



# **RIVER VALLEY**

## **ALLIANCE CHURCH**

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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 1-24-25

## River Valley Membership List -12-12-24

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

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

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

\*Denotes New Member 2024

### Honorary List

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

# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 26, 2025

- I. Call to order/opening prayer/establish quorum
- II. Motion to wave reading of previous year's minutes and approve them as printed
- III. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election- Teresa Vogt
- IV. Disciple Making Ministries
  - a. Children – Nicole Fine
  - b. Students – Corey Gillinov
  - c. Adults – Mark Sina
- V. Senior Pastor Report- Pastor David Zimmermann
- VI. Missions – Cory Schultz
- VII. Governing Board – Sonya Vehlow
- VIII. Elders – Matt Keever
- IX. Trustees – Mike Price
- X. Building Committee- Rick Tortomasi
- XI. Deacons/Deaconesses – John Flint
- XII. Report on 2024 Financials – Max Clouse
- XIII. Motion to approve reports
- XIV. Presentation of 2025 Budget – Max Clouse
- XV. Motion to approve 2025 budget
- XVI. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members
- XVII. Prayer – Prior to Adjourn
- XVIII. 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 Tortomasi **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 Tortomasi.

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
<b>Treasurer</b>		
(1-year position)	Tom Seidl	Max Clouse (2024) (Term 1 of 6)
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>		
(1-year position)	Ron Sokovich	Juli Tobin (2024) (Term 2 of 6)
<b>Secretary</b>		
(1-year position)	Sonya Vehlow	Sonya Vehlow (2024) (Term 1 of 6)
<b>Elder</b>		
(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)
<b>Trustee</b>		
(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)
<b>Deacon</b>		
(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)
<b>Deaconess</b>		
(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

# 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. 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



## DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM) Report (Cont.)

**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 Trial 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.

# DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM)

## Report (Cont.)

**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.

**DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM)  
Report (Cont.)**

**Corey Gillinov  
Director of Student Ministries (Cont.)**

**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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Gillinov  
Director of Student Ministries

## 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 knew 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 "5-ish" 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 alongside 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 counsel. It has been a blessing to spend time meeting with and getting to know our church members and members of this community at large.

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.

## **DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM)**

### **Report (Cont.)**

**Mark Sina**  
**Pastor of Adult Ministries (Cont.)**

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 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Sina  
Pastor of Adult Ministries

# 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 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 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 to reach the 12,500.
- 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 or pay it off. If we can't do the first well, we will not do the second.

## **SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)**

### **David Zimmermann**

Early in 2024, 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



# MISSIONS Report

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

## **Acts 1:8 Ministries (Local)**

(Acts 1:8 Ministries are missions that are led by separate governing bodies that have their new goals and beliefs aligned with 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 who 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 embarked on a solo mission from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup> to support our Thai partners. During his time in Thailand, he met with 5 churches, had discussions with 7 ministries for potential future partnerships; and distributed coloring books, coloring pencils, and crayons to 102 children at Remember Nhu; He also completed a restoration project 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 had budgeted \$39,075. However, 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.

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 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  
Cory 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 Keever: 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 distributing 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, 2024
- 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
  - *Canoeing the Mountains* By: Tod Bolsinger (Currently Studying)

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Keever  
Administrative Elder

# 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 much 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.

## **Tasks for 2025**

Mezzanine clean up

Parsonage kitchen update

Platform rebuild

Update lights in lower level

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Price, Head Trustee

# BUILDING COMMITTEE Report

On Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 the first meeting of the Building Committee was held.

Attendance:

Nicole Fine, Ron Sokovich, Tom Seidl, Pastor Zimmermann, Pastor Sina and Rick Tortomasi (Chair). Emily McFarland will also be joining this committee.

Absent: Mike Price, Matt Keever

Meeting objective:

Determine the space constraints/needs of River Valley's growing Christian discipleship programing.

River Valley Alliance Church is Blessed and Growing by being "Transformed and Empowered".

We are following Jesus' direction in Mark 9-14 and Luke 18-15: "Let the little children come to me" by offering and/or expanding kids/youth programs.

