

January 20, 2013

Dear Riverside:

Over the past several years Riverside has not only experienced significant spiritual growth, but numerical growth as well. Riverside's staff and Leadership Team have worked hard to adapt to the growing number of people that consider Riverside their church community. One area in which Riverside's leadership has been particularly vigilant is in assessing our current facility usage and our potential needs into the future.

Riverside's staff and Leadership Team have talked regularly about how best to utilize our current facilities and the congregation has made several decisions over the years to meet our space needs. Riverside is again in a place where we want to plan for the future and ensure that we are faithfully providing the facility tools needed to support and enhance Riverside's ministries.

In recent months, the Riverside staff and Leadership Team have been in prayerful discussions evaluating all of the various facility options that Riverside has. No final decisions can be made without congregational discussion and approval, but Riverside's leadership has been examining our various options in light of Riverside's mission statement and God's vision for the Church.

The attached document is a summary of the three clearest options that the Riverside leadership believes that we have. The document is intended to highlight that all options allow us to live out our mission, to love God and others, and to impact more people with the Gospel. The document also highlights how each option might carry a different vision and strategy into the future.

We realize this summary is not perfect, but we want to keep you updated on our discussions. We also want to hear from you. Please let us know what you think and if you have any ideas that might be helpful for Riverside's leadership as we continue to discern future facility options together.

You can contact the Riverside Leadership Team at lt@rcovenant.org or contact Pastor Dan in the office at 765.463.4600.

Serving Jesus Together,

Riverside Leadership Team
Riverside Staff

Narrowed List of Options – December 2012

***All options allow us to love God and love others.
All options allow us to bring more people to Christ.***

Riverside Covenant Church exists to glorify God by becoming disciples of Jesus Christ who share life in authentic community and transform the world through God's love, truth and power.

Three Or More Worship Services in Current Facility

Potential Vision: Riverside's mission is best accomplished in our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and community. Our building is only where we meet together once a week. Our small building will communicate our ministry happens outside the doors.

Verse: "the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands."
(Acts 7:48)

Motto: Less space, more ministry.

Strategy: Multiply current congregation into multiple services at the same facility.

Examples: We would hold VBS in different neighborhoods in Tippecanoe County.

Smaller fellowship meals would be held by combining different groups of people together at different times.

Weaknesses: stretches human resources, scheduling difficulties, unlikely that we could have Promiseland for all services, no additional space for adult formation

Multiple Facilities in Different Locations

Potential Vision: Riverside's mission is best accomplished by gathering in as many neighborhoods as possible all over Tippecanoe County. Our buildings are neighborhood gathering spots. Our multiple buildings will communicate our ministry goes to the people rather than expects them to come to us.

Verse: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."
(John 1:14)

Motto: More spaces, more ministry.

Strategy: Multiply current congregation into multiple services at different facilities throughout Tippecanoe County.

Examples: We would hold a separate VBS in every Riverside location.

Moderately sized fellowship meals would be held in each location.

Weaknesses: double up on many resources, staff responsibilities split between locations, could be expensive, potential confusion for community

New Facility (new construction or purchase existing facility)

Potential Vision: Riverside's mission is best accomplished in one place that provides space for large gatherings of adults and kids, adequate parking, and ministry flexibility. Our building is the hub of our ministries. Our building will communicate our ministry through architecture, art, and space for worship, teaching, fellowship, children and youth, and service to the community.

Verse: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts."
(Acts 2:42,46)

Motto: More space, more ministry.

Strategy: Multiply current congregation in a new facility that accommodates more people.

Examples: We would hold a VBS in one Riverside location.

Large fellowship meals would be held in one location.

Weaknesses: high financial cost, move from existing neighborhood, potential mission distraction during building process, easier to stay anonymous

Options discussed, but eliminated from consideration at this time:

~~Church plant~~ – may be something God calls us to in the future, but it does not address our current facility considerations; church plants do not slow or solve growth of planting church

~~Monthly gathering~~ – very difficult to redefine Riverside structural vision at this point; this strategy needs to be implemented at church planting point

~~Harder membership~~ – contrary to Riverside character and identity

~~Do nothing~~ – not missional and ignores what God seems to be doing through Riverside