



RIVER VALLEY

ALLIANCE CHURCH

2023 Annual Report

This is a preliminary version of the Annual Report.
Changes may be made to this report up until the
time of the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024.

Updated 1-26-24

1. Alvarez, Ashley	57. Flint, Charlene	114. Miller, Kayla	165. Supple, Dan
2. Alvarez, Dominic	58. Flint, John	115. Montgomery, Betty	166. Supple, Doris
3. Andrle, Carol	59. Fredrich, Debbie	116. Mueller, Marion	167. Supple, Mary
4. Arndt, Evelyn	60. Fredrich, John	117. Mueller, Paul	168. Tobin, Juli
5. Arndt, Gerald	61. Free, Denise	118. Nekich, Bruce	169. Tortomasi, Jean
6. Austin, Laura*	62. Friedl, Mike	119. Nekich, Cece	170. Tortomasi, Rick
7. Austin, Walt*	63. Gerike, Betsy	120. Oberbrunner, Linda*	171. Treichel, Don
8. Beerbohm, Heidi	64. Gerike, Brian	121. Oberbrunner, Mike*	172. Treichel, Pat
9. Billington, Nancy	65. Giese, Michelle	122. Oestreicher, Chris	173. Uhrich, Tim*
10. Billington, Rodney	66. Giese, Thomas	123. Oestreicher, Theresa	174. Vana, Judy
11. Buchanan, Susan	67. Grady, Tammy	124. Olson, Alek	175. Vana, Randy
12. Buchholtz, Amy	68. Grady, Todd	125. Olson, Gwen	176. Vehlow, Donald
13. Buchholtz, William	69. Griffee, Meg	126. Olson, Don	177. Vehlow, Sonya
14. Burbach, Kay	70. Gunn, Amanda*	127. Olson, Toni	178. Vining, Donna
15. Carl, Maynard	71. Gunn, Steve*	128. Peacy, Linden	179. Vogt, Bruce
16. Carl, Maynard II	72. Gunn, Teri*	129. Peacy, Mike	180. Vogt, Dale
17. Carl, Sarah	73. Haberkorn, Joe	130. Pendleton, Bill	181. Vogt, Linda
18. Carothers, Al	74. Haberkorn, Laurie	131. Prah, RitaRae	182. Vogt, Teresa
19. Carothers, Carmen	75. Halvorsen, Judy	132. Price, Mike*	183. Von Rueden, Joann
20. Carothers, Cathryne	76. Hanus, Heidi	133. Price, Sheila*	184. Von Rueden, Matt
21. Chartier, Cindy	77. Hanus, Paul	134. Rantanen, Donna	185. Wagie, Sheila*
22. Chartier, Sarah	78. Heichel, Hope*	135. Rantanen, William	186. Wagie, Mike*
23. Chen, Jane	79. Heichel, Jon*	136. Rasch, Rachel	187. Walker, Jeremy
24. Cheng, Emmilyn	80. Hein, Jason	137. Raybuck, Janice	188. Walker, Robin
25. Choiniski, Susan	81. Herold, Harley	138. Raybuck, Scott	189. Weihert, LuAnn
26. Clouse, Angie*	82. Herold, Jeauetta	139. Richter, Bill	190. Wells, Cynthia*
27. Clouse, Max*	83. Ihde, Cathy	140. Richter, Rosy	191. Wells, Robert*
28. Cole, Lew	84. Jeanson, Dawn	141. Roberts, Jennifer	192. Werth, Ray
29. Cole, Mary Ellen	85. Johnson, Connie	142. Roberts, Justin	193. Werth, Yvonne
30. Coleman, Don	86. Keever, Erin	143. Rothschadl, Denise	194. Wheeler, Destin*
31. Colosky, Matt	87. Keever, Matt	144. Saugstad, Brad	195. Wheeler, Kim*
32. Colosky, Shannon	88. Klein, Neal	145. Saugstad, Nikki	196. Wilson, Chavah
33. Corrick-Gross, Marge	89. Kluber, Colleen	146. Schafer, Diane	197. Wilson, Wayne
34. Culotta, Jason	90. Kluber, Joseph	147. Schafer, Larry	198. Wisniewski, Mary*
35. Culotta, Rebekah	91. Knopps, Suzanne	148. Schleicher, Diane	199. Wisniewski, Tom*
36. Dean, Edward	92. Kraus, Linda	149. Schmidt, Darin	200. Wood, Kim
37. Dean, Kathy	93. Krizek, Elliott	150. Schneider, Kim	201. Yares, Adam
38. Dehnert, Barb	94. Krizek, Kayla	151. Schoechert, Dave	202. Yares, Andrea
39. Dehnert, Ed	95. Krueger, Dan	152. Schoechert, Judy	203. Zimmermann, David
40. Domer, Jesse	96. Krueger, James	153. Schroeder, Greg	204. Zimmermann, Nancy
41. Domer, Lauri	97. Krueger, Lorelei	154. Schroeder, Kim	
42. Ebert, Art	98. Kruziki, Nancy	155. Schultz, Adeline	
43. Ebert, Pat	99. Kruziki, Tom	156. Schultz, Cory	
44. Edwards, Carol	100. Kujawski, Brenda	157. Schwartz, Valerie	
45. Edwards, Joel	101. Kujawski, Michael	158. Shafer, Pat	
46. Enockson, Christine	102. Leischer, John	159. Shult, Becky	
47. Enockson, Karl	103. Lott, Terry	160. Smith, Dave	
48. Errickson, Sherry	104. McDonnell, Phil	161. Smith, Ricky	
49. Errickson, Tim	105. McDonnell, Wendy	162. Sokovich, Carol	
50. Esposito, Logan	106. McFarland, Emily*	163. Sokovich, Ron	
51. Esposito, Sarah	107. McFarland, Kyle*	164. Stapleton, Rebecca	
52. Filipiak, Abby	108. Mertens, Ameer		
53. Filipiak, Elliot	109. Mertens, Chris		
54. Fine, Daron*	110. Meyer, Nancy		
55. Fine, Nicole*	111. Meyering, Jared		
56. Flath, Ruth	112. Meyering, Joy		
	113. Miller, Dan		

*Denotes New Member 2023

Honorary List

- 205. Jeuck, Gerald
- 206. Jeuck, Marilyn
- 207. Rockafellow, Linda
- 208. Wendland, Ed

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 28, 2024

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Motion to wave reading of previous year's minutes**
- III. Motion for approval of previous year's minutes**
- IV. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election
- V. Disciple Making Ministries
 - a. Adults – Karl Enockson
 - b. Students – Logan Esposito
 - c. Children – Nicole Fine
 - d. Worship & Technology- Pastor David Zimmermann
- VI. Missions – Cory Schultz
- VII. Governing Board – Bruce Nekich
- VIII. Elders – Greg Schroeder
- IX. Deacons/Deaconesses – Rick Tortomasi
- X. Trustees – Darin Schmidt
- XI. Senior Pastor Report- Pastor David Zimmermann
- XII. Treasurer – Matt Keever
- XIII. Motion to approve reports**
- XIV. Presentation of 2024 Budget – Matt Keever
- XV. Motion to approve 2024 budget**
- XVI. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members
- XVII. Prayer – Prior to Adjourn
- XVIII. Adjourn

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 29, 2023

River Valley Alliance Church

Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday January 29, 2023

The Annual Meeting was called to order at **12:15 pm** by Pastor David Zimmermann
A quorum was present in person at the meeting.
Pastor David Zimmermann opened the meeting in prayer.

