



# RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH

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Followers of Jesus. Transformed. Empowered.

## 2025 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 25, 2026.

Updated 1-22-26

# River Valley Membership List -12-11-25

							Honorary List
Allen	Brecken	Hein	Jason	Ritchie	Kimberly*		
Alvarez	Ashley	Heinz	Khali	Roberts	Jennifer	Andrie	Carol
Alvarez	Dominic	Hernandez	Cayla*	Roberts	Justin	Carothers	Al
Arndt	Evelyn	Herold	Jeanetta	Rothschadl	Denise	Carothers	Carmen
Arndt	Gerald	Higgins	Veronica*	Sauer	Joyce	Free	Denise
Austin	Laura	Hoffman	Laurie*	Saugstad	Brad	Jeuck	Gerald
Austin	Walt	Huff	Michelle*	Saugstad	Nikki	Jeuck	Marilyn
Beerbohm	Heidi	Huff	Steve*	Schafer	Diane	Rockafellow	Linda
Billington	Nancy	Ihde	Cathy	Schafer	Larry	Shafer	Pat
Billington	Rodney	Jeanson	Dawn	Schleicher	Diane	Wendland	Ed
Bishofberger	Christine*	Johnson	Connie	Schmidt	Darin		
Bishofberger	Donald*	Jordan	Katrina*	Schneider	Kim		
Brito-Langer	Allie*	Keever	Erin	Schoechert	David		
Breunig	David*	Keever	Matt	Schoechert	Judy		
Breunig	Kristen*	Klein	Neal	Schultz	Adeline		
Buchanan	Susan	Kluber	Colleen	Schultz	Connie*		
Buchholtz	Amy	Kluber	Joseph	Schultz	Cory		
Buchholtz	William	Knopps	Suzanne	Schultz	Mark*		
Burbach	Kay	Krueger	Alycia	Schwartz	Valerie		
Carl	Maynard I	Krueger	Dan	Seidl	Jeanne		
Carl	Maynard II	Krueger	James	Seidl	Tom		
Carl	Sarah	Krueger	Lorelei	Shult	Becky		
Carothers	Cathryne	Krueger	Zachary	Shult	Fred*		
Chartier	Cindy	Kruziki	Nancy	Sina	Katya		
Chartier	Sarah	Kruziki	Tom	Sina	Mark		
Cheng	Emmilyn	Kugel	Robert	Sindermann	Sarah*		
Clouse	Angie	Kugel	RuthAnn	Smith	Diane*		
Clouse	Max	Kujawski	Brenda	Smith	Fred*		
Coffey	Sarah	Kujawski	Michael	Sokovich	Carol		
Coleman	Don	Lalmond	Mike*	Sokovich	Ron		
Colosky	Matt	Lalmond	Pam*	Stapleton	Patrick*		
Colosky	Shannon	Leischer	John	Supple	Dan		
Dean	Edward	Lott	Terry	Supple	Doris		
Dean	Kathy	Mamayek	Rita	Supple	Mary		
Degenhardt	Terry*	McFarland	Emily	Teska	Sarah		
Degenhardt	Candy*	McFarland	Kyle	Tobin	Juli		
Dehnert	Barb	Mertens	Anee	Tortomasi	Jean		
Dehnert	Ed	Mertens	Chris	Tortomasi	Rick		
Ebert	Art	Montgomery	Betty	Treichel	Don		
Ebert	Pat	Nekich	Bruce	Treichel	Pat		
Edwards	Carol	Nekich	Cece	Uhrich	Tim		
Edwards	Joel	Ninmann	David*	Vana	Judy		
Enockson	Christine	Novey	Elizabeth	Vana	Randy		
Enockson	Karl	Novey	Jennifer	Vehlow	Donald		
Fine	Daron	Oberbrunner	Linda	Vehlow	Sonya		
Fine	Nicole	Oberbrunner	Mike	Vining	Donna		
Flath	Ruth	Oestreicher	Chris	Vogt	Bruce		
Flint	Charlene	Oestreicher	Theresa	Vogt	Dale		
Flint	John	Olson	Alek	Vogt	Linda		
Fredrich	Debbie	Olson	Allen	Vogt	Teresa		
Fredrich	John	Olson	Don	Von Rueden	Joann		
Gerike	Betsy	Olson	Gwen	Von Rueden	Matt		
Gerike	Brian	Olson	Toni	Wagie	Dione		
Gillinov	Corey	Peacy	Linden	Wagie	Mike		
Gillinov	Kim	Peacy	Mike	Weihert	LuAnn		
Grady	Tammy	Pendleton	Bill	Wells	Cynthia		
Grady	Todd	Price	Dawn*	Wells	Robert		
Gunn	Amanda	Price	Mike	Werth	Ray		
Gunn	Steve	Price	Sheila	Werth	Yvonne		
Gunn	Teri	Price	Roy*	Wheeler	Destin		
Hanus	Heidi	Rantanen	Donna	Wheeler	Kimberly		
Hanus	Paul	Rantanen	William	Wisniewski	Mary		
Hearron (Olson)	Emma	Rasch	Rachel	Wisniewski	Tom		
Heichel	Hope	Raybuck	Janice	Wood-Uhrich	Kim		
Heichel	Jon	Raybuck	Scott	Yaresh	Adam		
Heidner	Jake*	Richter	Bill	Yaresh	Andrea		
Heidner	Megan*	Richter	Rosy	Zimmermann	David		
				Zimmermann	Nancy		
				Zirbel	Leisa*		

