



RIVER VALLEY

ALLIANCE CHURCH

Followers of Jesus. Transformed. Empowered.

2024 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 26, 2025.**

Updated 1-13-25

River Valley Membership List -12-12-24

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Allan, Brecken* | 58. Gunn, Amanda | 115. Price, Mike |
| 2. Alvarez, Ashley | 59. Gunn, Steve | 116. Price, Sheila |
| 3. Alvarez, Dominic | 60. Gunn, Teri | 117. Rantanen, Donna |
| 4. Arndt, Evelyn | 61. Hanus, Heidi | 118. Rantanen, William |
| 5. Arndt, Gerald | 62. Hanus, Paul | 119. Rasch, Rachel |
| 6. Austin, Laura | 63. Hearon (Olson), Emma* | 120. Raybuck, Janice |
| 7. Austin, Walt | 64. Heichel, Hope | 121. Raybuck, Scott |
| 8. Beerbohm, Heidi | 65. Heichel, Jon | 122. Richter, Bill |
| 9. Billington, Nancy | 66. Hein, Jason | 123. Richter, Rosy |
| 10. Billington, Rodney | 67. Heinz, Khali* | 124. Roberts, Jennifer |
| 11. Buchanan, Susan | 68. Herold, Jeaunetta | 125. Roberts, Justin |
| 12. Buchholtz, Amy | 69. Ihde, Cathy | 126. Rothschadl, Denise |
| 13. Buchholtz, William | 70. Jeanson, Dawn | 127. Sauer, Joyce* |
| 14. Burbach, Kay | 71. Johnson, Connie | 128. Saugstad, Brad |
| 15. Carl, Maynard | 72. Keever, Erin | 129. Saugstad, Nikki |
| 16. Carl, Maynard II | 73. Keever, Matt | 130. Schafer, Diane |
| 17. Carl, Sarah | 74. Klein, Neal | 131. Schafer, Larry |
| 18. Carothers, Cathryne | 75. Kluber, Colleen | 132. Schleicher, Diane |
| 19. Chartier, Cindy | 76. Kluber, Joseph | 133. Schmidt, Darin |
| 20. Chartier, Sarah | 77. Knopps, Suzanne | 134. Schneider, Kim |
| 21. Chen, Jane | 78. Krueger, Alysia* | 135. Schoechert, Dave |
| 22. Cheng, Emmilyn | 79. Krueger, Dan | 136. Schoechert, Judy |
| 23. Choinski, Susan | 80. Krueger, James | 137. Schultz, Adeline |
| 24. Clouse, Angie | 81. Krueger, Lorelei | 138. Schultz, Cory |
| 25. Clouse, Max | 82. Krueger, Zachary* | 139. Schwartz, Valerie |
| 26. Cole, Lew | 83. Kruziki, Nancy | 140. Seidl, Jeanne* |
| 27. Cole, Mary Ellen | 84. Kruziki, Tom | 141. Seidl, Tom* |
| 28. Coleman, Don | 85. Kugel, Robert* | 142. Shafer, Pat |
| 29. Colosky, Matt | 86. Kugel, RuthAnn* | 143. Shult, Becky |
| 30. Colosky, Shannon | 87. Kujawski, Brenda | 144. Sina, Katya* |
| 31. Corrick-Gross, Marge | 88. Kujawski, Michael | 145. Sina, Mark* |
| 32. Dean, Edward | 89. Leischer, John | 146. Sokovich, Carol |
| 33. Dean, Kathy | 90. Lott, Terry | 147. Sokovich, Ron |
| 34. Dehnert, Barb | 91. Mamayek, Rita* | 148. Supple, Dan |
| 35. Dehnert, Ed | 92. McFarland, Emily | 149. Supple, Doris |
| 36. Ebert, Art | 93. McFarland, Kyle | 150. Supple, Mary |
| 37. Ebert, Pat | 94. Mertens, Ameer | 151. Teska, Sarah* |
| 38. Edwards, Carol | 95. Mertens, Chris | 152. Tobin, Juli |
| 39. Edwards, Joel | 96. Miller, Dan | 153. Tortomasi, Jean |
| 40. Enockson, Christine | 97. Miller, Kayla | 154. Tortomasi, Rick |
| 41. Enockson, Karl | 98. Montgomery, Betty | 155. Treichel, Don |
| 42. Fine, Daron | 99. Nekich, Bruce | 156. Treichel, Pat |
| 43. Fine, Nicole | 100. Nekich, Cece | 157. Uhrich, Tim |
| 44. Flath, Ruth | 101. Novey, Elizabeth* | 158. Vana, Judy |
| 45. Flint, Charlene | 102. Novey, Jennifer* | 159. Vana, Randy |
| 46. Flint, John | 103. Oberbrunner, Linda | 160. Vehlow, Donald |
| 47. Fredrich, Debbie | 104. Oberbrunner, Mike | 161. Vehlow, Sonya |
| 48. Fredrich, John | 105. Oestreicher, Chris | 162. Vining, Donna |
| 49. Free, Denise | 106. Oestreicher, Theresa | 163. Vogt, Bruce |
| 50. Friedl, Mike | 107. Olson, Alek | 164. Vogt, Dale |
| 51. Gerike, Betsy | 108. Olson, Allen* | 165. Vogt, Linda |
| 52. Gerike, Brian | 109. Olson, Gwen | 166. Vogt, Teresa |
| 53. Gillinov, Corey* | 110. Olson, Don | 167. Von Rueden, Joann |
| 54. Gillinov, Kim* | 111. Olson, Toni | 168. Von Rueden, Matt |
| 55. Grady, Tammy | 112. Peacy, Linden | 169. Wagie, Dione |
| 56. Grady, Todd | 113. Peacy, Mike | 170. Wagie, Mike |
| 57. Griffee, Meg | 114. Pendleton, Bill | 171. Weihert, LuAnn |