Previous Minutes:

MOTION: To waive reading of minutes from the Annual Meeting minutes from January 2022.

MOVED BY: Bruce Nekich **SECOND:** Matt Keever

PASSED

MOTION: To approve minutes from the Annual Meeting minutes from January 2022.

MOVED BY: Karl Enockson **SECOND:** Matt Von Rueden

PASSED

Election:

Nominating Committee Report: A written report was submitted and reported on by Pastor David Zimmermann

MOTION: To approve the nominations of the nominating Committee

MOVED BY: Don Vehlow **SECOND:** Ed Dehnert

PASSED

Reports: (All reports are printed in the River Valley Annual Report 2022)

Disciple Making Ministries Reports:

Children: A written report was submitted, however, Robin Walker was absent from the meeting

Youth Group: A written report was submitted; however Pastor Logan Esposito was absent from the meeting

Worship and Technology: A written report was submitted, and a verbal report was given by Elliot Filipiak.

Senior Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted, and a verbal report was given by Pastor David Zimmermann.

Ministry Reports:

Local Missions: A written report was submitted, and a verbal report was given by Ed Dehnert

International Missions (IMPACTS): A written report was submitted, and a verbal report was given by Ed Dehnert.

Governing Board Report- A written report was submitted, and a verbal report was given by Colleen Kluber.

Elder Report: A written report was submitted and a verbal report was given by Greg Schroeder.

Service and Benevolence Report: A written report was submitted by and a verbal report was given by Don Vehlow.

Trustee Report: A written report was submitted, and a verbal report was given by Todd Grady.

Finance Report: A written report was submitted by Terri Lott.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was submitted, and a verbal report was given by Matt Keever.

Rick Tortomasi prayed for the Leaders and Ministries.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

MOTION: To approve reports from leaders.

Moved BY: Abby Filipiak

SECOND: Carol Edwards

PASSED

New Business:

MOTION: To balance the 2023 budget.

Moved BY: Greg Schroeder

SECOND: Matt Von Rueden

PASSED

MOTION: Approve 2023 Budget.

Moved BY: Jason Culotta

SECOND: Bruce Nekich

PASSED

Pastor David Zimmermann acknowledged outgoing board members.

MOTION: To adjourn the Annual Meeting.

Moved BY: Matt Von Rueden

SECOND: Erin Keever

PASSED

Pastor David Zimmermann prayed to close the meeting.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at **1:30 PM**.

Respectfully submitted and in service to the Lord,

Colleen Kluber
Governing Board Secretary
River Valley Alliance Church

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OFFICE	NOMINEE	CURRENTLY SERVING
Treasurer		
(1-year position)	Max Clouse	Matt Keever (2023)
Assistant Treasurer		
(1-year position)	Juli Tobin	Juli Tobin (2023 – 1 year term)
Secretary		
(1-year position)	Sonya Vehlow	Bruce Nekich (2023)
Elder		
(3-year position)	Matt Keever	Greg Schroeder (2023)
(3-year position)	Cory Schultz	Cory Schultz (2023 – 1 year term)
		Maynard Carl II (2024 – 2 year term)
		Karl Enockson (2024) (Term 1)
		Justin Roberts (2025) (Term 1)
Trustee		
(3-year position)	Todd Grady	Vacant (2023)
(3-year position)	Cindy Chartier	Cindy Chartier (2023) (Term 1)
(3-year position)	Mike Price	
		Paul Hanus (2024) (Term 2)
		Darin Schmidt (2025) (Term 1)
		Rod Billington (2025) (Term 2)
Deacon		
(2-year position)	Destin Wheeler	Paul Mueller (2025) Term 2 (Resigned)
(3-year position)	Dan Miller	Rick Tortomasi (2023) Term 1
(3-year position)	Joe Kluber	
		John Flint (2024) (Term 1)
		Bruce Vogt (2025) (Term 1)
Deaconess		
(2-year position)	Kimberly Wheeler	Marion Mueller (2025) Term 2 (Resigned)
(3-year position)	Kayla Miller	Jean Tortomasi (2023) Term 1
(3-year position)	Sheila Price	Sue Buchanan (2023) Term 2
		Heidi Beerbohm (2024) Term 1
		Teresa Vogt (2025) Term 1

Committee Members:
 Dave Zimmermann (Chairperson)
 Rebekah Culotta
 Brian Gerike
 Justin Roberts
 Juli Tobin

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

David Zimmermann

At the outset, I do apologize for the length of this "epistle". I hope you will take the time to read it carefully and pray over its contents as it will definitely stand as a pivotal point in River Valley's history.

Our River Valley family seems to have been on a rollercoaster ride of late. I never really liked rollercoasters, but as a teenager, due to peer pressure, I rode on them with my church youth group. Then, when I turned 20, my stomach told me that I DEFINITELY do not like roller coasters. Now that being said, I really like the initial climb of the roller coaster as the string of cars purposefully works hard to get to the top. I also like the straightaways where the wind whips through my hair and the car goes really fast. But, the parts of the roller coaster I don't like are the gut wrenching drops, the scary hairpin turns, and the stomach-in-your-mouth upside downs where I think the ride will never end. As I've completed my 8th year as River Valley's senior pastor, in my opinion, 2023 has had more than its fair share of drops, turns and upside-down portions than I would prefer. But isn't the whole point of roller coasters for us to trust the machine in the scary parts? Isn't the whole point of following Jesus to trust and learn in the midst of difficulties?

During this rollercoaster year, God has been at work. People are responding to the Gospel and being born again. People of all ages are growing exponentially in their faith and allowing the fruit of the Spirit to flow from them. Some are working for the kingdom with great joy in their hearts, realizing that even the most menial of tasks are vital for the Good News to move forward. Many have prayed for, worked in, and supported missions here in Watertown and around the world. There has been joyful, supportive, and welcoming fellowship as well. To me, these examples are the vigorous climbing and the invigorating high speed of the straightaways. I'm so thankful for those. The other stuff... not so much.

But the Bible says that we are to "rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in ALL circumstances..." (Romans 5:16-18) That means we need to rejoice, pray and give thanks even on those drops, turns, and when we feel we're upside-down. So, on River Valley's rollercoaster ride of 2023 and the rollercoaster ride that is undoubtedly ahead of us in 2024, would you take a moment and LOOK BACK, REFUSE TO FRET, and commit to KEEP ON with me.

LOOK BACK

I've always been a proponent of "faith in retrospect". That means looking back and seeing God at work in all aspects of our lives. This is what OT Joseph did as he comforted his cowering brothers after their horrible treatment of him, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20) A current Christian song praises God by saying, "You take what the enemy meant for evil and you use it for good." From my point of view, this has played out many times at River Valley in 2023, mostly in the area of personnel.