\*New member 2025

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 25, 2026

- I. Call to order/opening prayer/establish quorum
- II. Motion to wave reading of previous year's minutes
- III. Motion for approval of previous year's minutes
- IV. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election- Sonya Vehlow
- V. Motion to elect nominees by acclamation (voice vote)
- VI. Disciple Making Ministries
  - a. Children – Nicole Fine
  - b. Students – Cory Schultz, Interim Lay Youth Director
  - c. Adults – Mark Sina
- VII. Senior Pastor Report- Pastor David Zimmermann
- VIII. Prayer for Staff
- IX. Elders – Maynard Carl II
- X. Governing Board – Sonya Vehlow
- XI. Missions – Cory Schultz
- XII. Deacons/Deaconesses – John Flint
- XIII. Trustees – Todd Grady
- XIV. Motion to approve reports
- XV. Prayer for River Valley Ministries
- XVI. Report on 2025 Financials – Ron Sokovich/Tom Seidl
- XVII. Presentation of 2026 Budget – Tom Seidl
- XVIII. Motion to approve 2026 budget
- XIX. Prayer – Prior to Adjourn
- XX. Adjourn

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2025

The annual meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m. by Pastor David Zimmermann. With 69 members in attendance, it was determined a quorum was present to continue the meeting. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Justin Roberts.

## Previous Minutes

**MOTION:** To wave the reading of the minutes from last year's annual meeting and approve them as printed.

**MOVED BY:** Mary Wisniewski      **SECOND:** Don Vehlow

**PASSED**

## Election

The Nominating Committee report was presented by Teresa Vogt, and she acknowledged outgoing governing board members Max Clouse and Juli Tobin.

**MOTION:** To elect nominees by acclamation.

Tom Seidl – Treasurer, Ron Sokovich – Assistant Treasurer, Sonya Vehlow – Secretary, Maynard Carl II & Karl Enockson – Elder, Mike Price & Robert Kugel – Trustee, John Flint – Deacon, Heidi Beerbohm – Deaconess.

**MOVED BY:** Teresa Vogt      **SECOND:** Mike Kujawski

**PASSED**

## Reports (All Reports Are Printed in the River Valley Annual Report 2024)

### Disciple Making Ministry Reports

**Adult Ministries:** A written report was submitted and presented by Pastor Mark Sina.

**Youth Ministries:** A written report was submitted and presented by Corey Gillinov.

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

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

Chris Mertens prayed for the staff.

### Ministry Reports

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

## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

JANUARY 26, 2025

Linda Oberbrunner shared about Share the Love ministry and Operation Christmas Child shoebox project.

**Governing Board:** A written report was submitted and presented by Sonya Vehlow.

**Elders:** A written report was submitted and presented by Matt Keever.

**Service and Benevolence:** A written report was submitted and presented by John Flint.

**Trustees:** A written report was submitted and presented (via pre-recorded video) by Mike Price.

**Building Committee:** A written report was submitted and presented by Rick Tortomasi. Rick prayed for the future of our church.

**Assistant Treasurer & Treasurer:** A written report was submitted by Juli Tobin and Max Clouse and presented by Max Clouse.

**MOTION:** To approve ministry reports as given and printed.

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

**PASSED**

Raymond Werth prayed for the ministries.

