

Riverside Covenant Church
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
January 18, 2015

- I. **Opening Prayer:** Diane Kelley opened meeting in prayer at 1:00 p.m.
- II. **Financial Report:** Everette shared basic information using slides:
 - a. Income has not been affected by using seed spreader instead of passing baskets.
 - b. Received 52.2% of budget as of Dec. 31, 2014 and have spent 45.1% (of budget).
 - c. Briefly explained health insurance—had to change because it became illegal the way we were doing it. Health insurance more expensive.
 - d. Cash months on hand explained; currently have 2.7 to 2.8 mos. cash on hand.
 - e. No questions asked when given opportunity.
- III. **Sabbatical:** Everette shared about Dan's upcoming sabbatical.
 - a. Goal is education and renewal.
 - b. We are committed to him going on sabbatical this summer.
 - c. Plans are currently fluid; currently plan to stay in states: visit families and go out West.
 - d. Asks congregation to support Dan's sabbatical.
 - e. Several congregants agreed that 6 weeks is not long enough. Will consider in the future.
 - f. Money is in budget for pastor who might fill in.
- IV. **Leadership Openings:** Amy shared positions that needed to be filled.
 - a. Leadership Team—nominee is Julie Griffin.
 - b. Nominating Committee—nominee is Laurie Smoldt.
 - c. Pastoral Relations Committee—nominee is Rose Redington.
 - d. Biographies on each candidate pointed out.
 - e. Ballots given and collected after given time vote.
- V. **Children's Discipleship:** Dar shared update on Promiseland and nurseries.
 - a. Currently have 118 children, infants through 6th grade.
 - b. Nursery co-coordinated.
 - c. Always have room for more teachers who serve on a rotating schedule: teach for one month, have two months off.
 - d. Dar shared she teaches various classes to compensate for lack of teachers. Sometimes have to close classes.
 - e. Curriculum evaluation:
 - i. Have used Willow Creek's Promiseland curriculum for 14 years.
 - ii. Currently evaluating 4 or 5 other curriculums.
 - iii. Dar offered to show forms and explain process of evaluation for parents who would like to know more (need to go see her).
 - iv. Confident that a curriculum decision will be made by fall.
 - f. In 5th year of supporting Bekalu from Ethiopia (\$30/mos.).

- g. VBS had 80 to 90 kids; VBS offerings helped to fund clean water project.
 - h. Children filled 6 shoeboxes with donations from Promise Mart.
 - i. Two year olds and new K students received new Bibles.
 - j. Bethlehem Experience was new and well attended.
 - k. Offering spiritual discipleship training for parents in Feb. because parents have the biggest impact on their children; want to better equip parents.
 - l. Promiseland team consists of 7 members.
 - m. Dar expressed thanks to God for His faithfulness and for these team members.
- VI. **Youth Discipleship:** Becky shared update via video.
- a. Had to rethink how to engage the younger crowd as the youth lost many seniors last year and gained many 6th graders.
 - b. The *Journey* is an opportunity for the junior highers to engage in a walk through the Bible that is a 2 year program.
 - i. Provides good biblical foundation, esp. for unchurched.
 - ii. Helps kids stay engaged with the Word.
 - iii. Also, they go out for a treat each Wed. night.
 - c. Working on a separate engagement and discipleship for senior highers.
 - d. Sunday Nights:
 - i. For both junior and senior high.
 - ii. Have dinner, activities, and prayer time together.
 - iii. Often have a service activity such as making cookies for Jubilee, writing kind notes on sidewalk.
 - iv. Encouraged to invite friends to participate.
 - e. Special Events:
 - i. Winter ski retreat at Covenant Point between Christmas and New Year's.
 - 1. Focused on identity in Christ
 - 2. Chaperones shared testimonies of Jesus' power to transform them.
 - 3. Good discussions and fun activities had by all attendees.
 - ii. Work the Feast.
 - iii. Corn maze in the fall.
 - f. Goal is to live life with the kids and draw them deeper into relationship with Jesus.
- VII. **Facilities:** Dan shared brief history and birth of awareness of facility opportunities—in 2010 when we went to 2 services to accommodate growing congregation.
- a. Purchased land at corner of Klondike & Cumberland. Acreage is now about 18 acres.
 - b. Explained why we regularly talk about facilities:
 - i. Crowding downstairs with children.
 - ii. Small parking lot which will dwindle more with reconstruction of Lindberg Rd.
 - c. Explained that the facility is a tool to help us in ministry, and we, the people, are the church.
 - d. Mission and Vision will never become facility, but need to evaluate facility based on our mission and vision.
 - e. At no point will every Sunday include a facilities discussion.