River Valley Membership List -12-12-24 (Cont.)

- 172. Wells, Cynthia
- 173. Wells, Robert
- 174. Werth, Ray
- 175. Werth, Yvonne
- 176. Wheeler, Destin
- 177. Wheeler, Kimberly
- 178. Wisniewski, Mary
- 179. Wisniewski, Tom
- 180. Wood-Ulrich, Kim
- 181. Yares, Adam
- 182. Yares, Andrea
- 183. Zimmermann, David
- 184. Zimmermann, Nancy

*Denotes New Member 2024

Honorary List

- 185. Jeuck, Gerald
- 186. Jeuck, Marilyn
- 187. Rockafellow, Linda
- 188. Wendland, Ed
- 189. Carothers, Al
- 190. Carothers, Carmen
- 191. Andrie, Carol

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 26, 2025

- I. **Motion to wave reading of previous year's minutes**
- II. **Motion for approval of previous year's minutes**
- III. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election
- IV. Disciple Making Ministries
 - a. Adults – Mark Sina
 - b. Students – Corey Gillinov
 - c. Children – Nicole Fine
 - d. Worship & Technology- Pastor David Zimmermann
- V. Missions – Cory Schultz
- VI. Governing Board – Sonya Vehlow
- VII. Elders – Matt Keever
- VIII. Deacons/Deaconesses – John Flint
- IX. Trustees – Mike Price
- X. Senior Pastor Report- Pastor David Zimmermann
- XI. Treasurer – Max Clouse
- XII. **Motion to approve reports**
- XIII. Presentation of 2025 Budget – Max Clouse
- XIV. **Motion to approve 2025 budget**
- XV. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members
- XVI. Prayer – Prior to Adjourn
- XVII. Adjourn

2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 28, 2024

The annual meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m. by Pastor David Zimmermann. With 97 members in attendance, it was determined a quorum was present to continue the meeting. The meeting was opened with a devotional and prayer by Justin Roberts.

Previous Minutes

MOTION: To wave reading of 2023 Annual Meeting minutes and approve them.

MOVED BY: Rick Tortomosi **SECOND:** Matt Von Rueden

PASSED

Election

The Nominating Committee report was presented by Brian Gerike.

MOTION: To approve the nominations and elect the nominees.

MOVED BY: Brian Gerike **SECOND:** Mike Kujawski

PASSED

Reports (All Reports Are Printed in the River Valley Annual Report 2023)

Disciple Making Ministry Reports

Adults: A written report was submitted and presented by Karl Enockson.

Students: A written report was submitted and presented (via pre-recorded video) by Logan Esposito.

Children: A written report was submitted and presented by Nicole Fine.

Worship and Technology: A written report was submitted and presented by Pastor David Zimmermann.

Senior Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted and presented by Pastor David Zimmermann.

Ministry Reports

Missions: A written report was submitted and presented (via pre-recorded video) by Cory Schultz.