### New Business

**Treasurer:** The 2025 budget was submitted and presented by Max Clouse.

**MOTION:** To approve the budget for 2025.

**MOVED BY:** Jeanne Seidl                    **SECOND:** Jean Tortomasi

**PASSED**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting.

**MOVED BY:** Tom Seidl                    **SECOND:** Michael Oberbrunner

**PASSED**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Sonya Vehlow

Governing Board Secretary

River Valley Alliance Church

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OFFICE	NOMINEE (What Will Be)	CURRENTLY SERVING (What Is)
<b>Treasurer</b> (1-year position)	Tom Seidl (2026) Term 2 of 6	Tom Seidl (2025) (Term 1 of 6)
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b> (1-year position)	Ron Sokovich (2026) Term 2 of 6	Ron Sokovich (2025) (Term 1 of 6)
<b>Secretary</b> (1-year position)	Sonya Vehlow (2026) Term 3 of 6	Sonya Vehlow (2025) (Term 2 of 6)
<b>Elder</b> (3-year position)	Ed Dehnert (2026) Fulfilling MK	Matt Keever (2026) (Term 1) Resigned
(3-year position)	Rick Tortomasi (2028) Term 1	Justin Roberts (2025) (Term 1) Resigned
	Vacancy (to be appointed in 2026)	Cory Schultz (2026) (Term 2) Resigned
		Karl Enockson (2027) (Term 2)
		Maynard Carl II (2027) (Term 1)
<b>Trustee</b> (3-year position)	Steve Huff (2027) Fulfilling MP	Mike Price (2027) Resigned
(3-year position)	Darin Schmidt (2028) Term 2	Darin Schmidt (2025) (Term 1)
(3-year position)		Todd Grady (2026) (Term 1)
		Cindy Chartier (2026) (Term 2)
		Robert Kugel (2027) (Term 1)
<b>Deacon</b> (3-year position)		John Flint (2027) (Term 1)
(3-year position)		Bruce Vogt (2028) (Term 2)
(3-year position)		Joe Kluber (2026) (Term 1)
<b>Deaconess</b> (3-year position)	Judy Schoechert (2028) Term 1	Kimberly Wheeler Fulfilling MM (2025)
(3-year position)	Kimberly Wheeler (2028) Term 1	Heidi Beerbohm (2027) (Term 1)
(3-year position)		Sheila Price (2026) Term 1
		Teresa Vogt (2025) Term 1

## DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM)

### Report

**Nicole Fine**

**Director of Children's Ministries**

#### **Discovery Land:**

I always like to point out the highlights of the past year, and this year is no different. Our kids LOVE to worship, and FamJam on the first Sunday of the month has been a big success. It perfectly allows time for the children to come and be seen in service, to worship with the church and their families, as well as partake in communion when they're ready. Hearing the children and seeing them praise the Lord is something that fills my heart with joy, and I hope it has done so for you as well. Another highlight this year was Kid's Camp! It was absolutely the most fun thing we have done in a long time. We had several volunteers and 30 kids this year. The songs and lessons will stay with the kids and me for a long time! Our theme was Knights of North Castle, and we learned all about the armor of God. A very special moment during this event was when a mom came to me and told me how her child loved being here. She explained that her child was very shy, had a hard time making friends, and didn't easily fit in, yet while here, fit in and loved coming. The leaders were kind and patient, and the kids were accepting and friendly. What a testament to the work the Lord is doing in all our hearts.

#### **BLAST:**

Believe. Learn. And. Seek. Truth is in its second year. The program continues to mirror and reinforce what the children learn during Discovery Land each week. This year, the leaders created their own books to go through rather than using laminated cards. The books have memory verses, books of the Bible, and activity pages. We have used them as a guide and not as a legalistic tool that has to be done. We have a few new leaders this year, and they are wonderful! They really understood the concept of BLAST, which is a connection with the kids while teaching them the love of God and getting them excited about his word. I changed our rotation model to follow the summer Kids' Camp routine, and it works spectacularly. It allows leaders to be absent without disrupting all the kids. They all know who the kids are in their age group and follow them around to the different activities throughout the night. This was only made possible because we have use of the entire building. Youth group moved to Sunday nights, which works out so that the Youth Pastor can help at BLAST and the Children's Director can help with the Youth! It's a perfect partnership that fosters deep relationships from elementary school through high school. We continue to utilize the services of New Life Resources with a counselor on site each week.

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

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

#### **American Heritage Girls & Trail Life:**

##### **Trail Life:**

Trail Life Troop WI-0126 continued to provide Christ-centered mentorship and outdoor discipleship for boys this past year at River Valley Alliance Church. Trailmen participated in regular troop meetings, hit-the-trail activities, campouts, hikes, and hands-on skill development focused on character, leadership, and stewardship. The troop served the church and community through service projects such as Operation Christmas Child, church events, and facility support. Fundraising efforts, including seasonal wreath sales, helped support program needs and activities. While the troop faced leadership capacity challenges, our commitment remains to building godly young men who walk worthy of their calling through faith, service, and perseverance.

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

##### **American Heritage Girls:**

American Heritage Girls Troop WI1202 currently has 14 girls attending. The highlights from 2025 were the 3 day, 2 night camp out in June, Game Night in July, National Service Day in September and the Lock-In in November. We say thank you to all who came out in June to Game Night in July, National Service Day in September and the Lock-In in November. We say thank you to all who came out in June to Glenn's Brat Haus to support our AHG & TL troops.

-Respectfully submitted by Sarah Carl, Charter Representative.

## DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM)

### Report (Cont.)

**Corey Gillinov**  
**Director of Student Ministries**

#### Overview

This past year in Student Ministries has been marked by intentional change, spiritual growth, and a renewed focus on helping students build strong foundations in their faith. Through adjustments to our weekly rhythms, meaningful teaching, and impactful camps and conferences, we have seen God move in powerful ways among our students.

#### Weekly Youth Group

One of the most significant changes this year was transitioning our weekly youth group to Sunday evenings and combining students in grades 6–12 into one unified gathering. This shift has fostered a stronger sense of community across age groups while allowing students to learn from and encourage one another.