- We began the year with the retirement of our beloved Teresa Vogt, probably earlier than she would have liked. But this has given her time with her precious granddaughter and the rest of her family. God filled the void left by her with the gifted Colleen Kluber.
- Then it appeared that we were going to lose the trustworthy bookkeeping of Jen Roberts, but God allowed us to contract with her and keep her honorable eyes on our finances.
- In Spring we dealt with the resignation of Robin Walker due to her mother's health. The Lord has recently revealed to Robin that she was also suffering from a severe case of ministry burnout. While we will miss both Robin and Jeremy greatly, I am glad that they have found a place of refreshment after years of literally giving their all to River Valley. In the midst of this painful separation, God has given us Nicole Fine to lead River Valley's kid's ministry with her own fresh vision.

The last two months of 2023 have been difficult. The Lord appears to be doing a sifting at River Valley. You may have heard about an anonymous donation being discontinued which has led to a revised budget and the cutting of the Worship and Tech position held by Elliot Filipiak. Saying goodbye to Elliot was a tough thing to do, but after prayer and careful thought, the Governing Board felt this was the most prudent way to protect River Valley, the Filipiak's, and the new priorities that the Governing Board has laid out for the new year. Meanwhile, God has provided. A literal army of volunteers has stepped up to lead our worship and handle the technical gaps that we have. I have also heard from many of you that you are seeking the Lord about how He would have you assist with the gap in funding.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)

The responses to this difficult decision have been extremely varied. I've heard everything from, "The Governing Board did what they had to do" to "This was the absolute wrong way to handle it." All I can say to this is that leadership is fraught with difficult decisions and there is no way to please everyone. I am in awe of and so thankful for the God-seeking people you have elected to make these hard decisions. Please continue communicating your concerns as they arise to these leaders. Perhaps you might even consider and feel God calling you to get involved in leadership yourself.

I look back on River Valley's history and see the Lord leading through difficult decisions. All of those decisions were met with a myriad of opinions. BUT GOD used every one of those decisions to make River Valley what it is today... a vibrant group of followers of Jesus who are being transformed and empowered... a representation of Jesus, seeking to serve Him and lift His name high so that all of Watertown and the world would come to know him.

REFUSE TO FRET

So, with 2023 past and 2024 before us, we find ourselves in the present. What should River Valley do RIGHT NOW, TODAY? The enemy would love for us to worry and fret. The enemy would love for us to start fighting and disintegrate. The enemy would love for us to call a retreat. The enemy would love for us to question ourselves and our leadership. The enemy would love for all of us, including the senior pastor, to lose focus and say, "What about me? What about my needs?" How do we respond to this? The only response I can offer is a promise from God's word...

Matthew 6:25-27

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

If the Lord cares for the smallest of animals, how much more does He care about River Valley? As a dear counsellor of mine says, "Refuse to fret!" How do we do that? We do this only by experiencing Jesus' presence with us TODAY, RIGHT NOW! What did Jesus say? "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) We dare not shrug that statement off as elementary or basic... that is the essence of the Gospel! The creator of the universe is IN us and we are IN Him. That realization leads us to realize that he is working everything we experience for His glory and our good. The main purpose of our life on this planet is to figure that out, both individually and corporately as a church. TODAY, RIGHT NOW, we must realize God is present, so we must REFUSE TO FRET.

KEEP ON

I just read my annual report written in January of 2020 and laughed out loud. My plan was to aggressively launch River Valley with a "let's conquer this city for Jesus" battle cry. While I don't think that was a bad goal, God had other plans. His plan was to help us to learn how to get along during a pandemic, deep seated racial issues, and a contentious political climate.

So, as I announce plans for 2024 and beyond, I do so with the 2020 scenario in mind, realizing that 4 years from today we could read this plan and laugh. That being said, this plan has been laid out with a huge amount of prayer, rethinking and revision. It's not foolhardy or haphazard. This plan is presented to the Lord with WIDE OPEN HANDS, praying, "God, we at River Valley want to be a beacon of light for you in this city, nation, and world. So, we offer this plan, which we hope we have rightly discerned from you, back to you for you to empower, redirect, and bring about. Lord, please slam shut any doors that you would not have us go through and obviously fling open any windows that we weren't aware of. Amen!"

As I announced last year, I have a shelf-life as senior pastor at River Valley. It was never my intention to sit in this chair, but God has brought me to it, you have entrusted me with it, and I don't want to sit in it one day longer or one day shorter than GOD intends. Through a series of conversations, prayers, and seeking, the elders and I have decided that it is time to seek a new senior pastor for River Valley. Since October, we have been in conversation with a potential candidate for this position. The doors have seemingly flown open along the way, but we are waiting on the Lord EVERY step of the way.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)

Since many of us are transplants to the Alliance from many and various church traditions, I'm going to give a brief outline of the "Alliance way" of securing senior pastors. One thing that needs to be understood from the outset is that the Alliance pursues **one** candidate at a time. For a senior pastor, we do not seek multiple applicants and then pick one from the pile. Generally, the District Superintendent recommends or approves a candidate and the process begins. This candidate is then introduced to the elders. Next, the elders have a formal interview with him. If the elders continue to feel God's favor on this candidate, he and his wife are brought in to do what is called a "candidating weekend". During this weekend, the candidate will preach and be introduced to as many segments of the congregation as possible. After this weekend, everyone will PRAY. For a set amount of time following this weekend, the congregation will be encouraged to share their impressions with an elder. At this point, the plug can be pulled by the candidate, the elders, or the District Superintendent. If at any time the Lord says, "STOP", the process begins again. If everyone senses a green light, the Governing Board, with the approval of the District Superintendent will extend a call to the candidate.

This process has begun at River Valley. So far, the elders have met the candidate via Zoom and met with the district superintendent who has approved our consideration of this candidate. If all continues to go smoothly, a formal interview with the elders will probably take place in early March. The candidating weekend would follow quite closely presuming a successful interview.

Some of you may be asking, "What about Dave and Nancy"? Our answer is simply, "We serve at the pleasure of the Lord". That means however the Lord speaks to the new senior pastor and the leadership, Nancy and I will JOYFULLY follow their authority. If Nancy and I do remain, it will be considered quite unusual. However, as of now, all parties involved seem to be giving their nod of approval for my remaining at River Valley in some pastoral role. At this point, I would consider it an honor to serve alongside a new senior pastor and ease the transition for River Valley. What would normally occur in a senior pastor transition is that the current pastor would leave and then the congregation would go through a process lasting 8-12 months in securing a new senior pastor. River Valley's current leadership does not feel this would be in the best interest of the congregation. Be in prayer that River Valley's leadership, the candidate, and Nancy and I are faithfully discerning God's voice in all of this.

Philippians 1:4-6

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

This verse has always been so foundational to Nancy and me... from days of infertility, to our move to Watertown, to my transition to pastor, and now the transition for River Valley. God begins good work, and HE is faithful to finish them in an excellent way.

No doubt all of us have experienced plunges, twist, and periods of being upside down, in our personal lives. During these difficult times, I trust you have felt God's presence and experienced His faithfulness. As a church family, we LOOK BACK and how God was at work at River Valley in 2023. TODAY, while things may appear to be shaky, would you stand with me on God's promises and "REFUSE TO FRET"? Finally, let's KEEP ON trusting this statement...

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

We've seen God do wonderful things at River Valley in the past. This verse assures us that there are more bright and impactful days ahead of us. So, by His power, we KEEP ON advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the one and only thing that can unite us.

Joyfully serving!

