



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

Riverside Covenant Church Annual Report

May 15, 2022

Year in Review (Pastor Ara)

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who trusts in Him.

-Psalm 34:8

Riverside, what a blessing it has been to be with you for these past 9 months. I am so thankful for the many of you who helped make our transition into West Lafayette and Riverside smooth and seamless. From meals, moving, unpacking, and caring for our family, we have been blessed to call Riverside home. It has been wonderful getting to know many of you in person and over phone calls this past year, and I am excited for God's leading of our congregation this next year.

We had an exciting past 12 months at the church! This past year we celebrated new life in Christ as we baptized three individuals both in church, and at our yearly river service at Fort Ouiatenon. In November we welcomed 8 individuals into our church in membership during our worship service. As we rolled in 2022, we are taking this year to "Taste and See" that God is good in all things in the life of our church.

As we move into our new fiscal year, I am so incredibly excited to see where God will lead us next. He has remained faithful to us throughout change, transition, speed bumps, and new life. I am thankful to be called here to Riverside and to be a part of God's work at the corner of Salisbury and Lindberg.

Adult Ministry and Missions

A rotation of gifted speakers continued to fill our pulpit this past year. Katrina Elliott, Crystal Kirgiss, Joey Mayfield, and Nicole McClurg provided faithful Bible teaching for us, both in person and online. At Pastor Ara's arrival in August of 2021, we spent nine weeks walking through the book of First John together as we learned more about God's love for us. In November, we celebrated All Saints' Day and Christ the King Sunday before the joyous season of Advent where we looked at the birth story of Jesus in the gospel of Luke. In 2022, we have been slowly moving through Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5-7.

Small groups and pods continue to meet with one another, both virtually and in person. The Riverside women partnered with ECC in November for the annual women's retreat at Camp Tecumseh, while the men joined with ECC for a men's retreat in May at Twin Lakes Camp. Riverside continues to support several domestic and international missionaries. Locally, Riverside's Brew Crew faithfully continued to provide laundry soap every month to Lafayette Transitional Housing. In December, Riversiders generously provided gifts for 27 children and teens through Jubilee Christmas.

RiverKids

Children's Moments continued once a month during the regular service. Each week, children would worship through singing with their families and were then invited downstairs. RiverKids was divided into two classrooms for age-appropriate lessons, games, crafts, and activities. The children learned the same Bible passage as the adults. Each week a link called RiverKids at Home was provided in the Weekend Recap which was an outline of the RiverKids lesson to help facilitate discussions at home, whether the family attended in person or not. The plan is to continue all of this into the coming year.

Youth

The past year of youth ministry has seen substantial changes to our staffing, but thanks to our caring community, students have still been served and loved through the change. In October, Mike transitioned to part-time youth, and he has continued working with the youth on Tuesday nights with the Journey and Odyssey groups. Journey is a group of 7th-9th graders who have completed a New Testament survey this year as part of the ECC's discipleship/confirmation program. Odyssey is a group of 9th-12th graders who have either completed Journey or who have signed on as high schoolers. In Odyssey, students have been continuing the discipleship path that was started in Journey, reading books, examining Scripture, and discussing what God is doing in their lives. The Sunday youth meetings continued under the direction of Amanda Braun, and we had a couple new leaders join the team: Rob Stahelin and Ross Braun. The youth group met weekly, with some special events mixed in! Winter Camp, for example, was finally able to happen once again with Amanda and Richard McClurg taking students to Covenant Harbor. Even though the Brauns have now moved to Kansas, we are thankful for the continued support of our youth leaders, especially Fizz Moller, who has continued serving the youth through all these changes. Additionally, the Brownings are planning a summer excursion for high school students, and we are so thankful for all the ways that our community has stepped up to care for our 6th-12th graders.

Worship

This year has been both challenging and exciting for our time in worship ministry. The biggest shift has been seeing the change from primarily livestream attendance to primarily in-person attendance. I am thankful for the privilege of being able to gather together, and the added benefit is that we have a solid livestreaming infrastructure in place that we can use for the future. At present, the size of our worship team is still smaller than in the past, but the participants are well-trained and are regularly engaged. Our greatest need for the past couple years has been for audio techs, and we have had some new faces in the sound booth that have helped alleviate this need! Ara's arrival was also helpful in establishing more rhythm and consistency. For example, since we know what to expect in longer-term preaching series, Bobby Dorn has been instrumental in helping develop visual materials to supplement each sermon series. We have also been successful with replacing some aging equipment (like the projector), but for the future we will still need to consider how to update the main audio connections on the stage, which are slowly losing viability. While there are some considerations to bear in mind for the future, I am optimistic that we are in a good position as we move forward.

Finances

2021-2022 Budgeted Amount \$390,053

Year-to-Date

Actual Giving = \$246,013

Actual Expenses = \$234,226

Net Positive = +\$11,788

Riverside is projecting to end the fiscal year with giving ahead of expenses. We give thanks to God for his provision this year, and for your faithfulness in giving to the mission of God at Riverside. This amount does not include the income from the sale of the land in February 2022. From that income we were able to pay off all current debt on the present church property and are left with just over \$250,000 in proceeds. The stewardship of these proceeds will be discussed at the annual meeting

Proposed Budget 2022-2023

	Total
Income	
General Fund Giving	\$298,270.00
Total Income	\$298,270.00
Expenses	
Staff Wages	\$149,553.20
Staff Benefits	\$47,514.80
Training/Travel	\$2,000.00
General Insurance	\$9,000.00
Maintenance/Repair	\$26,445.00
Equipment	\$5,550.00
Utilities	\$13,953.00
Administrative Supplies	\$4,212.00
Program Supplies	\$13,799.00
Missionary Support	\$23,243.00
Denominational Support	\$3,000.00
Total Expenses	\$298,270.00
Variances	\$0.00

The proposed budgeted giving of \$298,270 is nearly identical to our projected fiscal year-end total of \$295,215.