#### Our weekly gatherings include:

- Shared games and activities that create fun, welcoming environments for all students.
- Corporate worship and teaching, with a strong emphasis on understanding what worship is, why we worship, and how it shapes our lives as believers.
- Small groups for all students, providing space for discussion, questions, prayer, and relational discipleship.

Throughout the year, much of our teaching focused on the gospel - what it is, why it matters, and how it transforms lives - as well as core foundations of the Christian faith. These conversations have led to thoughtful discussion, spiritual curiosity, and meaningful steps of faith.

We also prioritized fun and fellowship through activities such as bowling, corn mazes, Skate Express, and other outings, helping students build friendships and associate church with joy and belonging.

#### Sunday School:

Sunday School also experienced a meaningful shift this year. We moved to meeting every other Sunday, allowing students to regularly attend worship services with their families and remain connected to the larger church body.

When we gather for Sunday School, we begin by joining the congregation in corporate worship, encouraging students to worship alongside their families and understand their place within the church community.

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

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

Our curriculum utilized a variety of resources from RightNow Media, which led to rich, honest, and engaging discussions. Students asked thoughtful questions, shared openly, and grew in their understanding of Scripture and how it applies to everyday life.

#### **Camps, Conferences, and Special Experiences:**

Camps and conferences continued to play a vital role in shaping students spiritually and relationally.

- Woods Camp: Our middle school students attended Woods Camp, where they experienced focused teaching, intentional community, and time set apart to grow in their faith. It was an encouraging and formative week for many of our younger students.
- LIFE Conference: We attended the LIFE Conference with our high school students, an experience that proved to be truly life-changing for many. Through powerful worship and gospel-centered teaching, students were challenged to take ownership of their faith and live it out boldly.

Several students made decisions to follow Jesus this past year, and we praise God for the way He is drawing students to Himself through these experiences and ongoing discipleship.

#### **Partnership and Leadership Support:**

This year's growth would not have been possible without the faithful partnership and support of others. Nicole Fine, our Children's Director, has been instrumental in implementing many of these changes. She has faithfully served on Sunday nights, volunteered consistently, brainstormed vision and programming, poured into students relationally, and led a small group with dedication and care. Her investment has had a lasting impact on both students and leaders

#### **Looking Ahead:**

As we move forward, our desire is to continue building on the foundation God has laid this year - creating environments where students feel known, welcomed, and challenged to grow in their faith. We remain committed to gospel-centered teaching, meaningful relationships, and partnering with families as we disciple the next generation.

We are deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, and support of our congregation as we walk alongside students during these formative years.

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

### **Cory Schultz Interim Lay Youth Director**

The high school and middle school youth group has started up again on Jan 11th following the Christmas break. This is also the first week back since the departure of Corey Gilinov. The remaining lay leaders wanted to place an emphasis that Youth Group will continue and that the youth is the priority. The current youth leaders consist of Addy Schultz, Nicole Fine, Pam Lalmond, Raymond Carl, Grant Bradow, Nancy Renz and myself (Cory Schultz). Mark Sina will also be filling in when I have to work.

Nancy Rez is currently leading the lesson time with a study in Genesis. There has already been positive reviews coming back from the first week.

The youth will be going on a winter retreat Feb 6th-8th at Village Creek Bible Camp.

## DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES (DMM)

### Report (Cont.)

#### Mark Sina Pastor of Adult Ministries

Another year has come and gone and I am thankful for how the Lord has been moving here at River Valley Alliance Church. I have seen a lot of spiritual growth in so many people in the church and I am truly excited for what the Lord will continue to do in and through the people of River Valley in this upcoming year.

#### Here are some of the adult ministries that have taken place this past year:

- This past year, we have had three active community groups that meet monthly to have a time of fellowship with a meal to grow in relation with one another.
- We have had multiple different Bible study groups for people to engage in conversation and dig into the word of God to see how Scripture speaks into our lives today.
- There is a monthly mom's group, a weekly men's study, a weekly sermon review study, and a weekly prayer group.
- This fall, we offered a Biblical Doctrine class that is continuing into the new year, for a class that is devoted to providing a place to ask questions about what the Bible teaches on a variety of topics while going straight to God's word for the answers.
- We have had three all-church events for the full body to be able to come together in fellowship.
- Our church was heavily involved with outreach into the community through Share the Love and Family Fun Fridays.
- There were three baptism services where people made public declarations of their faith in Jesus through the act of being baptized.
- We have a monthly home-bound visitation ministry, where we bring Communion to those who have a difficult time getting out of their homes.
- We have also started training for Celebrate Recovery to hopefully one day make it open to the public.
- RVAC Women's Ministry held multiple events:
  - Centered on the theme "Blessings," based on Ephesians 3:16–19. The Lord richly blessed the ministry through a variety of events that reached women from both our church and the community.
  - In February, we hosted a church-wide Valentine's spaghetti dinner and youth Life fundraiser featuring Communicating God's Way.
  - March brought a meaningful Blessing Bracelet movie and craft event.
  - In May, over 100 women attended the Blessed Beyond Measure conference. We welcomed a guest speaker in July who reminded us that we are Made for a Purpose.
  - September's 7-Up event featured seven powerful testimonies of God's blessings from seven of our RVAC Soul Sisters.
  - In December we closed the year with a Christmas brunch focused on Taking Time for Christmas, which also set the tone for our 2026 theme on Time.