Pastor Dave Zimmermann

Senior Pastor

DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM) Report

Karl Enockson
Discipleship

Participation has increased in all areas. Diversity best describes DMM in 2023.

Community Groups each have their unique identity. Each group's maturity, over the past 15 months, has clearly demonstrated they are much more than a monthly social event. Through community groups, neighbors and visitors were repeatedly brought into fellowship. They served, they supported, and were supported.

Groups...A wide variety of studies have been offered throughout the year. 2 Sunday classes have taken place along with several Bible studies/classes throughout the week. The Anxiety and depression care group and the Divorce Care group were very fruitful.

It was interesting to see people come together to study in a variety of ways to fit individual schedules and needs. 1 study met entirely on zoom. When dinner and childcare were offered in another Bible study, the response in participation and in support was nothing less than remarkable.

The most outstanding aspect of DMM in 2023 was greater understanding of the many unrecorded groups which so effectively promote fellowship and spiritual formation. Individuals quietly and humbly living out:

Hebrews 10:24-25:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

All Glory to God!

DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM) Report (Cont.)

Logan Esposito Pastor of Student Ministries

Weekly Youth Group

- In 2023, we got through 9 different teaching series with both middle school and high school.
- The middle school youth group has almost doubled from the past couple of years.
- Youth group has begun seeing more outreach students from our community, especially in the middle school group.
- I made the month of May open to incoming 6th grade students so that they can try out youth group.

Sunday School

- Justin Roberts concluded his time as the middle school Sunday school teacher in the spring of 2023. His service in that role was much appreciated.
- I took over middle school Sunday school in September 2023. We spent the fall/winter semester engaging with different issues in the Church and world today. We will spend our winter/spring semester in the book of Judges.
- High school Sunday school concluded in the spring of 2023 and was replaced with home groups in September 2023. These meet on Thursday nights in parent's homes. Numbers are generally smaller than high school Sunday school was but engagement is much higher. We have been studying the book of Daniel together.

Retreats/Events

- Every month of the year there was at least one special event with the youth group such as a gaming night, Friendsgiving, Christmas party, and more.
- We had three retreats in 2023:
 - Weekend Oasis high school winter retreat at Camp Forest Springs
 - Week-long high school summer retreat at Village Creek Bible Camp
 - Weekend Fall retreat for both middle school and high school at Village Creek Bible Camp

Cooperation with Children's Ministry

- Nicole Fine and I have been working to integrate our ministries together for the purpose of building a culture of discipleship and multi-age ministry. We hope to see more and more students serving our younger kids here at River Valley.

Adult Ministry

- I preached 14 weeks in 2023 during Sunday service. This included preaching for the all-church picnic at Riverside Park in August.
- Of the 14 weeks, 5 were the "Running From God" Jonah series I prepared and delivered from the start of August to the start of September.
- I led any "Digging Deeper" classes that corresponded with my sermons.

DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM) Report (Cont.)

Logan Esposito
Pastor of Student Ministries (Cont.)

- I filled in for Pastor Dave wherever else needed (funeral, wedding, a class here and there, etc.)

Looking Forward

- Youth group will continue with monthly events and multiple teaching series.
- Middle school Sunday school will be in the book of Judges at the start of 2024.
- High school home group will continue as planned.
- I plan to have similar retreats and am working with Nicole Fine on a couple weeks of summer camp programming at Village Creek Bible camp that will involve multiple age groups.
- Nicole Fine and I are developing systems and strategies to better meet the needs of the flock God is giving us which we hope to implement in the first half of 2024.

DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM) Report (Cont.)

Nicole Fine
Director of Children's Ministries

Discovery Land:

Since I was hired at the beginning of July this year, Discovery Land has been very busy. I started with creating a new space for Discovery Land upstairs and adding a more permanent check-in area. Several people helped make this happen, all hands-on deck made for a smooth transition. The new space really helps us keep our entire ministry, birth through 5th grade, in one area and makes security a priority. Our use of the new check-in system had a bit of a rocky start but overall has been a wonderful addition. It's extremely helpful in tracking kids, families, volunteers, and allows me to see weekly attendance for kids and volunteers. Our check-in volunteer can use Planning Center to gather contact information and as a result, we are able to reach out to new families easily after they have attended. We have been seeing nearly one new family every week at times, sometimes multiple, and had a large growth early in the year. This year also brought in some new volunteers. By utilizing the "Serve With Us" questionnaire I was able to reach out to those interested in serving. Teen volunteers have been a gift! The younger children really do well seeing the same faces each week. We are being intentional with intergenerational ministry and teaching discipleship from early on by Youth and Children's ministries working together.

AWANA:

As AWANA kicked-off the volunteers helped me revamp the night. Worship and combining lesson time were the biggest additions to the program this year. Early on, we had a very successful bring a friend night. 13 new kids came and were presented with the gospel. Several of them signed up to attend regularly as a result. We continue to see support and attendance coming from the community. Many currently attending families are not from our church. During this year, 2 children have accepted Christ and are navigating a new life with Him! Another addition this year was to include high school youth group kids that want to serve! They have knocked it out of the park and the kids adore them. As another intentional avenue of multi-age ministry, the middle school youth group also collaborated with AWANA club and we spent time hearing a message, cookie decorating, and crafting together.

Trail Life & American Heritage Girls:

Trail Life patrols meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 6-7:30 pm. Additionally, a Hit the Trail activity is scheduled monthly for boys to engage skills learned in monthly meetings. There are currently 30 boys registered and participating, and 12 men actively volunteering. Participants come from Watertown as well as surrounding communities. Course Director Chris O. led a training seminar in mid-December hosting 6 men for Peak 2 of Trail Life's 3 Peak leadership training. AHG has 20 girls and 11 moms coming to our monthly meetings. We completed our personal care badge which included having a spa night at our lock in in November where we made pizza, played games, had a devotional, and did a lot of giggling. In December, we had a Christmas party and started the sewing badge for the younger girls and the older girls are working on their creative writing badge. We are planning our annual camping trip for this summer.

Looking Ahead:

Something that has become very clear to me is that God is bringing more and more children from hard places to our doors. The volunteers and I are seeking lots of different training events and adding tools to help us each week. In 2024 I would like to add a specialized team of volunteers who have been trained to handle deregulated kids. Logan and I are also moving toward implementing new systems and strategies that equip ourselves and volunteers to work more effectively with our current and new families. And lastly, as it is our desire to see God continue the work between the Youth and Children's ministries, we are planning a summer retreat event with Village Creek Bible camp that will bring several age groups together.

MISSIONS Report

2023 was a year for change, growth, and development. I took over as Missions Elder, from Ed Dehnert. There was a lot to learn, and a lot of grace in learning all the different aspects in River Valley's Mission outreach. I want to thank everyone who has stepped out in faith to being the hands and feet of Christ's Church.

I would like to share some of the highlights of the ministries that we have had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of:

LOCAL MISSIONS:

Safe Families: is a program for families in crisis, they provide safe environments for children before abuse or neglect occur. They help provide training for parents, to help them get back on their feet. Safe Families has seen growth in multiple areas this last year with new staff, new volunteers, and new participants entering the program.

Cornerstone of Grace: is a program that is focused on specifically helping women and children in crisis. They also provide resources for families to help them get on their feet. Last year Cornerstone had a major milestone, by transitioning to 2 new homes. This doubled their impact.