History:

The last building expansion of River Valley took place in 2005 with the addition of the West Wing. Following the retirement of the church's debt in 2016, the "Build the Future Fund" (BtF) was established as a sinking fund for capital improvements. This fund paid for the new parking lot, hired Building God's Way to provide a site plan and plans for possible building expansion, and funded other capital improvements in 2023/4. The current balance of the BtF is approximately \$122,000.

Statistics:

*Sunday at 9:30am:*

	<b>Nursery to Grade 5</b>	<b>Middle School/High School</b>	<b>Adults</b>
<b>2021</b>	51	2 Classes	2 Classes (1 at Schmutzler-Vick)
<b>2022</b>	28	2 Classes	2 Classes (1 at Schmutzler-Vick)
<b>2023</b>	50 w/ volunteers 83	1 Class	2 Classes (1 at Schmutzler-Vick)
<b>2024</b>	80 w/ volunteers 107*	1 Class	2 Classes (1 at 11:00)

\*If all kids showed up it would be 92 w/ volunteers 134

*2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month:*

Trail Life/American Heritage Girls -Average attendance: 80 - Use the whole church

Trustees and Missions Committees -Squeeze in wherever they can

\*A new young adult community group would like to have met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays starting in January 2025 but there is no room, so they will be meeting on Mondays.

# BUILDING COMMITTEE Report (Cont.)

Wednesdays:

	Awana/Blast	Middle School/High School	Adults
<b>2021</b>	No Data	MS only	Prayer Group
<b>2022</b>	No data	MS only	Prayer Group
<b>2023</b>	46	MS only	Prayer Group
<b>2024</b>	70*	MS and HS**	Prayer Group***

\*Space for kid/youth counseling needed

\*\*Use space according to strict schedule. No space for small groups.

\*\*\*Moved to new Conference Room due to worship volume of Blast and Youth.

Needs:

This has resulted in an overcrowding problem for many ministries.

- Besides increasing attendance, all children's programs offer physical activity that creates some noise. Movable partitions currently separate the class space but do little to reduce the sound.
- The Youth program can only use the lower level (LL) at strictly scheduled times on Wednesday evenings. Due to noise issues in the LL on Sunday mornings, the Youth have been relegated to the Library in the LL. The space is not conducive to effective teaching/discussion.
- While we have tried off-site adult classes on Sundays, currently we are only offering one class for adults in the LL during the 9:30 hour. We have had success with offering one adult class at 11am.
- Current overcrowding in the coffee area, sanctuary hallway, and Welcome Center makes fellowship between services EXTREMELY uncomfortable. We want to encourage attenders to connect. Our current entry areas make this impossible.

Solutions:

- Temporary mobile classroom space, (a 24 x 64 ft. unit) would add 1,536 sq. ft. for approx. \$80,000. This has been considered and rejected.
- The committee determined that building expansion needs to be considered in 2025.
- After reviewing studies done in 2022 and 2024, the committee recommends focusing on expansion in two directions.
  1. Expand capacities for discipleship at all age levels (9000 sq. ft.)
    - \*See attached pictures of hallway during Discovery Land dismissal time
  2. Expand the Welcome Center/Sanctuary/Coffee Area to increase fellowship opportunities on Sunday mornings. (2590 sq. ft.)
- Cost estimates are approximately \$2.5 million. Hopefully a good chunk of this could be raised in cash. The total cost could also be reduced by building in phases and seeking volunteer work for portions of the labor and material, similar to the recent office remodel project. (Note: In 2022, River Valley was approved by the Alliance Orchard Fund for a \$2 million dollar loan.)



# BUILDING COMMITTEE Report (Cont.)

## Motions:

At its December meeting, the Governing Board approved the following motions:

**MOTION:** Task the Building Committee to consider a design architect and builder. This would establish a plan/cost budget to begin preliminary work.

**MOTION:** Approve the formation of a fundraising committee to consider a plan, program, and fund sourcing.

Dismissal from Discovery Land on Sundays at 10:30:



Respectfully Submitted,  
Rick Tortomasi, Building Committee Chair

**SERVICE & BENEVOLENCE  
(Deacon/Deaconesses)  
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 up for communion, serving funeral luncheons, hosting Teen challenge, prepping tables for 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 respond 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 including 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. 3, 2024	\$9,231.27

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Flint, Head Deacon

# TREASURER Report

## Special Thanks To:

- Bookkeeping Service: That Numbers Gal (Jen Roberts)
- Cash Counters: Kim Schneider, John Flint

## 2024 Highlights:

- The Lord continued to bless River Valley and guided us through several staff changes this past year.
- Transfers out of the Build the Future fund totaled \$32,656.