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

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

- We praise God for every woman who participated, served, and shared throughout the year. As we continue to live out 1 Thessalonians 5:11, we are grateful for how God is working in and through this ministry and look forward to all He has ahead.

Some other ministries that I have been a part of include preaching on Sundays and some special event services. Hospital visits. Counseling. Funerals. A wedding. And Home visitations.

I have also been working on my ordination with the CM&A, which has included going to a conference in August, having taken two required classes, and being enrolled in two more. And also making my way through the required readings and papers.

I know I have missed some of the many things that are going on here at church, but I am thankful that I am able to share in some of what God is doing here in the City of Watertown and beyond.

Looking ahead, my prayer is that as a church we can continue to focus on knowing Christ ourselves and making Him known. I believe this is accomplished through personal time in God's word and in prayer. Corporate time devoted to learning God's word and prayer. And also investing in each other's lives and the lives of those in the community, through gospel-focused mindsets. My hope for River Valley is that we continue to seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness first and foremost and trust that He will take care of the rest. This is a high calling, one which requires us to deny ourselves and to step out in faith. But it is the only call worthy of answering, and God is faithful to provide all that we need when we put Him above all else. I will seek to live this out first and foremost in my own life, but also seek to help encourage our church body to do the same.

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

David Zimmermann

*"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." – Philippians 1:6 (ESV)*

This single verse has felt like an anchor for my soul this past year, and I believe it perfectly captures the story of River Valley in 2025. It was a year that showcased God's profound faithfulness in every season... in moments of breathtaking celebration and in seasons of unexpected challenge. It was a year of planting, of watering, and of watching in awe as God brought incredible blessings.

As we look back, we don't just see a calendar of events; we see the hand of a faithful God weaving a story of His grace. And as we look forward, we do so with the confident conviction that the Author of our story is not finished yet.

### **Celebrating New Life: The Fruit of His Faithfulness**

The headline of 2025 is not a program or a project, but undeniable evidence of changed lives. Jesus promised in Matthew 16, "I will build my church," and this year, we saw Him laying the foundation for eternity in the hearts of many.

Consider the powerful work God did among us:

- We celebrated 17 baptisms on a single Sunday, a truly historic moment of public declaration for our church family. Throughout the year, we rejoiced as six other believers followed the Lord in baptism.
- I couldn't help but notice the number of members as I calculated the quorum for the annual meeting. December of 2024: 185 members. December of 2025: 203 members. That growth is truly miraculous because it happened in this day and age when the vast majority of churches are plateaued or declining. This says nothing of the 150+ people who attend and serve at River Valley but are not members.

These are not just numbers. These are 40+ individual stories of redemption and families changed for eternity. This is the mission. This is the fruit that comes from being a church committed to proclaiming the name of Jesus. We praise God for every single soul.

### **Growing Deeper Together: Rooted in His Word**

This spiritual harvest was nurtured by a deep commitment to God's Word. Our summer sermon series, "We Believe," grounded us in the unshakable truths of our faith. Our continuing journey through the Gospel of Matthew, "Your Kingdom Come," has challenged us to see Jesus' reign breaking into our everyday lives.

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)

### David Zimmermann

This commitment to discipleship was seen everywhere:

- The Bashes that were held in 2025 and numerous adult studies and small groups have all created spaces for our faith to deepen through fellowship and study.
- A dedicated team of volunteers has been transforming our library into a rich resource for spiritual growth, preparing new discipleship opportunities for the future.
- We celebrated God's goodness together at our church picnic... a day of wonderful fellowship where the Gospel was proclaimed (and the chicken was awesome!).

Thank you to every volunteer, from our teachers to our musicians, from our tech team to our librarians. They all serve faithfully "as unto the Lord" and are creating the environment where faith can flourish.

#### **Reaching Our Community: The Reach of His Love**

God's faithfulness was not contained within our walls. This year, you carried the love of Jesus into Watertown with passion and generosity.

- Our partnership with four other local churches for Family Fun Fridays at the Town Square was a beautiful picture of the unity of the body of Christ.
- Our Acts 1:8 Ministries continue to shine Jesus' light into our community. Thank you to many for your support of and involvement in these ministries: Cornerstone of Grace, Safe Families of WI, The Gideons, Family Fun Fridays, Food to Go and Grow and Share the Love.

These events are more than just items on a calendar; they are the tangible expression of a church that is a blessing to its community.

#### **Stewarding Our Future: Trusting His Provision**

As we celebrate what God has done, we also look to the future He is preparing for us. The year began with a recognition of His incredible financial provision. He blessed us so generously at the end of 2024, reminding us of His promise in Ephesians 3:20 to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." While giving has not matched expenses through much of 2025, the ample reserves that God provided River Valley in the past kept us moving forward.