- f. Shared need to have serious conversation and assessment of our needs and financial expectation.
- g. Dan shared slides on average attendance since 2004.
 - i. Average last year was 257.
 - ii. Average now upper 200s to 300.
- h. Arkor met with ministry leaders to assess needs.
- i. Slide posted and explained comparing current square footage to possible square footage in a possible new facility: 9865 sq. ft. to 36,592 sq. ft.
- j. Question asked: is square footage based on needs for 1 or 2 services?
 - i. Answer: Could start with one service, but could easily return to 2 services.
 - ii. Shared our strong commitment to build community within the church, so would likely go to 2 services so people aren't so anonymous.
- k. Building Program Cost: statement of probable cost: 3.7 to 6.5 million.
 - i. Cost varies with finishings.
 - ii. Cost not all inclusive.
- l. Slides shared showing possible layouts of building and position on the land.
- m. Explained how land is divided into 2 parcels and about low spot and need for dry pond for drainage on western parcel.
- n. 150 parking spots revealed on possible layout.
- o. Mentioned externals to build community with neighborhood: playground, gazebo, etc.
- p. Shared possible internal layout and highlighted that no decisions have been made!
- q. Shared outline of current sanctuary within possible sanctuary pictured.
 - i. Room would be no deeper than current sanctuary.
 - ii. Shape of room changed to accommodate more people but also to maintain intimacy.
 - iii. Various internal areas highlighted and briefly discussed:
 - 1. Administrative area
 - 2. Children's discipleship
 - 3. Nurseries
 - 4. Bathrooms
 - 5. Possible prayer room
 - 6. Gym
 - 7. Youth area
 - 8. Kitchen
- r. Explained how facility communicates values to neighbors.
 - i. Want to relate to them.
 - ii. Not extravagant but not a simple steel box.
 - iii. Examples shown (3D image) of what outside of building could look like.
- s. Dan said, "We need you to pray."
 - i. Building a facility is not in the Bible, so we must take this issue to the Lord, asking for His guidance.

- ii. Dan shared the process, the way we discern God's will together, is more important than the decision.
 - iii. Prepared to do that for as long as it takes.
 - iv. Highlighted: Seek unity together; must discern God's will together.
- t. Questions from congregation:
- i. Plans, the way they are proposed, how many acres do they encompass?
 - 1. About 9 with facility on the east side; then we could sell off west side.
 - ii. Committed to not extending ourselves more into debt. Would need quite of bit of cash on hand to start building. "Have quite a bit of debt" right now with land, church, and white house properties.
 - iii. Time frame?
 - 1. Dedicated to always moving forward, so not stalling.
 - 2. Hope to make decision in fall, but could decide we need more time.
 - 3. Not concerned about efficiency.
 - 4. Want to have clear, biblical calling to do something this big.
 - iv. Any financing through denomination?
 - 1. Yes, financing through denomination, which is a significantly lower rate; they would also help know how much money we need to start.
 - v. Selling this property?
 - 1. Mostly anecdotal interest; zoned residential and unlikely to change which is limiting; would need to be sold to church. Many church plants in university town. No current prospective buyers. Ideas vary about what it's worth.
 - vi. Time frame on construction, once it's started?
 - 1. Matt Riebsomer answered, "year to year and a half." Process of construction drawing is another process—6 to 10 months. Total would be a couple years at least.
 - vii. Layout is modular; can we do it in parts?
 - 1. Could wait on building gym, but that is the cheapest per sq. foot to build.
 - 2. Need children's area.
 - 3. Rick Johnson shared that it's very difficult to build in phases.
 - viii. Expansion?
 - 1. Some room to expand off every area.
 - 2. Sanctuary is not set-up to expand but could add a balcony, though that would be messy. No walls would need to move though.
 - 3. Cannot expand here as we are landlocked and would still have little parking. Shared expansion options here are cost prohibitive or not beneficial.
 - ix. Seat capacity of possible sanctuary?
 - 1. 300
 - x. Shower facilities near gym?

1. Yes, giving flexibility for Family Promise and other outreaches.
- xi. Pictures available on website?

1. Dan will work with Matt on that possibility.

- u. Need help discerning! We'll pray, discern and vote together.
- v. Will give prayer guides in the next week or so.
- w. Will find out more information and keep congregation informed.
- x. We'll share anything we know; we're willing to show.

VIII. **Reveal Survey:**

- a. Dan shared mission statement and importance of evaluating how well we are doing in discipleship.
- b. Mentioned annual in-house survey.
- c. This year doing an outside survey that will compare us to other churches: Reveal Spiritual Life Survey out of Willow Creek which will assess where we are in our faith walks.
- d. It is not a test, but should help us identify things that will help us grow in Christ.
- e. Shared "smorgasbord" of opportunities idea from a few years ago which seemed like a great idea but lacked a pathway for spiritual growth.
- f. Approach shared:
 - i. 80 questions
 - ii. Anonymous
 - iii. Will be compared to other churches and denominations around the nation and even the world.
 - iv. Will provide insights for church leaders on the spiritual health and the role the church plays in spiritual growth.
 - v. Measures spiritual maturity, spiritual growth needs, drivers and barriers to spiritual growth.
 - vi. All online and takes 25 to 35 minutes to be completed in one sitting.
 - vii. Will receive results 30 days after survey closes.
- g. Will share results and changes that need to be made in April/May.
- h. We're always assessing and trying to learn how to increasingly live into the things of God.
- i. Dan said, "Please take it seriously." Only helpful if we have a good sample size. All the data will really help us. Please fill it out!
- j. Deadline will be in early February. Will work on giving an incentive.

IX. **Election Results:** Stan shared election results: 40 ballots cast and all 3 nominees elected.

X. **Closing:** Dan thanks everyone for coming. Linda closes meeting in prayer at 2:18 p.m.