Governing Board: A written report was submitted and presented by Bruce Nekich.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

JANUARY 28, 2024

Elders: A written report was submitted and presented by Greg Schroeder.

Deacons/Deaconesses: A written report was submitted and presented by Rick Tortomosi.

Trustees: A written report was submitted and presented by Darin Schmidt.

Assistant Treasurer: A written report was submitted and presented by Juli Tobin

MOTION: To approve reports.

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

PASSED

Chris Mertens prayed for the Leaders and Ministries.

New Business

Treasurer: The 2024 budget was submitted and presented by Matt Kever.

MOTION: To approve Budget.

MOVED BY: Nicole Fine **SECOND:** Joel Edwards

PASSED

Karl Enockson acknowledged outgoing Board Members.

MOTION: To adjourn the Meeting.

MOVED BY: **Matt Kever** **SECOND:** **John Flint**

PASSED

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Bruce Nekich

Governing Board Secretary

River Valley Alliance Church

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OFFICE	NOMINEE	CURRENTLY SERVING
Treasurer		
(1-year position)	Tom Seidl	Max Clouse (2024)
Assistant Treasurer		
(1-year position)	Ron Sokovich	Juli Tobin (2024)
Secretary		
(1-year position)	Sonya Vehlow	Sonya Vehlow (2024)
Elder		
(3-year position)	Maynard Carl II	Maynard Carl II (2024) (Fulfilling ED)
(3-year position)	Karl Enockson	Karl Enockson (2024) (Term 1)
		Cory Schultz (2026) (Term 1)
		Matt Keever (2026) (Term 1)
		Justin Roberts (2025) (Term 1)
Trustee		
(3-year position)	Mike Price	Mike Price (2024) (Fulfilling vacant)
(3-year position)	Robert Kugel	Rod Billington (2025) Term 2 Resigned
(3-year position)		Cindy Chartier (2026) (Term 2)
		Todd Grady (2026) (Term 1)
		Darin Schmidt (2025) (Term 1)
Deacon		
(3-year position)	John Flint	John Flint (2024) (Term 1)
(3-year position)		Destin Wheeler (2025) Fulfilling PM
(3-year position)		Bruce Vogt (2025) (Term 1)
		Dan Miller (2026) (Term 1)
		Joe Kluber (2026) (Term 1)
Deaconess		
(3-year position)	Heidi Beerbohm	Heidi Beerbohm Fulfilling CF (2024)
(3-year position)		Sheila Price (2026) Term 1
(3-year position)		Kimberly Wheeler (2025) Fulfilling MM
		Kayla Miller (2026) Term 1
		Teresa Vogt (2025) Term 1

Committee Members:
 Dave Zimmermann (Chairperson)
 Emmi Cheng
 Matt Keever
 Sonya Vehlow
 Teresa Vogt

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

David Zimmermann

For we have no power to face this...

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

2 Chronicles 2:20

On November 24, 2024, at the 8:00 service we sang a hymn with the lyrics "Count your blessings name them one by one, count your blessings see what God has done." With tears in my eyes I thought, "What a difference a year makes! Thank you, Jesus!" In November of 2023, I seriously don't know if I could have named ANY blessings. While that statement says a lot about my emotional and mental status at the end of 2023, the above passage shows where I was spiritually at that time. I truly had no power left to face this, I didn't know what to do, but I firmly believed that keeping my eyes on Jesus was the ONLY thing to do. If I fast forward to this past November, it is with awe and wonder that I see how God has worked and intervened for my beloved church family here at River Valley.

In early 2024, things went from bleak to bleaker as we saw departures of long-term members, projected deficits in our budget, and a pastor wondering if all this was God telling him it was time to be done. But soon after the annual meeting last year, God started to work. One by one, He closed the door on retirement, He brought in some new brothers and sisters to love and serve with, He assembled a great staff, and He met our financial needs just like you'd expect from someone who "owns the cattle on a thousand hills". This year has proven yet again the truth of God's word where it is written, "My ways are not your ways... Try me and put me to the test and see if I will not pour out blessing... Speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts..."