This view of stewardship has also guided the work of our Building Expansion Committee. The vision has never been about simply constructing a building, but about forging a more effective tool for ministry. The goal is to create more room for more stories of life change and safer, more effective spaces for worshippers, our children, and youth to meet Jesus.

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)

### David Zimmermann

As many of you know, my health challenges in the final quarter of the year required us to press “pause” on the building process. While this was unexpected, we trust that it was not a setback, but a divine moment to rest in God’s perfect timing. We serve a God who is never rushed and whose plans are never thwarted. We look forward to sharing a more detailed update on this vision in February.

#### **A Personal Note: Faithfulness in Weakness**

On a personal note, the last few months of 2025 were a profound lesson for Nancy, my family, and me in God’s faithfulness. My hip surgery in October went well, but the recovery has been slower than I anticipated. For a man who has always been on the move, being forced to slow down was a challenge. Yet, in that stillness, I was reminded of the truth of 2 Corinthians 12:9: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” God’s work is not dependent on my strength, but on His.

Nancy and I were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, prayers, and encouragement we received from you all. Your care for us is a beautiful reflection of the heart of Christ. Thank you. This season of reflection has also brought clarity about the future, which leads me to share the following with you.

#### **A Letter to Our Church Family**

Dear River Valley Family,

For nearly three decades, 15 years as lay volunteers and 14 as pastor and wife, Nancy and I have sought to serve Jesus and River Valley with love, faithfulness, and purpose. We have seen God’s hand at work in countless ways, and we are deeply grateful for the privilege of lifting up the name of Jesus with you.

After much prayer and seeking, we believe the Lord is leading me to step away from full-time pastoral ministry, with my retirement becoming effective March 31, 2026. Many of you know that my recent health challenges have been difficult and have given me time to reflect, leading me to sense that this season of serving as your senior pastor has come to a close. While I am concluding my vocational ministry, Nancy and I remain devoted to serving the Lord wherever He leads for the rest of our lives.

Nancy and I want you to know that we love you and will earnestly be praying for River Valley’s future. Our prayer is that the church will continue to grow in unity and in its witness for Jesus. As Paul wrote, “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6, NIV). We hold that promise with confidence for this church we love.

We are thankful for each of you, for your support, and for the many ways you have blessed our family. May Jesus be glorified in all that lies ahead.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Dave and Nancy

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT (Cont.)

David Zimmermann

### **Forward in Faith**

The story of River Valley has never been about one person. It has always been, and my most fervent prayer is that it will always be, about Jesus. He is the sole purpose for River Valley, He is the one who began this good work, and He will be faithful to complete it. As we step into a new season, let us fix our eyes on Him, confident in His promise from Isaiah 43:19: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Thank you for the profound privilege of serving as your pastor. The best is yet to come.

In His Unfailing Grip,

Pastor Dave

## ELDERS Report

### Elder Assignments and Comment:

- **David Zimmermann: Lead Elder/Senior Pastor**
  - See "Senior Pastor Report"
- **Matt Keever: Administration**
  - Financial Review
  - Completed the 2025 Constitution & Bylaw and Best Practice Addendum Review
  - Assisted the finance team throughout the year
- **Karl Enockson: Leadership Development**
- **Maynard Carl II: Music and Welcome Team**
- **Cory Schultz: Local/Foreign Missions**
  - See "Missions Report"

### Elder Board Regular Responsibilities with Senior Pastor:

- Membership Management:
  - Existing membership review
  - Interviews for new members
- Approval of new ministries
- Shepherding of existing ministries:
  - See reports for the other ministries
- Supervisor to the senior pastor
- Counsel to/with the Senior Pastor
- Elder of the Day (Sunday Services)
- Human Resources Activities:
  - Assessment and discussions with Pastoral Candidates
  - Benefits for new staff members
- Read and discussed two books:
  - Finished "Canoeing The Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger
  - Started "The Peacemaker" by Ken Sande

Respectfully Submitted,

Elder Board

# GOVERNING BOARD

## Report

Hello,

Thank you for your time today attending our annual meeting.

I have had the privilege of recording the minutes of our monthly governing board meetings for the past 2 years. I would like to highlight a few of the biggest motions your governing board passed in 2025.

We began the year by purchasing a new Zoom computer from Badgerland Computers at a cost of \$499.99. This allows members of the governing board to attend meetings via Zoom or in person.

In February, we approved summer camp funding for students in grades 3-6, not to exceed \$1600. Video equipment was purchased to increase the ease of use and reliability of the streaming system at a cost not to exceed \$4,500. Amazon Prime credit cards replaced the current staff credit cards to take advantage of points earned toward future purchases.

In May, building expansion subcommittees were created. The Architect Selection Committee members are Emily McFarland – Chair, Matt Keever, Mike Kujawski, and Pastor Dave. Fundraising Committee members are Tom Seidl, Ron Sokovich, Betsy Gerike, and Pastor Dave.