Share Missions Group: Food to Go & Grow, Support Our Students (SOS) school supplies: The Shared Missions Group focuses within the school system to help provide basic needs in the community. Through various donation drives the mission has provided meals, clothing and school supplies for children whose families may not be able to afford it.

New Beginnings Alliance Church: When Pastor Caleb and Liz Atkins left to lead the New Beginnings, we here at RVAC wanted to help support them in their time of transition. Last year they saw a large amount of growth, not just in numbers, but also in spiritual growth in their membership. In 2023, we stopped reporting on the progression of New Beginnings, not because we don't support them, but because we see this as a GRADUATION for them. They have progressed to the point in their ministry where they are standing on their own. Between RVAC and New beginnings is less of a supportive role and more of a partnership among Alliance churches.

GLOBAL MISSIONS:

Global Missions Committee: Formally known as IMPACTS, the committee wished to rebrand itself to better promote what it is all about, thus the new name. In 2023 the committee held 2 Missions Emphasis weeks and hosted International Workers from both Kurdistan (T & H) and Thailand (the Murphys).

The Great Commission Fund: In 2023 the Great Commission Fund (GCF) was promoted frequently throughout the year. River Valley has the goal to tithe 10% of our projected income to the GCF. RVAC met this goal by Oct of this year! The total that River Valley \$58,309.00 to the GCF. These funds will go on to help support International Workers in their mission fields.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory Schultz

GOVERNING BOARD Report

The Governing Board meets on the third Thursday of each month to fulfill its duties as the governance authority of River Valley Alliance Church. The following were some of the significant activities of the board in 2023:

- Approved the carryover of \$1,715 from Local Missions remaining at the end of 2022 into 2023.
- Approved Rick Tortomasi, John Flint, and Kim Schneider as cash counters.
- Approved the migrations of church management software from Elexio to Planning Center Online with a monthly cost not to exceed \$300.00 per month.
- Approved an agreement with “That Numbers Gal” as described in the bookkeeping services proposal.
- Approved the Heritage Girls ministry and provided start up fees that were equitable to the fees provided by Trail Life.
- Approved new job description, compensation, and full-time hiring of Colleen Kluber as Office Manager/Executive Assistant.
- Approved appointing Ricky Smith, Ron Sokovich, Betsy Gerike, Kathy Dean, Ed Dehnert (alternate) and elders to the search committee for the Director of Children’s Ministry position.
- Approved compensation and hiring of Nicole Fine as Director of Children’s Ministry.
- Approved renewal of \$25,000 Build the Future Certificate of Deposit at the best interest rate available.
- Approved opening a second account at Woodbury for the CD reserves.
- Approved renewal of CD maturing on November 24, 2023, for one year at the best possible rate.
- Approved a 2024 Thailand short term mission trip.
- Approved the purchase of parsonage deck repairs not to exceed \$16,500.00 using the general fund.
- Approved the mud jacking of the sidewalks not to exceed \$2,000.00.
- Approved appointment of Rebekah Culotta, Brian Gerike, Justin Roberts and Juli Tobin to Nominating Committee.
- Approved the following policies as written: Children and Youth Ministries, Elder, Trustee, Service and Benevolence, Ushers and Greeters, Missions, and Worship/Music.
- Approved staff job descriptions with minor changes.
- Approved the holiday worship schedule.
- Approved the following individuals to make up the missions committee for 2024: Justin Roberts, Ed Dehnert, Barbara Weide-Dehnert, Juli Tobin, Debbie Fredrich and Cory Schultz.
- Approved the use of Build the Future funds to purchase and install a stairway chairlift in the Connection Center stairwell at a cost not to exceed \$11,000.
- Approved lower-level door improvements to ensure compliance for chairlift installation by Hometown Glass at a cost not to exceed \$4,200.00 and taken out of the Build the Future Fund.
- Approved paying architectural fees for chairlift installation to Trego Architects not to exceed \$500 and taken out of the Build the Future Fund.
- Approved and amended the 2024 budget.

Submitted by,
Bruce Nekich

2023 Governing Board

David Zimmermann – Senior Pastor
Bruce Nekich – Secretary
Matt Keever – Treasurer
Juli Tobin- Assistant Treasurer
Maynard Carl II- Elder
Karl Enockson – Elder
Justin Roberts- Elder
Greg Schroeder- Elder
Cory Schultz- Elder
Rick Tortomasi – Service & Benevolence Representative
Darin Schmidt - Trustee Representative

ELDERS Report

Elder Ministerial Assignments and Comment:

- **David Zimmermann: *Lead Elder/ Senior Pastor***
 - See "Senior Pastor Report"

- **Karl Enockson: *Discipleship***
 - See "Discipleship Making Ministries (DMM) Report"

- **Justin Roberts: *Prayer & Legacy Groups*** (i.e., Women's, Men's, Seniors)

Women's ministries are led by Jeauetta Herold who has hosted a number of events this year, despite many personal trials. I am very thankful for the work Jeauetta puts into this ministry, she continues to focus always on the Lord and the tremendous joy and provision that He gives. The women's brunch in December hosted many ladies who do not regularly attend River Valley.

Men's ministries are still seeking a leader to facilitate this work.

Prayer ministry is hard to assess. We praise the Lord always for His continued mercy and grace to us. To me however, there seems to be less desire for committed corporate prayer, where people gather together just to share and pray. Such things are not 'exciting', but they are important in the Lord as we lay our common requests before Him. On Wednesday evenings during Awana, we host a prayer meeting (also on Zoom) for the church, its leaders and members. Anyone is welcome to come.

- **Cory Schultz: *Missions***
 - See "Missions Report"

- **Maynard Carl, Jr: *Integration and Visitation***

This last year has been filled with many visits to both homes and hospital beds. Ray Werth continues to serve with a group of volunteers as they visit the homebound Senior members of our church. Sarah Esposito has stepped in to serve as the usher and greeter coordinator. Thank you, Rebekah Culotta, for serving faithfully in this area. Jane Chen continues to serve as head of the coffee ministry. Thank you all who served willingly as we could not do it without you!

- **Greg Schroeder: *Administration***
 - Prepared RVAC Employee Handbook with Elder Board assistance.
 - Coordination of RVAC policy and procedure with church activity

ELDERS Report (Cont.)

Elder Board Regular Responsibilities with the Senior Pastor:

- Membership Management:
 - Existing membership review and maintenance
 - Interviews for new members
- Approval of new ministries:
 - Heritage Girls
 - InReach
- Shepherding of existing ministries
 - Please see reports for other ministries
- Supervisor to the Senior Pastor
 - Annual review
 - Goal setting
- Counsel to/with Senior Pastor
- Elder of the Day (Sunday Services)
- Teaching/ Preaching if requested by the Senior Pastor
 - Teaching: Coffee Break Bible Study (Every Thursday morning)
 - Preaching: Sunday, May 7, 2023
- Human Resource Activity:
 - Consultation and guidance concerning replacement of several staff positions: RVAC's Bookkeeper, Office Secretary, Director of Children's Ministry and the elimination of the Director of Worship and IT position.
 - Exit interviews if requested.
 - Assessment and conversations with potential Associate Pastor Candidate
- Read and reported on two books:
 - *They Smell Like Sheep: Spiritual Leadership for the 21st Century.* By: Lynn Anderson
 - *Church Leadership: Revised Edition.* by Lovett Weems

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Board

SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE Report

Deacon and Deaconess members serving: Sue Buchanan, Heidi Beerbohm. John Flint, Teresa & Bruce Vogt, Rick & Jean Tortomasi Volunteer Intake coordinator Shannon Colosky

Service Ministry prepares for communion Sunday Service providing prepackaged juice/wine & bread cups to allow untouched elements. Serve many church functions, memorial luncheons, Pie and Praise, Teen Challenge, deliver meals to the community, shut ins, new moms, medical recovery. This is done with the help of additional volunteers and four teams of 10 volunteers are recruited to assist.