## 2024 Balance Sheet:

- Checking (Ixonía Bank): **\$84,897.61**
- Build the Future money market account (Ixonía Bank): **\$11,696.82**
- Woodbury Brokerage Account:
  - CD Reserves: **\$209,000 (principal only)**
  - Money Market: **\$150,535**
  - Build the Future CD's: **\$108,000 (principal only)**
- Loan Balance: **\$0**
- Estimated Property Values (updated March 2022)
  - Church: **\$3,417,750**
  - Parsonage: **\$332,850**

## 2024 Giving Method:

- Online: **\$152,545.48 or 19.6%**
  - Compares to \$169,885.97 in 2023: 26.8%
- Traditional: **\$627,048.67 or 80.4%**
  - Compares to \$465,072.91 in 2023: 73.2%

## 2024 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 and Local Missions** 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/BLAST, Great Commission Fund, Acts 1:8 ministries, men’s and women’s ministries,

## Categories of Expense:

- **Compensation:** Salaries and benefits of paid staff: Senior Pastor, Pastor of Adult Ministries, Executive Assistant/ Office Secretary, Director of Student Ministries, 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.)

### 2024 Year in Review:

Income Category	Budget	Actual	Variance	% +/-Budget
<b>General Inc</b>	\$391,500.00	\$658,810.85	\$267,310.85	68.28%
<b>Facility Inc</b>	\$24,300.00	\$10,606.86	-\$13,693.14	-56.35%
<b>Ministry Inc</b>	\$106,811.04	\$115,198.42	\$8,387.38	7.85%
<b>Total</b>	\$522,611.04	\$784,616.13	\$262,005.09	50.13%
Expense Category	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	% +/-Budget
<b>Compensation Exp</b>	\$293,730.00	\$289,371.91	-\$4,358.09	-1.48%
<b>Facility Exp</b>	\$93,684.96	\$119,653.17	\$25,968.21	27.72%
<b>Ministry Exp</b>	\$229,389.96	\$500,466.65	\$271,076.69	118.17%
<b>Total</b>	\$616,804.92	\$909,491.73	\$292,686.81	47.45%
<b>YTD</b>	<b>-\$94,193.88</b>	<b>-\$124,875.60</b>	<b>-\$30,681.72</b>	<b>-4.97%</b>

- RVAC finished the year 50.13% above budgeted income.
  - 'General income' was above budget by 68.28%.
  - 'Facility income' (BtF Transfers) below budget by 56.35%.
  - 'Ministry income' finished 7.85% above budget.
  
- RVAC expenses finished the year 47.75% over budget per the books.
- Note \$275K was transferred into brokerage investment account to earn interest from Ministry Expense.
  - 'Compensation' came in at 1.48% under budget.
  - 'Facility' (including BtF transfers) was 27.72% over budget.
  - 'Ministry' expenses exceeded budget by 118.17%
  
- RVAC finished the year with expenses exceeding planned shortfall by 4.97%.
- Considering the \$275K transfer, RVAC finished the year with income exceeding expenses by +\$150,124.40! Or +39.61% above planned shortfall!