In June, we adopted this project summary to establish a master plan and conceptual design that will assist the Church leadership in planning for future growth and fundraising to achieve that growth. The church is seeking a phased plan that will allow the church to incrementally make the necessary improvements. The current entrance/gathering space, worship space, and children's space are all at capacity, and improvements to those areas are the priority. It should be noted that the primary priority is the worship space, then the entrance/gathering space, and then the children's area, as funds are available. There is also a desire to identify future parking capacity and options. We also approved the agreement with Excel Engineering to develop a Master Plan and Conceptual/Schematic Design Plans at a cost not to exceed \$19,500 to be paid for from the Build the Future fund. We approved funds of \$2580 for LED lights and fixtures in the common area of the basement to be completed before Fall programming starts, as well as \$499 for a Knox box to meet the requirements of the City of Watertown for fire and/or police entry.

In July, we approved a contract with Ministry Essentials, Inc., for consulting services for the purpose of cultivating Biblical generosity and raising funds at a cost of \$34,500.

In August, a new laptop was approved for Pastor Dave at a cost not to exceed \$1000 from Badgerland Computer.

In December, the governing board resolved that it is a priority to have a balanced budget, with expenses not exceeding giving. Therefore, any fundraising campaigns for building will not commence until giving equals or exceeds expenses for one fiscal year. We are also going to pause paying Ministry Essentials. Rick Tortomasi has been appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of Justin Roberts.

Thank you for keeping your Governing Board in your prayers so that we may continue to reach the unreached and further His kingdom.

Sonya Vehlow  
River Valley Governing Board Secretary

## MISSIONS Report

### **Cornerstone of Grace- Michele Altman/Nancy Zimmerman**

Cornerstone of Grace is exceedingly grateful for the MANY people who donated for Christmas this year! This year we did something new, a gift card drive. Our families typically get way too many items at the last minute from people who love them and so with the gift cards, we will be able to save them for needs and events throughout the year!

We praise God that we met our 2025 budget!

Please continue to pray for Michele, who is still in New York finalizing everything with her aunt's estate and belongings. She has been gone since December 7th and no firm date to be back yet. That has been taxing on the staff as well.

As we look to the new year, we ask for prayer that we will be faithful to our call in the community, that the staff would grow more and more unified, and that lives would be changed by Christ Jesus!

### **Food to Go & Grow- Carol Edwards**

Food to go and grow continues to collect items for distribution in the schools and community. Thanks be to Jesus for the continued giving and provisions in this ministry.

### **Share the Love Kid's Outreaches & Operation Christmas Child**

The second year of Share the Love Kid's Outreaches pointed us in a new direction. It became clear that this community-wide gospel outreach to children, begun last year in 2024, should be shared on-site with the Boughton Street Neighborhood. The 192 apartments are home to hundreds of children. Many households are without transportation options to the Town Square. Without hesitation, the Wednesday Night Prayer Team at River Valley faithfully prayed along with other churches and groups. Many River Valley Family youth and adults of all ages joined with other mission-minded volunteers to share these outreaches on three Friday Movie Nights and on one all day Kid's K.W.E.S.T. event at Riverside Park. Ten decisions by children to believe and follow Jesus were made this last summer! Each decision is a new birth that only God can do and we are thrilled how God allowed the whole team to be the vessels for this transformation to begin. This led to the PB & J (Prayer Buddies & Jesus) Program birthed at the end of summer which continues throughout this '25-'26 school year with matched prayer buddies via email exchange for encouragement, support, and prayer.

More expansion plans for year-round outreach endeavors at Boughton Street are in motion and additional volunteer involvement in so many areas is appreciated!

## MISSIONS Report (Cont.)

Abundant thanks in 2025 to: ALL the River Valley Church Family! You are true shoebox packers. The Senior Fellowship Group and Trail Life Boys Youth Group were extra involved. Because of your generous response to construct, collaborate, complete, and carton, there were 230 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes filled with love and surprises and sent off with our prayers for the children around the world such as: Malawi, eSwatini, Zambia, Jamaica, Guyana, Central African Republic, Namibia, & Hard to Reach People Groups who are still receiving your gifts plus the greatest GIFT of all – the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Share the Love Kid's Outreaches and Operation Christmas Child would not be possible without the Holy Spirit's intervention, ongoing prayer support, and YOU! If you would like to be part of these ministries in 2026 please contact: Linda Oberbrunner, Share the Love Kid's Outreaches Coordinator [oberbrunnerlinda@gmail.com](mailto:oberbrunnerlinda@gmail.com) or 262-442-589

### **Global Missions:**

It was just confirmed that in April, Thailand IW Lee Her will be coming to River Valley for a Missions Emphasis Week.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cory Schultz  
Missions Elder

## TRUSTEE Report

2025 was a year of operational stability. While no major capital projects were initiated, ongoing minor repairs and routine facility maintenance were completed to ensure the continued functionality and safety of the building and grounds. Looking ahead to 2026, plans include the resealing of the parking lot to preserve surface integrity and extend its service life.