Benevolence Funds are collected once monthly as a designated donation to be used for financial assistance to our members and non-members in our community. Over 100 requests were reviewed, prayed for and acted on in 2023. We trust in the Lord for wisdom and discernment. Typical requests are for rent, utility bills, gasoline or food cards, funerals, car repairs, medical, and others. Our church has been very generous, allowing this outreach to become known throughout the city. Churches and organizations refer people in need to River Valley for assistance, and all recipients receive information about River Valley programs. Monthly detailed reports are submitted to the governing Board monthly.

Fund balance January 2023 \$20,985

Donations received \$39,830

Dispersed Aid Awards \$45,244

END Fund Balance December \$15,571 (unaudited as of this writing)

The Committee is thankful for the out-pouring of donations and sharing of Gods blessings, to make the River Valley outreach mission successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Tortomasi

TRUSTEE Report

Accomplishments in 2023:

The Trustees for this year included: Rod Billington, Cindy Chartier, Paul Hanus and Darin Schmidt

Parking lot lights: The last of the parking lot lights were installed earlier this year.

Tile floor: We were able to have the tile floor replaced in the Welcome Center and Coffee area.

Sidewalks: We had the sidewalk by the west door, the concrete pad down by basement and the pads by the exits from former all-purpose rooms mud jacked to avoid trip hazard.

Hallway: With the help of volunteers, we were able to remove the wallpaper in the main hallway and repaint that hallway.

Classrooms: Early last fall there were some changes with classroom locations. Along with the carpets being cleaned and a long list of chores from Dave :); everything went very well thanks to many volunteers. Thank you all for your willingness to help.

Parsonage Deck: The deck at the parsonage will be replaced in early 2024.

Stair lift: The stair lift is in, has been inspected and is in use.

Future plans for 2024.

Basement door: The door downstairs entering the basement will be reversed due to building codes for the stair lift.

Parsonage: The kitchen at the church parsonage is due for an upgrade. Also, the basement needs an egress window installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Schmidt

TREASURER Report

Special Thanks To:

- Bookkeeping Service: That Numbers Gal (Jen Roberts)
- Cash Counters: Kim Schneider, John Flint, Rick Tortomasi
- Annual Audit: Lue Vang (Western Lakes District)

2023 Highlights:

- The Lord continued to bless River Valley and guided us through several staff changes this past year.
- Transfers into the Build the Future fund totaled \$24,890 vs budget of \$18,000.

2023 Balance Sheet:

- Checking (Ixonía Bank): **\$147,364.65**
 - \$20,012.47 less than December 2022 balance
- Build the Future money market account (Ixonía Bank): **\$32,948.29**
- Woodbury Brokerage Account:
 - CD Reserves: **\$82,000 (principal only)**
 - Build The Future CD's: **\$128,000 (principal only)**
- Loan Balance: **\$0**
- Estimated Property Values (updated March 2022)
 - Church: **\$3,417,750**
 - Parsonage: **\$332,850**

2023 Giving Method:

- Online: **\$169,885.97 or 27%**
 - Compares to \$160,621.09 in 2022: 25%
- Traditional: **\$465,072.91 or 73%**
 - Compares to \$485,963.59 in 2022: 75%

2023 Budget Process:

1. September & October: Ministry leaders create budgets that estimate their respective anticipated income and expense
 - Most ministries are expected to have costs that exceed income
 - Any shortfall is covered by the General Fund
2. November: The Governing Board reviews income and expenses for Ministry, Facility and Compensation categories and approves the budget.
 - Ministry income is derived from ministry leaders' estimates
 - Income to the General Fund is projected based on the prior year's actual giving

TREASURER Report (Cont.)

Ministry Budget Details:

- The **Benevolent Fund (BtF)** is a “pass-through” account – estimated income = expense
- **IMPACTS** may carry-forward balances while all other ministries reset annually
- The Governing Board maintains a goal to tithe (10%) from the General Fund receipts to the **Great Commission Fund (GCF)**
- **C&MA association dues** represent 7% of General Fund receipts
 - 6% if Senior Pastor is member of DEXCOM (he is)

Categories of Income:

- **General Income:** Any undesignated donations to RVAC.
- **Facility Income:** Designated contributions toward “Build the Future” include: debt payment, facility and grounds maintenance and repair.
- **Ministry Income:** Designated contributions made toward activity to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Awana, GCF, BtF, IMPACTS, men’s and women’s ministries, small groups, praise and worship, Discovery Land, etc.

Categories of Expense:

- **Compensation:** Salaries and benefits of paid staff: Senior Pastor, Pastor of Student Ministries, Executive Assistant/ Office Secretary, and Director of Children's Ministry
 - includes employer matching toward 403(b) retirement accounts; and
 - Accountable Reimbursement Plan (ARP) expenses – books, tuition, and mileage
- **Facility:** Cost for items associated with the parsonage and church campus, facility maintenance, repair, and improvement; includes payment toward “Build the Future” for future capital costs.
- **Ministry:** Cost undertaken by the ministry of the church to educate, encourage, facilitate, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ; includes supplies and services needed for ministry.

TREASURER Report (Cont.)

2023 Year in Review:

Income Category	Budget	Actual	Variance	% +/-Budget
General Inc	\$466,098.72	\$484,105.42	\$18,006.70	3.86%
Facility Inc	\$18,000.00	\$25,921.88	\$7,921.88	44.01%
Ministry Inc	\$106,890.72	\$129,913.87	\$23,023.15	21.54%
Total	\$590,989.44	\$639,941.17	\$48,951.73	8.28%
Expense Category	Budget	Actual	Variance	% +/-Budget
Compensation Exp	\$258,157.68	\$280,274.14	\$22,116.46	8.57%
Facility Exp	\$108,408.00	\$124,199.88	\$15,791.88	14.57%
Ministry Exp	\$224,423.76	\$252,031.84	\$27,608.08	12.30%
Total	\$590,989.44	\$656,505.86	\$65,516.42	11.09%
YTD	\$0.00	-\$16,564.69	-\$16,564.69	-2.80%

- RVAC finished the year 8.2% above budgeted income.
 - 'General income' was above budget by 3.8%.
 - 'Facility income' (BtF Transfers) exceeded budget by 44%.
 - 'Ministry income' finished 21.5% above budget.

- RVAC expenses finished the year 11% over budget.
 - 'Compensation' came in at 8.5% over budget.
 - 'Facility' (including BtF transfers) were 14% over budget.
 - 'Ministry' expenses exceeded budget by 12%.

- RVAC finished the year with expenses exceeding income by 2.8%.

TREASURER Report (Cont.)

