



"Life Together—With Jesus, With Each Other, With Our Neighbor"

Riverside Covenant Church Annual Report

August 8, 2021

Year in Review

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

-Hebrews 10:23

What a year we've had! Let's be honest. It's been rough - for us individually, for our families, for our community, for our church, and for the world. Even as many of us are feeling weary and weak, we know that He who promised continues to be faithful. That is especially true for Riverside. There is so much for us to be thankful for, including the arrival of a new senior pastor! Earlier this year, the pastoral search team identified Ara Koliantz as their clear choice for Riverside's next senior pastor. His call was enthusiastically confirmed by the congregation in June, and he begins his tenure Sunday, August 15. Welcome Ara, Maria, Zak, and Kaia!

Last fall, Riverside officially unveiled a refreshed mission statement: "Life Together—With Jesus, With Each Other, With Our Neighbor." Despite the challenges of the last year, Riverside continues to pursue that mission. Highlights of various ministries from the past year are provided below, and we look forward to the future with anticipation and renewed hope.

Adult Ministry and Missions

A rotation of gifted speakers has filled our pulpit since the beginning of 2021. Katrina Elliott, Crystal Kirgiss, Joey Mayfield, and Nicole McClurg provided faithful Bible teaching for us, both in person and online. January-May, the sermon series explored the gospel of Luke. The sermon series for the last few months has focused on the theme "What is God Like?", presenting various attributes of God. Crystal Kirgiss also led a Creative Bible Reading Workshop for Riverside in May, and the women's team organized "Walking in a Winter Wonderland With Wiverside Wonder Women" (no, that's not a typo) in February, encouraging Riverside women to enjoy God's creation at Camp Tecumseh.

Small groups and pods continue to meet with one another, both virtually and in person. Looking ahead, Riverside women are partnering with ECC in November for the annual women's retreat at Camp Tecumseh. While the pandemic limited mission trip opportunities this year, Riverside continues to support several domestic and international missionaries. Locally, Riverside's Brew Crew faithfully continued to provide laundry soap (so keep those clean milk jugs coming!). In December, Riversiders generously provided gifts for 20 children through Jubilee Christmas. As safety concerns about international travel diminish, we look forward to resuming Riverside's annual trip to our sister church, El Buen Pastor, in Ecuador.

RiverKids

In the fall of 2020, Miss Megan continually reached out to families and children to support their spiritual growth through the difficulties of the pandemic. In 2021, RiverKids has been following the Luke series and “What is God Like?” scriptures connected to weekly sermons. Children’s moments during the service every other week have allowed for engaging Bible teaching online and in person. In March, kids (and adults!) participated in an inaugural “Zoom Fun and Games” event, and weekly lessons downstairs on Sundays have included crafts, skits, Bible stories, and even some science experiments.

Youth

Even with the pandemic limitations, the youth were able to continue meeting safely once lockdown orders were lifted last summer. As many other student activities were limited or canceled, Riverside’s youth programming, led by Mike Tetrault, provided stability and consistency that wasn’t available otherwise. The highlight of this summer came for eight youth who unplugged from the usual distractions to experience community and rest in God’s presence at Wilderness Trail in Virginia. Throughout the year, a group of seven students (grades 7-9) worked through the Old Testament survey in the Evangelical Covenant Denomination’s Journey curriculum. Another six students (grades 9-12) completed a year of Odyssey, a student-driven program that dove into a wide range of topics from Bible study methods to human sexuality to racial justice. A new year of these classes will be starting in late August.

Worship

The worship ministry's biggest undertaking since last summer has been establishing a routine and infrastructure for livestreaming. They, headed by Mike Tetrault, have gotten into a solid rhythm, thanks to many volunteers working in the tech booth, on stage, and on the website. They have also been progressing towards more in-person attendance, following safety guidelines. Earlier this year, for Good Friday and Ash Wednesday, they teamed up with ECC to offer opportunities for worship during Holy Week. On Christmas Eve, Riverside offered our first virtual Christmas Eve service, giving families a chance to gather for a special service.

Finances

2020-2021			
Income	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
General Fund Income	\$ 523,260	\$ 306,035	58.5%
Rental Income	\$ 2,150	\$ 4,300	
Total Income	\$ 525,410	\$ 310,335	
Expense		Actual	% of Budget
200 - General Office	\$ 7,650	\$ 5,987	78.3%
300 - General Property	\$ 54,640	\$ 31,965	58.5%
400 - General Ministry	\$ 107,260	\$ 43,621	40.7%
500 - General Community	\$ 11,800	\$ 5,037	42.7%
600 - Staff Comp & Benefits	\$ 291,161	\$ 197,320	67.8%
700 - Loan	\$ 52,900	\$ 51,314	97.0%
Total Expense	\$ 525,410	\$ 335,244	63.8%
Net Income	\$ (0)	\$ (24,909)	

Riverside ended the fiscal year with overall expenses above giving. Reductions in staff since January combined with spending limitations in a variety of areas have allowed expenses to remain below giving for the last several months. Riverside’s leadership team received approval from the congregation to put land at Cumberland and Klondike up for sale, and we now have accepted an offer, pending approval of zoning changes.

Proposed Budget 2021-2022

Income	2021-2022			
	Budget	Actual	% of Budget	% of change
100 · General Fund Income	\$ 390,053	\$ 16,770		-34%
150 · Rental Income	\$ -			
Total Income	\$ 390,053	\$ 16,770		-34.7%
Expense	Budget	Actual	% of Budget	% of change
200 · General Office	\$ 7,000	\$ 740	1.8%	-9%
300 · General Property	\$ 46,709	\$ 2,154	12.0%	-17%
400 · General Ministry	\$ 67,180	\$ 2,238	17.2%	-60%
500 · General Community	\$ 7,700	\$ 244	2.0%	-53%
600 · Staff Comp & Benefits	\$ 208,564	\$ 11,273	53.5%	-40%
700 · Loan	\$ 52,900	\$ 4,245	13.6%	0%
Total Expense	\$ 390,053	\$ 20,893		-34.7%
Net Income	\$ 0	\$ (4,124)		

2019-2020	2020-2021
\$ 573,700	\$ 390,053
\$ 2,000	\$ -
\$ 596,200	\$ 390,053
Budget	Budget
\$ 7,650	\$ 7,000
\$ 84,665	\$ 46,709
\$ 122,412	\$ 67,180
\$ 21,790	\$ 7,700
\$ 280,479	\$ 208,564
\$ 58,900	\$ 52,900
\$ 575,896	\$ 390,053