Blessings of 2024

- A host of volunteers stepped up to fill holes we had in ministries. We thank them for listening to God's call and responding in obedience, love, and joy!
- I have had the tremendous joy of serving and leading with some wonderful, God-dependent elders and governing officers. Though we faced some difficulties together, they kept praying and following Jesus. This has made ALL the difference.
- God raised up the vision for us to pray about how to reach the more than 12,500 lost people in Watertown. God responded with many immediate answers with more to come. Noah Adrian "just happened" to be available to do a summer internship in Evangelism. We received news that new evangelical churches will be planting in and around Watertown. Did we think we could do it by ourselves? Not to mention how God has continued to use the Share the Love program, especially the outreach to children.
- Perhaps we didn't think it a blessing at the time, but Logan and Sarah Esposito concluded their ministry at River Valley. Now Logan is expanding his work for Jesus as the campus pastor at Crossway-Sussex.
- Much needed painting of the West Wing, modifications to the office area, and numerous outdoor projects were achieved by goodhearted volunteers just in time for the Fall Kickoff.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)

David Zimmermann

- God assembled a very competent and complete staff with the hiring of Mark Sina as the Pastor of Adult Ministry and Corey Gillinov as the Director of Youth. I cannot say enough about these fine young men and their love for the Lord coupled with a wonderful work ethic. They both possess unique skills that can't be taught. They love people and they want to pour themselves into people's lives here at River Valley and Watertown. I can't tell you how many pastors are in shock that we were able to find two such awesome guys while they shudder at the thought of filling a single vacancy. God has done great things!
- One of the greatest blessings for me of 2024 was the wonderful team that God has put together. By the time Mark and Corey arrived, we had already figured out that Colleen was a rare treasure that God just dropped in our laps. I am continually so thankful and amazed at Colleen's willingness to go the extra mile. And then there's Nicole... under her leadership of a host of volunteers, kids are combining biblical knowledge with a relationship with Jesus and having fun. It's a pleasure to daily come to the office and work with this very cohesive team.
- While our hearts have been saddened, we've bid a fond "see you later" to some long-time members who are now with the Lord. But God has called 20 new people to become members in 2024. On top of that, there are so many new folks that are returning week after week that the staff has dedicated a portion of our weekly staff meetings to putting names with faces.
- To top it off, while we were anticipating spending down the cash balance of River Valley's checking account balance to the tune of \$90,000, some very generous giving actually resulted in meeting our budget and has given us the ability to set some even bigger goals for the future. God is building His Church, and He will provide the resources to get 'er done!
- As we seek to be Jesus' witnesses in our Jerusalem, MANY of the River Valley family continue to be involved in, supportive of, and pray for several Acts 1:8 ministries here in Watertown.
- God has made it possible for us to continue our goal of contributing 10% of River Valley's income to the Great Commission Fund of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. This makes it possible for the Gospel to spread around the world.

Anticipated blessings for 2025

As we look to the new year, we would be silly to believe that God would stop what He has started, so we look forward to how He will advance His mission through River Valley in the following areas:

- First and most importantly, we anticipate that God will use our church family like never before to further the Gospel as we work to the praise of His glory.
- While the church must grow as we seek the lost, we must never cease in offering opportunities for growth to the found. To that end, a number of new discipleship options are in the works including: more and more Bible studies, fellowship groups and opportunities, and strengthening our men's ministry. These are just the tip of the iceberg.
- We need to seek the Lord about relieving our cramped discipleship space. So, we will work to establish a plan and determine the cost for the expansion of River Valley's facilities. Again, this is never an area we want to get ahead of the Lord. Ministry will remain our top priority and not simply building "bigger, more comfortable barns". As this project is planned, we always want to keep the emphasis on people and not the amount of \$\$ needed to build something. If we can't do the first well, we will not do the second.

In

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)

David Zimmermann

In February of 2025, three signs were put up that we see every time we leave the sanctuary... Keep praying, keep trusting, KEEP ON! And that is just what God empowered us to do. The leadership has prayed, the staff has prayed, and the congregation has prayed. The leadership has trusted, the staff has trusted, and the congregation has trusted. The leadership has kept on, the staff has kept on, and together we have all KEPT ON!