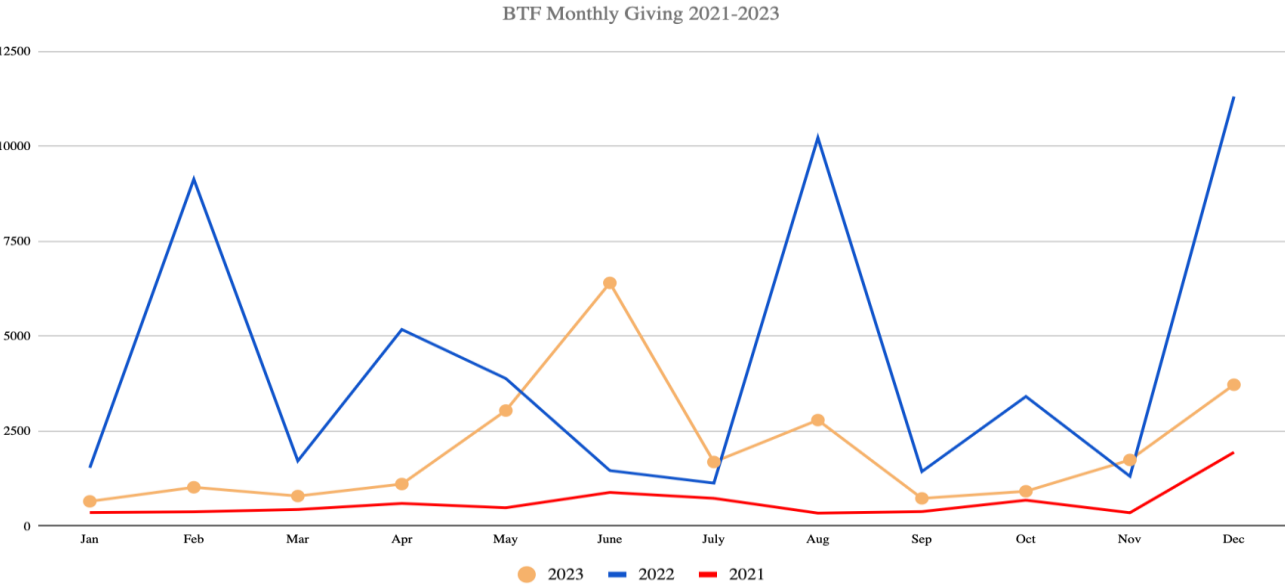
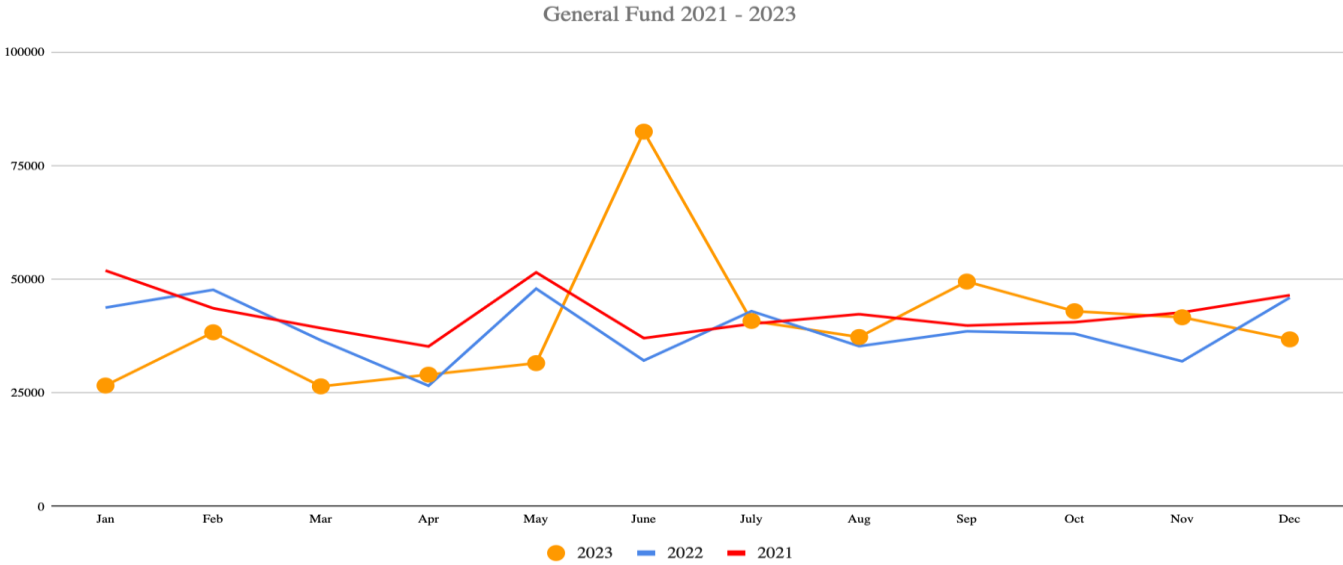
Historical Actuals with 2024 Budget:

INCOME	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Budget
General	\$494,460.99	\$510,366.91	\$547,362.77	\$484,105.42	\$391,500
Facility	\$6,288.00	\$7,558.00	\$51,673.05	\$25,921.88	\$24,300
Ministry	\$114,651.24	\$92,479.36	\$128,767.72	\$129,913.87	\$106,811
TOTAL	\$615,400.23	\$610,404.27	\$727,803.54	\$639,941.17	\$522,611
EXPENSE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Compensation	\$234,427.98	\$229,171.98	\$242,580.58	\$280,274.14	\$293,730
Facility	\$80,550.33	\$207,701.90	\$144,705.74*	\$124,199.88	\$93,685
Ministry	\$205,220.30	\$195,005.28	\$268,976.20	\$252,031.84	\$229,390
TOTAL	\$520,198.61	\$631,879.16	\$656,262.52	\$656,505.86	\$616,805
Surplus/ Deficit	95,201.62	-21,474.89	\$71,541.02	-\$16,564.69	-\$94,194

- Projected general income will decrease by 19% from 2023.
- Ministry income will decrease by 18% and expenses by 9% from 2023.
- Compensation increases by 5%. This includes six months of salary for a Pastor.
- Facility income (BtF) decreases by 6% and expenses decrease 25%.
- The \$94k budget deficit will be made up by tapping into the \$147k checking account balance.