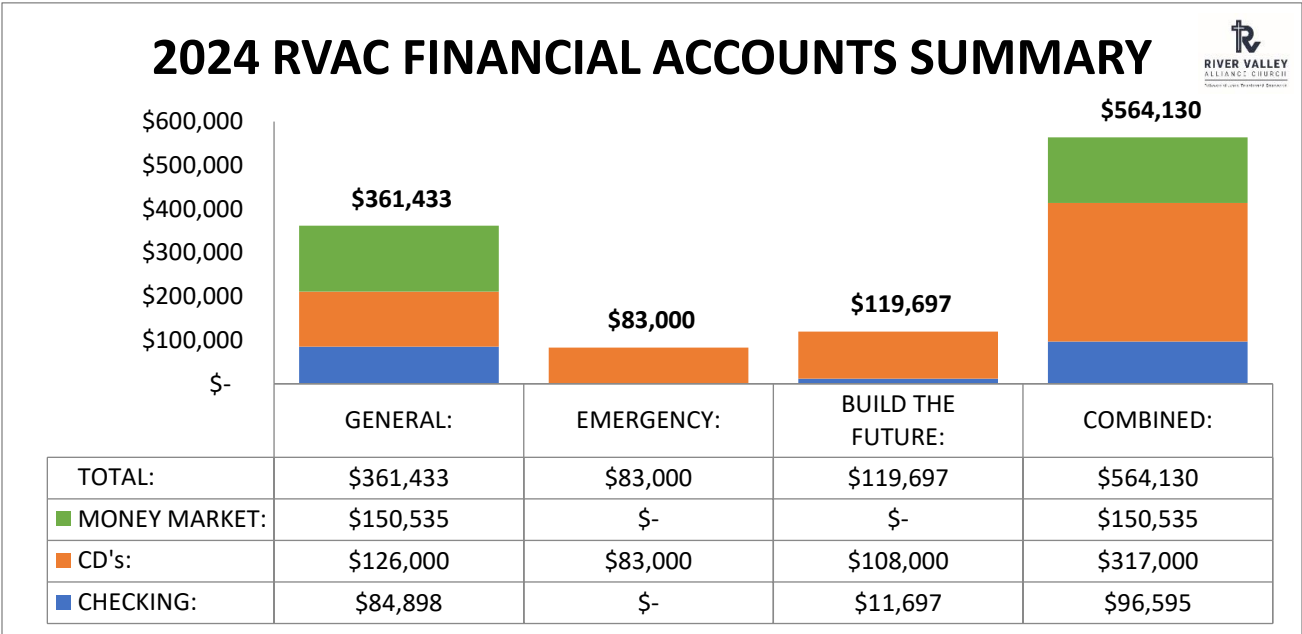
# TREASURER Report (Cont.)

**Historical Actuals with 2025 Budget:**

INCOME	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 Budget
General	\$494,460.99	\$510,366.91	\$547,362.77	\$484,105.42	\$658,810.85	\$504,181.41
Facility	\$6,288.00	\$7,558.00	\$51,673.05	\$25,921.88	\$10,606.86	\$8,500.00
Ministry	\$114,651.24	\$92,479.36	\$128,767.72	\$129,913.87	\$115,198.42	\$116,745.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$615,400.23</b>	<b>\$610,404.27</b>	<b>\$727,803.54</b>	<b>\$639,941.17</b>	<b>\$784,616.13</b>	<b>\$629,427.05</b>
EXPENSE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 Budget
Compensation	\$234,427.98	\$229,171.98	\$242,580.58	\$280,274.14	\$289,371.91	\$296,969.15
Facility	\$80,550.33	\$207,701.90	\$144,705.74	\$124,199.88	\$119,653.17	\$80,825.44
Ministry	\$205,220.30	\$195,005.28	\$268,976.20	\$252,031.84	\$224,466.65*	\$251,632.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$520,198.61</b>	<b>\$631,879.16</b>	<b>\$656,262.52</b>	<b>\$656,505.86</b>	<b>\$633,491.73</b>	<b>\$629,427.05</b>
<b>Surplus/ Deficit</b>	<b>95,201.62</b>	<b>-21,474.89</b>	<b>\$71,541.02</b>	<b>(\$16,564.69)</b>	<b>\$151,124.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

\*Does not include \$150,000 transferred to Money Market and \$126,000 transferred to CD which appears on the Profit/Loss Statement.

- General Income projected to decrease by 23.5% from 2024.
- Ministry expense projected to decrease by 49.7% due to the \$275K Transfer from end of 2024.
- Compensation increases by 2.6%.
- Facility Income (BtF) projected decrease by 19.9% and expenses decrease 32.5%.
- The balanced budget is conservative if we look at the general income from 2024 considering the \$275K transfer which is included under 2024 Ministry expense.



**Respectfully Submitted,**

Max Clouse  
Treasurer

Juli Tobin  
Assistant Treasurer