This is because we have kept our eyes on Jesus! As a result, we can proclaim:

But thanks be to God,
who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,
and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.
2 Corinthians 2:14

Respectfully submitted, joyfully serving, and triumphantly processing with my dear church family!
Rev. David Zimmermann
Senior Pastor

DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM) Report

Nicole Fine
Director of Children's Ministries

Discovery Land:

Discovery Land has done so well this last year. We completed a major painting project for the wing. This really brightened up the area and gave us a fresh new look. We're continuing to use the same colors throughout the ministry making it easy to spot all thing KidsMin related. Each of our classrooms is truly bursting at the seams. Our wing supports approximately 107 people on any given Sunday. We are still seeing growth each week. Most Sundays there are families asking to tour the space and want to know how our program is run and what we do. One of the biggest sighs of relief I often hear is that the wing is closed off during service and that all the kids are together. I am grateful God directed us to do this last year and that we as a church followed where He led. Last year something I had prayed for was the ability to get together with other directors in the area. It is unbelievably helpful to be supported by and give support to others, to pray with and give praise with others in the same boat as myself. 2024 a group of us started getting together and have been able to share so much! One area that I was able to really see how blessed we are is in our volunteers. This is an area that is nearly always a struggle, and I hear it talked about often, I have had moments of wondering "How Lord?" ...but God through River Valley has BLESSED me and our children.

BLAST:

Believe. Learn. And. Seek. Truth. and God will be faithful to you. He has been so, so good to us this year while we follow Him down a new path using a new program. BLAST is just right for us! It has provided us the freedom to adjust our needs for the kids that attend while still offering a well-rounded program with deep, meaningful Biblical lessons and relationships that are built on quality time with leaders. There have been areas that needed adjusting and areas that we have kept the same since night one. The children have a memory verse based off the group lesson, an activity, worship, and game time. We have an average attendance of 70 kids with a total of 80 currently signed up! I am praying, and would ask that you join me, for 100 kids and 5 new volunteers by the end of the year! I believe God has big things in store for this program. This is how we reach the unreached kids in our area. This mid-week program is meant to engage kids in the word of GOD, show the LOVE of Jesus, and still be fun and energetic. We as leaders get that privilege! We have continued to utilize the services of New Life Resources and have a counselor on site each week. Having a trained, Christian counselor here is a blessing for our families, our leaders, and our staff. NLR is an excellent addition to our program.

-Nicole Fine, Director of Children's Ministry

Nicole Fine
Director of Children's Ministries (Cont.)

American Heritage Girls & Trail Life:

Trail Life:

The Trail Life troop has experienced consistent growth across all five patrols, attracting youth from Watertown, surrounding communities, and diverse faith backgrounds. Efforts are underway to involve youth and leaders in community projects to meet service requirements. The troop has most recently been working on their Life Skills, Values, Knot Tying and Bible Basics badges that included a trip to the fire station, hiking the Ice Age Trail, and volunteering at the Share the Love Kids Festival. The boys fundraised by selling wreaths that were coordinated by Jeff W. Additionally, Chris Oestreicher, the Troop Ministry Liaison, has taken on two new roles with the Trail Life Black Hawk Area team: Direct Service Advisor, supporting troop leaders, and Area Training Chair, focusing on recruiting and training volunteer leaders.

-Christopher Oestreicher, Charter Representative for TL Troop WI-0126

American Heritage Girls:

American Heritage Girls Troop WI1202 has had a great start to our second year. We currently have 15 girls with 13 adults that help. This past summer we had our first 2 night 3 day camp-out. The girls and moms had a great time. The fundraising events that we have done have been very successful. We want to say thank you to all who came out to Glenn's this summer to support both AHG and Trail Life. We also had a great lock-in in November. We worked on our hardest badge for the year which was the Cake Decorating Badge. It is fun and a blessing to see the friendships that the girls have been making.

-Sarah Carl, Charter Representative for AGH Troop WI-1202.

Corey Gillinov

Director of Student Ministries

Weekly Youth Group

- This year, we launched a combined Middle School and High School youth group night for the first time. I am pleased to report that this change has been a positive adjustment and has gone exceptionally well.
- Our weekly format includes separate game times for middle school and high school students to ensure activities are age-appropriate and engaging. Following this, we come together for a time of worship and a message from God's Word. High school students then transition into small group discussions to foster deeper connections and spiritual growth.
- Since my arrival in September, we have journeyed through a teaching series titled "*Who is God?*" and concluded the semester with a special Christmas series.

Sunday School

- We continue to offer Sunday School for all students in grades 6–12.
- Throughout the year, we've explored a variety of biblical topics, with the current curriculum aligning with the *Discovery Land* material being taught by Nicole Fine in the children's ministry.

