate Orphanage, Care Portal, Resonate Global Mission, MCCA, Life Choice Pregnancy Center, Safe Families, Young Life Redlands, Christian Education Fund, World Renew, Youth Hope, Lunch Bunch/Sandy and Ross Cooper, and Oceans Ministries/Tim Spykstra.

Sincere thanks for all the support and prayer. This allows us to spread the gospel and bless many individuals and families locally and in countries around the world. May the Lord continue to bless the work of our missionaries and Kingdom Partners.

ministry team reports



Hospitality and Community Events Team

The hospitality and community events team is a dedicated group made up of both lay members as well as council leaders. These members include: Teri H., Debbie V., Kathy N., Patty D., Harold M., Paul V., Trudy B. Each month we meet, discuss and plan for several church events throughout the year. These events include: The Handmade Market in the fall, Carols and Cocoa during the Christmas Season, our newly named Rummage Market, Easter Sunday Brunch and the Annual Cornhole Tournament.

We hope to create events that strive to connect The River congregation with communities of Redlands and beyond. They provide an opportunity to serve the church as well as our neighbors. With consistent growth and improvement, we hope that these events can serve as a way for God's people to love their families, friends, and neighborhoods. We have seen success and we hope to continue to see success and growth.

We also have a team of individuals who serve and provide for this congregation on Family Sundays. This group named "The Crockpot Crew" is made up of over 15 River members including: Teri H., Debbie V., Kathy N., Trudy B., Chris N., Donna H., Paul D., Leslie S., Kim K., Jared P., Caitlyn C., Kindra S., Pam N., Carmen M., Patty D., Rachael K., Shaina K.

We ask that as the church you will continue to pray that God will bless and grow these events, not only with attendance but volunteers as well. Pray that we will continue to have the financial support that we have had for many years. Lastly, we ask that you pray personally - if you feel called to serve as a member of The H&C team, as a member of our Crockpot Crew, or even as a specific event volunteer - that he would make his will clear and available to you.

Finally the H&C team would like to thank The River for all the support and prayer that you have already provided during these events. Nothing we do is possible without the hands and feet of God's people.



ministry team reports



Care Team

The Care Team exists to collaborate with the pastors, office bearers, staff, and care groups to foster deeper levels of care and community as we support all members and regular attenders of the River Church. The team trains people to provide appropriate spiritual, emotional, and relational care. They create and support activities and events that can either train members to care well for each other or provide a sense of belonging where care is shared.

The Care Team is new, so this was a year of learning and development. In prior years, the care ministry was part of Hospitality and Care. Between Family Sundays, special events, and congregational care, there was just too much for that team. At the end of last year the team split into two: the Hospitality and Events Team and the Care Team.

Over the course of the year the Care Team has been visiting people, particularly those with special needs; thinking about how to offer training for people who would like to make calls; and working to develop a system to record visits so we don't have multiple visits in a short period of time.

In January we hosted a dinner with the Elders and their spouses to talk about how to make calls and how to ramp up the care ministry in our congregation. We provided lists of everyone in their care groups along with the birthdays and anniversaries of each person in their group. We also reviewed the lists to identify any people with special or ongoing needs. It was a good and helpful time.

This year we also encouraged our Care Groups to take a more active role caring for one another within their groups. Pastor Rick met with each group during the spring round of lunches and provided everyone with a list of the people in their groups, along with birthdays and anniversaries. We also have begun adding Care Group information to posts on the Prayer Chain so that the members of the person's group will respond not only with prayer, but a card, call, text, or email. We want to create a deeper culture of care in our church, members caring for each other.

In the Spring we also began working to develop a cadre of people who willing to help call on people. We had an introductory luncheon with about 16 attending. Some have jumped right in and have started making visits; others are waiting training or for changes in their schedules. It has been a blessing to see how many people responded.

In September we are going to be offering a three-session training for those who would like to be part of calling ministry. The sessions will be a working lunch Sept. 14, 21, and 28 right after church. They will last an hour and a half to two hours. We will be covering topics like how to make your first visit, confidentiality, active listening, scriptures to use during visits, how to report and log visits, etc. We welcome anyone who may be interested to attend; just let Dennis Barton or Darlene Barents know so we have enough food.

The members of the Care Team are Dennis Barton, Brad and Leslie Senti, Gordon and Darlene Barents, Carol Jones, and Pastor Rick. Gordon is our representative Elder, Carol is our Deacon, and Pastor Rick is our staff person. We are looking for a couple of more people who might want to join us. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, 7:00-8:30 PM.

Thank you for being such a caring congregation. It has been a blessing to work to deepen our care ministry and make it even more effective.





budget notes

2025-2026 River CRC Budget
Approved by Council August 5, 2025
Presented to the Congregation August 24, 2025

The budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year has been assembled from staff and leadership team proposals, reviewed and approved by the Administration team, reviewed and approved by Council, and is presented to the Congregation for final review and approval.