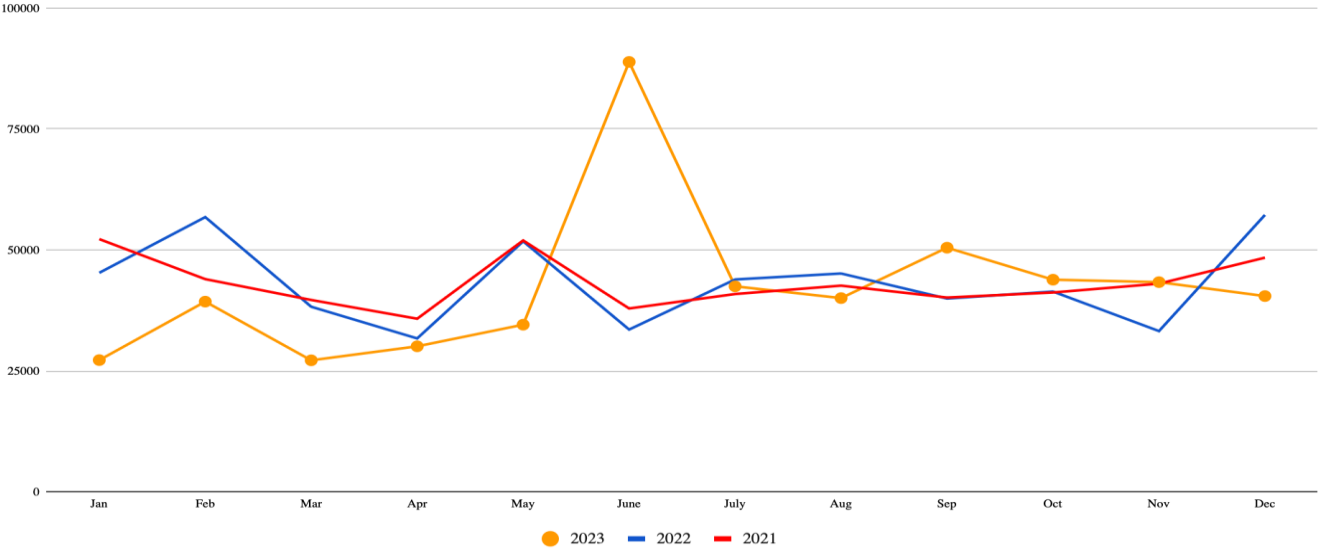
TREASURER Report (Cont.)

2023 Charts

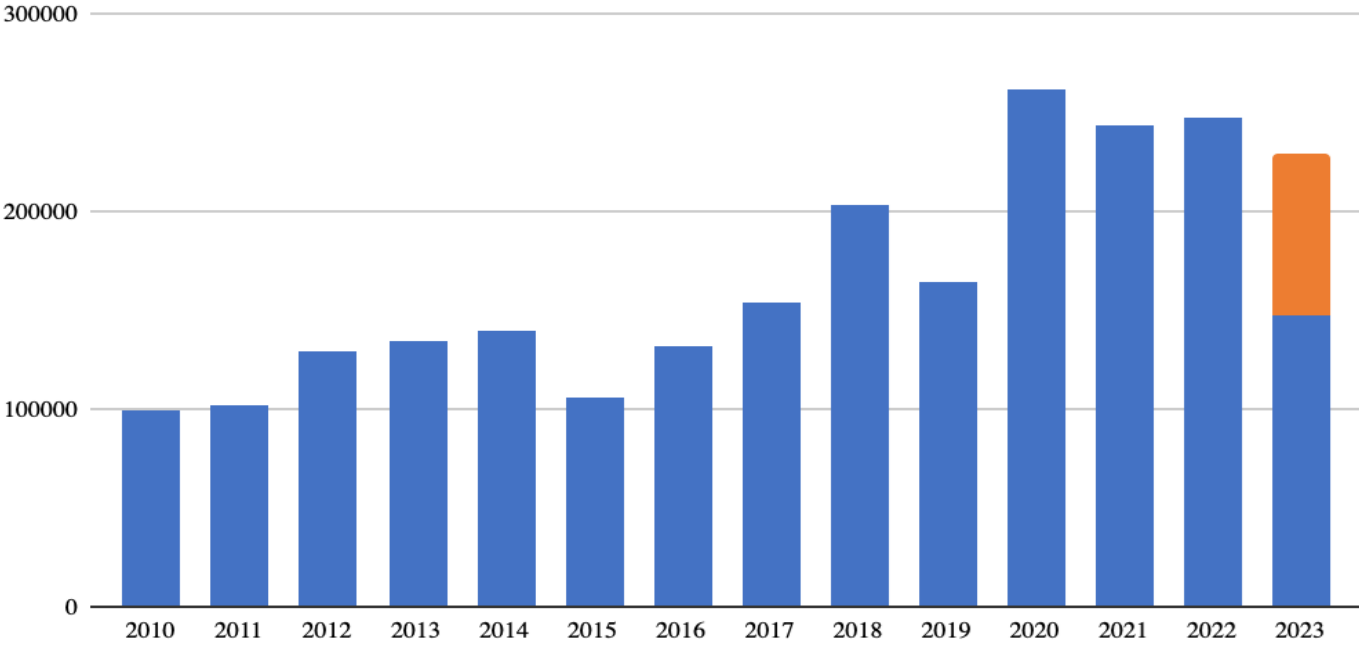


TREASURER Report (Cont.)

Combined GF & BTF 2021 - 2023



Historical Cash Balance

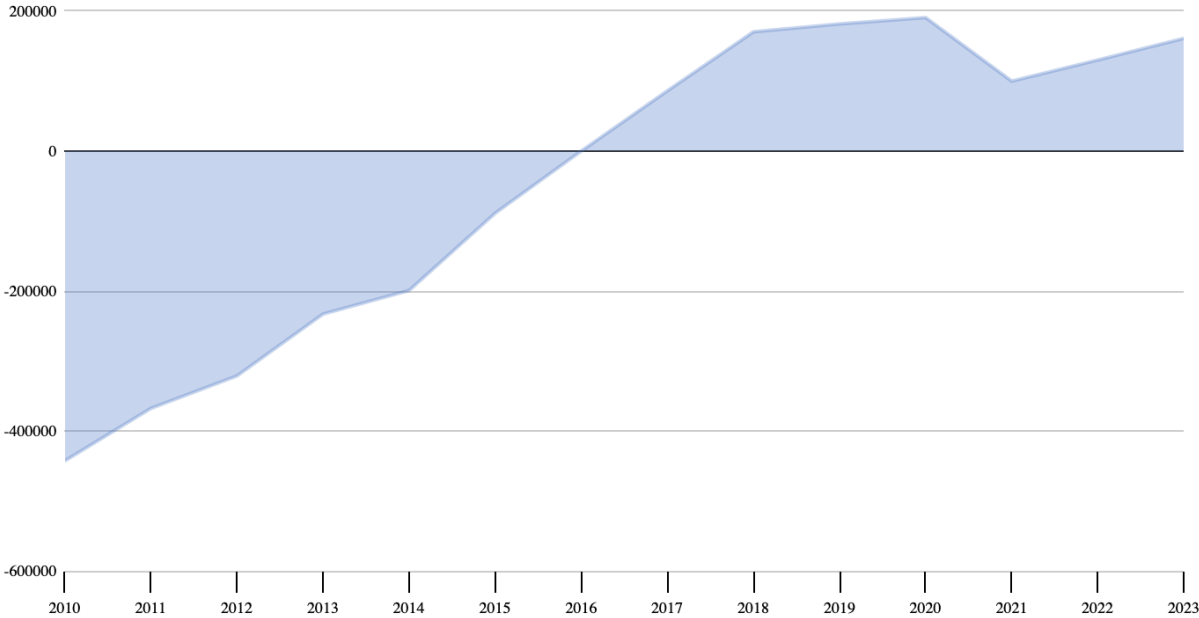


2023 - \$229,364.65 \$82,000 CD Reserves | Checking: \$147,364.65

**TREASURER
Report (Cont.)**

YE Debt / Build the Future (BtF) Balance

2023 BtF Balance: \$160,928



Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Keever
Treasurer

Juli Tobin
Assistant Treasurer