Retreats and Events

- Since September, we've hosted several impactful events and retreats, including:
 - Our annual Fall Camp Retreat in October.
 - A Thanksgiving-themed gathering for middle school students.
 - A new high school-focused event titled "*Future Night*," designed to inspire and equip students for what's ahead.
 - A Christmas party held at our home, bringing both middle school and high school students together for fellowship and celebration.

Adult Ministry

- In 2024, I had the opportunity to preach during Sunday services on three occasions.
- I have partnered with Pastor Mark to coordinate key adult events, such as the Chili Cook-Off, Young Adult Community Groups, and the Christmas Bash, helping to foster a vibrant church community.

Looking Forward

- In the coming months, we aim to continue building momentum in the youth ministry with monthly events and new teaching series.
- For summer 2025, I am collaborating with Nicole Fine to coordinate programming at Village Creek Bible Camp, which will include a week of camp for multiple age groups. Additionally, we are preparing for the LIFE Conference, a significant event for our high school students.

DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM)

Report (Cont.)

Mark Sina
Pastor of Adult Ministries

I want to start by highlighting my gratitude to God for orchestrating my family and I here to River Valley. For the past 6 years as I have served at Terrace Shores Evangelical Free church, started a family, and completed my Masters of Divinity, my heart and my wife Katya's heart has been Lord we will serve you wherever you want us to serve you. And our prayer has continued to be Lord are we to serve you at Terrace Shores, or somewhere else?

For the first 5 years it was a consistent and clear answer of continuing at Terrace Shores for now. The answer was never more than for now. Then, at the beginning of 2024 the answer seemed to shift to I have something else for you. Now my wife and I didn't know what that something else for you was, but we both knew that something else was the answer, and we both started looking for what the Lord might be moving us towards. Katya can attest that my "looking" and her "looking" differed, but both of us know that the Lord would make it clear.

Well as the Lord moved and made His will known, we/I ended up here/back at River Valley Alliance Church, and God has given us such a great feeling of confirmation and peace as we have transitioned into the family here at church. It is a blessing to trust the Lord and see when He moves and directs and answers our prayers. We feel we are home.

In my 5ish months of being here, as far as services go, I have been able to preach from the pulpit 10 times and participate in a couple of funerals.

We have also put on a few church wide events, with a Chili cook off and a Christmas bash. Many hands and talented people made this possible, and it has been good to see people coming out to these events. I believe they help give people a chance to grow in relationship with one another, and just get to know new people outside of a Sunday morning service.

It has been nice to see the Wednesday night children's programs up and running. My family participates in the program, and I try to be available to fill in when needed. Nicole and Corey do a wonderful job leading, directing, teaching and introducing these kids to Jesus. There are also many great volunteers that help as well.

I have been trying to get acclimated to the many different leaders we have in our men's and women's ministries. So many people serve and are willing to lead, and it has been a pleasure getting to know and come along side so many. I offer my support where needed, but frankly, we have many capable and mature believers living for Christ and doing what He has equipped them to do.

I have been able to meet with many people individually, whether that is to just share testimonies, get to know one another, encourage one another in the Lord, or to offer up council. It has been a blessing to spend time meeting with and getting to know our church members and members of this community at large.

Mark Sina

Pastor of Adult Ministries (Cont.)

There have been people in the church that have found themselves in physical and spiritual need, and I have been able to make multiple visits to different hospitals and homes, to pray for and be with those who are in need.

We also started up a young adult/families' community group called New Life community group, where 50+ people (including children) showed up on the first night. The hope is that this can be a place where people can come and bring their families and spend time with one another and grow in godly friendships. Also, a time to connect and collaborate on other groups that people are interested in forming.

Looking ahead, I want to continue to try and encourage people and provide opportunities for people to grow in relationships and in community with one another. I believe that as we get to know each other, and embrace each other, we are truly able to love and support one another like Christ. He showed His disciples love by living with them and ultimately dying for them, but so much of His love that He demonstrated was in the daily walk of life. We want River Valley to be a place where we do life together and truly know one another. This doesn't mean everyone is going to know everything about everyone. But we would love for everyone to be able to form deep connections with others. I think that starts with community, and out of that it moves into deeper relationships and connections. How this will be implemented is through church wide activities, gatherings for men, gatherings for women, and gatherings for families. There is also a continuation of different groups that are already meeting, and a facilitating in helping other groups get up and running.

My hope is to also be encouraging during my times to preach, by drawing godly wisdom and truth out of His Scriptures in a way that is understandable, applicable, and faithful to the original message of Scripture. I know that without the working of the Holy Spirit my efforts will be null and void, but I want to be faithful in those areas so that the Spirit is able to move freely.