Giving has decreased slightly from last year, with very strong summer offerings offsetting a less confident spring, and after staff's diligent efforts to cut expenses, we ended on July 31 only \$6,100 behind in net income. We have been blessed by the Lord and by the congregation with over \$700,000 in giving already this year, and the weight of that responsibility is felt by all of the Council and staff.

The budget proposal for the coming year is for a 1.5% increase in expenses and a 0.7% increase in the ask of the congregation. The Council is confident that we will be able to meet this goal, and the Admin team will diligently monitor the financial health of the church and support Council and the congregation in our stewardship of God's blessing.

The ministry leadership teams and staff have all worked together to increase budgets where necessary, and more importantly, where there appear to be opportunities to grow in the ministry of the church. The leadership has also worked together to trim other budgets where prudent and necessary.

To repeat a clarifying note from previous budget updates: the Missions Fund budget and Christian Education Fund budget are separate from the general River Life Fund and channel giving directly to the recipients. The Generosity & Outreach team oversees the Missions Fund, and the Deacons oversee the CEF; both teams have provided budgets to the Council along with commitments to raise the funds required to meet the needs through monthly offerings, fundraisers, and other special events.

Finally, after our congregational meeting last August, given the surplus of the 2023-2024 budget year, we were able to transfer over \$30,000 into the Capital Improvements Fund. The CIF has not been allocated funds in the budget proposed for 2025-2026, but the Admin team will develop and propose a ten-year CIF budget and funding plan to Council in a mid-budget-year update. This will take into account the health of the River Life Fund over the next six months, as well as future plans to invest in the building with a more intentional approach to the hospitality of our physical campus.

As the Lord continues to provide and allows us to be blessed in our tithes and offerings, all of the staff, leadership teams, and Council remain committed to be responsible to the congregation and to be prayerful stewards of these blessings.

Budget for 2025-2026

	2024-2025 Budget	Expenses (11 months)	2025-2026 Budget	Increase Over 24-25
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET INCOME	\$ 885,804	\$ 800,468	\$ 898,940	1.5%
Missions Fund (line 8100 below)	\$ 38,000	\$ 29,686	\$ 37,800	-1%
Christian Education Fund (line 8200 below)	\$ 31,450	\$ 25,237	\$ 31,000	-1%
Rental Income	\$ 16,400	\$ 21,492	\$ 24,750	
River Life Fund (Congregational Giving)	\$ 799,954	\$ 724,053	\$ 805,390	0.7%
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENSE	\$ 885,804	\$ 783,009	\$ 898,940	1.5%
Missions Fund (not included in Non-Payroll)	\$ 38,000	\$ 29,700	\$ 37,800	-1%
Christian Education Fund (not included in Non-Payroll)	\$ 31,450	\$ 24,605	\$ 31,000	-1%
Non-Payroll Budget (detailed below)	\$ 259,050	\$ 730,155	\$ 262,000	1%
Payroll Budget	\$ 557,304	\$ 477,682	\$ 568,140	2%
Non-Payroll Budget Details				
5000 · Administration				
Operations Subtotal:	\$ 33,300	\$ 34,572	\$ 31,100	-7%
Technology / IT Subtotal:	\$ 19,300	\$ 20,050	\$ 20,000	4%
Facilities / Equipment Subtotal:	\$ 64,650	\$ 66,756	\$ 74,200	15%
Utilities Subtotal:	\$ 59,000	\$ 46,093	\$ 58,400	-1%
Administration Total:	\$ 176,250	\$ 167,471	\$ 183,700	4%
6000 · Ministries				
Children's Ministries Subtotal:	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,100	\$ 9,300	-7%
Youth Ministry Subtotal:	\$ 7,750	\$ 17,438	\$ 7,000	-10%
Adult Ministries Subtotal:	\$ 9,300	\$ 4,062	\$ 10,900	17%
Discipleship & Faith Form. Subtotal:	\$ 2,000	\$ 741	\$ 2,500	25%
Worship Subtotal:	\$ 6,750	\$ 6,868	\$ 6,250	-7%
Ministries Total:	\$ 35,800	\$ 38,209	\$ 35,950	0%
7000 · Community Life				
Ministry Leadership Teams Subtotal:	\$ 11,200	\$ 10,603	\$ 14,800	
Fellowship & Special Events Subtotal:	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,189	\$ 6,000	0%
Volunteer Appreciation Total:			\$ 3,050	
Pastoral Care Subtotal:	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,650	\$ 8,000	14%
Synodical Charges Subtotal:			\$ 500	
Community Life Total:	\$ 24,200	\$ 24,442	\$ 32,350	34%
8000 · Other				
8100 · Missions Fund	\$ 38,000	\$ 29,700	\$ 37,800	-1%
8200 · Christian Education Fund	\$ 31,450	\$ 24,605	\$ 31,000	-1%
8300 · Ministry Shares				
8310 · Classical Ministry Shares	\$ 16,800	\$ 15,400	\$ 10,000	-40%
8320 · Denominational Ministry Shares	\$ -	\$ -		0%
8400 · Capital Improvements Fund	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,500	\$ -	.
Other Total:	\$ 92,250	\$ 75,205	\$ 78,800	-15%