Additionally, we intend to develop and implement a more comprehensive, documented preventive maintenance program to support long-term asset management, improve efficiency, and reduce the likelihood of unplanned repairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd Grady

Lead Trustee

## DEACONS/DEACONESS Report

The Benevolent Committee of River Valley is made up of 8 people, and we strive to serve the Lord by being the "Hands and Feet of Jesus". We serve in many ways within the Church and in the community, much of which is behind the scenes. We take care of setting up Communion Sunday, setting up and serving funeral luncheons, we host the Adult Teen Challenge, setting up and serving for "Pie and Praise, and work at keeping the kitchen stocked and organized. As part of this ministry, we have established a set of teams with members names on them. From time to time (usually for funerals) you might be called on by a team leader and asked to provide a salad or dessert for various events. I would like to thank all those who respond when called on by our committee. These teams are a very 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 within the congregation and in the community. Typical requests would include assistance with rent, utility bills, car repairs, medical bills, funerals, gas cards and food cards. The financial report below reflects the activity for assistance for last year. The money we use for this is NOT part of the Church budget, but it comes only from your generous giving. This can be done by donating in the Benevolent Offering boxes on Communion Sunday or any time by using the church envelope and checking the line marked "Benevolent", or by designating it as part of your on-line giving. Again, Thank-you for your giving and please pray for wisdom and discernment as our committee makes decisions concerning these requests in the coming year.

Beginning Bal. Jan 1, 2025	\$ 9,231.27
Total giving for 2025	\$22,918.93
Total available funds	\$32,150.20
Total disbursements	\$26,868.05
Ending Bal.	\$ 5,282.15

Respectfully Submitted

John Flint, Head Deacon

# TREASURER Report

## 2025 Balances as of 12/31/25

- Checking (Ixonia Bank) \$78,873.81
- Money market (Ixonia Bank) \$10,893.02
- Reserve Brokerage Acct \$232,423.14
- Build the Future Brokerage Acct \$159,228.19
- Church debt \$0.00
  
- Property values
- o Church \$3,417,750 (03/2022)
- o Parsonage \$418,000 (08/2025)

## Total Giving and Expenses

- Total giving \$633,772
- Total expenses \$719,627 (-87,926)
  
- o Total given to General Fund \$513,516
- o Total given to Benevolent \$24,230
- o Total given to Great Commission \$45,272
- o Total given to Build the Future \$11,695
- o Total other ministries \$36,988
- o Interest earned on main checking \$2,071

## Historical Actual Expenses vs Proposed 2026 Budget

	2022 Expenses	2023 Expenses	2024 Expenses	2025 Expenses	2026 Budget
Compensation	242,581	280,274	289,372	314,590	274,921
Facility	144,706	124,200	119,653	111,025	168,381
Ministry	268,976	252,032	224,467	290,171	91,145
<b>Total</b>	<b>656,263</b>	<b>656,506</b>	<b>633,492</b>	<b>719,627</b>	<b>534,447</b>

## TREASURER Report (Cont.)

\*Decrease in budget is due to taking pass-through accounts (Benevolent, Great Commission and Build the Future) out of the budget and a percentage reduction in personnel.

\*\*2025 predicted budget was \$629,427. We spent about \$88,000 over that amount. \$38,000 of that was BTF spending. We also gave \$19,371 more to the GCF than we took in. This was due to a large gift at the end of 2024. We are taking steps to watch expenses very closely next year and will report to the congregation monthly in the bulletin.

### RVAC Accounts Overview

**Checking (Ixonia Bank)** – This is the main account used by the church. All funds received by the church go into this account. Bills are paid out of this account.

**Build the Future Money market (Ixonia Bank)** – . Monies designated BTF passes through checking to the money market. This account is used to pay Build the Future expenses.

**Reserve Brokerage Account** – Money can be transferred from this account to checking to pay bills when income falls short of expenses. In 2025, \$100,000 was transferred from this account to checking.

**Build the Future Brokerage Account** –Build the Future was started years ago to pay for any major capital improvements. In the past it was used to pay for the parking lot. This year we used it to pay for potential plans for building expansion and to hire a consultant regarding fund raising. That totaled up to about \$55,000.

**General Fund** – This is general giving to the church to cover expenses: Payroll, electric and water bills, etc.

**Benevolent** – The Benevolent Fund is administered by the Benevolent Committee. This is pass-through account, meaning money designated for Benevolent passes through the checking account and is deposited into benevolent's own checking account.

**Great Commission Fund** – Also a pass-through account, monies designated for the GCF are sent to the national C&MA and used to support missions. RVAC's goal is to contribute at least 10% of monies given to the General Fund to the GCF. In the past, if giving to the GCF falls short of the 10%, we have made up the difference at the end of the year. That was not necessary this year since our contribution to the GCF exceeded 10% of general giving.

**Build the Future** –. This is used to pay any BTF expenses not covered by funds in the Money Market account. If needed, money can be transferred from the BTF Brokerage account

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Seidl, Treasurer

Ron Sokovich, Assistant Treasurer