I have also been in contact with someone who is working on sharing Christ into the Watertown Hospital and the YMCA, and I have made myself an available resource for them. We know there are many people in this community and in the world who do not know Jesus as their Lord or Savior. This seems like it can be a good door opening to make Christ known in the local community.

There seems to be much more on the horizon for River Valley, God has been moving and He has been using this Church as His vessel. Praise God. I am excited and thankful that I have an opportunity to come along for the ride.

MISSIONS Report

Thanks be to the Lord of the great blessing that He provided to RVAC and the various Missions Ministries.

Acts 1:8 Missions

(Acts 1:8 Ministries are missions that are led by a separate governing body that has their goals and beliefs aligned with that of River Valley's.)

Safe Families for Children is a program for families in crisis, they provide safe environments for children before abuse or neglect occurs. 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 (including RVAC's own Emmi Cheng), new volunteers, and new participants entering the program.

Cornerstone of Grace's program 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 CSOG served 9 women and 16 children. The program launched 2 women into independent living and are being served in the tier 2 portion of the program. CSOG has over 60 volunteers serving.

Share Missions Group: Food to Go & Grow, 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 for children whose families may not be able to afford it.

Global Missions

2024 was a busy year for the Global Missions Committee. The committee had a large focus on preparation for Short-Term Mission to Thailand. Cory Schultz took the solo mission from June 30th to July 14th to support our Thai partners. During his time in Thailand, he met with 5 churches, had discussions with 7 ministries for potential future partnerships; coloring books, coloring pencils, and crayons were distributed to 102 children at Remember Nhu; and a restoration project was completed at the Asia Mosaic Home in Bangkok.

Great Commission Fund

(The Great Commission Fund is the Christian & Missionary Alliance's way of supporting International Workers. River Valley strives to tithe 10% of the annual budget to the GCF.)

For 2024 River Valley budgeted \$39,075. River Valley was able to give \$65,800.90 designated for the GCF. Thanks be to God for the provisions that have been sent out in His name.

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 2024:

- * Approve Joel Edwards, John Flint, and Kim Schneider as cash counters.
- * Approve lay delegates Nancy Zimmermann and Nicole Fine for the 2024 Western Great Lakes District C & MA Annual District Conference.
- * To contract with New Life Resources to provide counseling services on Wednesday evenings at a cost of \$126 per week not to exceed \$2000 through December of 2024.
- * To approve the use of the church credit card to purchase plane tickets for Thailand 2024.
- * To approve electrical work to fix smoke/carbon dioxide detectors in lower level not to exceed \$500 to be paid from the Build the Future fund.
- * To reallocate the expenses from the parsonage deck cost of approximately \$16,500 to be paid out of the Build the Future fund.
- * Approve evangelism internship for Noah Adrian at River Valley with a \$2000 scholarship.
- * Approve extending a call to Pastor Logan Esposito to serve as River Valley's Pastor of Adult Ministries and offer the salary package determined by the compensation committee.
- * To reaffirm appointment of a facility expansion committee to study options for short- and long-term solutions to overcrowding issues.
- * To approve remodeling of the church office to include reception and conference areas according to attached plan, if it is deemed feasible. This work would be accomplished by volunteers and would need to meet all requirements of city code with inspections under the terms of a city permit. The cost for materials must not exceed \$10,000 and would be paid with money from the Build the Future Fund.
- * To purchase a new IPAD (Apple iPad Air 11-inch (M2): 256GB, Landscape 12MP Front Camera/12MP Back Camera, Wi-Fi 6E, Touch ID, All-Day Battery Life – Starlight <https://a.co/d/2mKhNQj>) at a cost not to exceed \$700.
- * To approve painting of the west wing at a cost not to exceed \$1600 with money from the General Fund.
- * To replace current baptismal tub with an inflatable hot tub not to exceed \$500.
- * To sell or donate the mismatched metal folding chairs in the garage.
- * To extend the call to Mark Sina to serve as Pastor of Adult Ministries at an agreed upon compensation by the committee.
- * To extend the call to Corey Gillinov to serve as Director of Youth Ministry at an agreed upon compensation by the committee.

GOVERNING BOARD Report (Cont.)

- * To approve the delivery of River Valley mail to a post office box at the Watertown US Post Office at a cost not to exceed \$200 per year.
- * To approve the compensation committee recommendation for Health insurance for Pastor Dave and Nancy for Sept/Oct.
- * To appoint from the governing board Matt Keever and Sonya Vehlow as the Governing Board representatives for the Nominating Committee.
- * Task the building committee to consider a design architect and builder. This would establish plan/cost budget to begin preliminary work.
- * Approve the formation of a fundraising committee to consider a plan, program, and fund sourcing for expansion of facilities.
- * To give authority for the Treasurer to present a balanced 2025 budget by adjusting General Income and other affected categories.
- * To authorize the treasurer to contribute 10% of RVAC 2024 general fund giving to the Great Commission Fund.

Submitted by,
Sonya Vehlow

2024 Governing Board

David Zimmermann – Senior Pastor
Sonya Vehlow – Secretary
Max Clouse – Treasurer
Juli Tobin – Assistant Treasurer
Maynard Carl II – Elder
Karl Enockson – Elder
Justin Roberts – Elder
Corey Schultz – Elder
Matt Keever – Elder
Mike Price – Trustee Representative
John Flint – Service & Benevolence Representative

ELDERS Report

Elder Assignments and Comment:

- **David Zimmermann: Lead Elder/Senior Pastor**
 - See "Senior Pastor Report"
- **Matt Kever: Administration**
 - Pastor of Adult Ministries and Director of Student Ministries search
 - Completed the 2024 Employee Handbook review
 - Created the "Trail Life and American Heritage Girl" Policy
 - Assisted the finance team throughout the year
- **Karl Enockson: Discipleship**
 - See "Discipleship Making Ministries Report"
- **Maynard Carl II: Visitation/Groups**
 - We have spent most of the year designing and orchestrating behind the scenes getting men's ministry moving. Visitation has been going really well and Ray and Maynard Senior are still doing communion and we have integrated the two new pastors Mark and Corey as well. Coffee ministry seems to be going great as well.
- **Justin Roberts: Integration/Prayer**
 - It has been encouraging and special to see where we were at the start of the year, with uncertainty and change - pursuing an Assistant Pastor we did not know how to fund, or know much about anything - to the Lord bringing us new people and new leadership, and providing for us every step of the way.
- **Cory Schultz: Local/Foreign Missions**
 - See "Missions Report"

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

**SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE
Report**

The benevolent committee of River Valley consider ourselves the "Hands and Feet" of Jesus. We serve in many ways within the Church. We take care of setting for communion, serving funeral luncheons, Teen challenge, Pie and Praise. As part of this ministry, we have a set of teams with members names who will get called when needed to provide salads or desserts for various events. I would like to thank all those who responded when called on by our committee. These teams are a definite ministry as they are an integral part of what it takes to organize and supply a meal. Also, with the help of other volunteers - meal deliveries and other activities are taken care of.

Another major part of our ministry is assisting people who are struggling financially, members and non-members, throughout the community. Typical requests include rent, utility bills, car repairs, medical bills, funerals, gas and food cards. Our finances are not budgeted but come directly from your generous giving - whether through the benevolent offering on communion Sunday or as marked on your weekly giving. Again "Thank-you" for your giving and please pray for wisdom and discernment as our committee makes decisions concerning these requests.

Beginning Bal. Jan. 1, 2024	\$15,571.12
Total giving	\$29,338.18
Total disbursements	\$35,678.03
Ending Bal. Dec. 31 2024	\$ 9,231.27

TRUSTEE Report

2024 Trustees- Mike Price (lead), Todd Grady, Darin Schmidt, Cindy Chartier, Rod Billington, Paul Hanus.

2025 Trustees- Mike Price (lead), Todd Grady, Darin Schmidt, Cindy Chartier, Robert Kugel (new), Paul Hanus.

Trustee Tasks completed in 2024

Oversaw the office renovation project- Todd Grady was the coordinator and did most of the work.

Mulching project completed around the flower gardens in May. New stone was added to prevent washouts on flower bed on the hill.

Removed dead trees and shrubs from the church property.

Donated old baptismal tub to Pastor Caleb Atkins' new church. Purchased new inflatable hot tub to replace old tub.

Donated old pulpit to a church plant in Green Bay.

Purchased new walk behind lawn mower and gas cans.

Rod Billington resigned from the Trustee Board. Replaced by Robert Kugel in December.

**TREASURER
Report**

To be updated.