
worship • community • outreach



Riverwood Community Chapel
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sunday worship: 9:00, 10:35 am

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A large version of the Riverwood Community Chapel logo, featuring the text "RIVERWOOD" in a large, bold, sans-serif font above "COMMUNITY CHAPEL" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The text is white and set against a dark, oval background with a subtle geometric pattern.

RIVERWOOD
COMMUNITY CHAPEL

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WALK
OF
FAITH

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to
do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power
that is at work within us,
to him be glory
in the church
and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations,
for ever and ever!
Amen.

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Faith Initiative #4:

The community of Riverwood will align and increase outreach efforts.

Definition of Outreach:

- Outreach is any activity that presents the claims of the Gospel to an audience in a way they can understand and affords an opportunity for response, or an activity that meets some spiritual, material, emotional need for the purpose of developing disciples and relieving suffering – our Great Commission and Commandment. This is accomplished by reaching out globally and locally through going, caring, and sharing.

What does this accomplish?

- Over the past several years the global outreach of Riverwood has developed several strategic priorities of geography and ministry type. Over the past two years the local outreach activities of Riverwood have increased significantly. “Aligning” will build on these developments, creating unified Riverwood outreach undertakings that are strategic, coordinated, and balanced. “Increasing” will insure that the community of Riverwood will do more going, more caring, and more sharing.

How is it measured?

- The creation of an Outreach Commission that will have unified oversight of all global and local outreach efforts. The Outreach Commission will implement, monitor, budget, and direct the outreach initiatives.
- The development of strategic partnerships with other churches and ministries, both locally and globally.
- The creation of undertakings to address issues of poverty and suffering in our surrounding communities.
- The development of a faith-based resource model which increases our ability to go, care and share.
- We are increasing our going, our caring and our sharing.

A Walk of Faith: 2008-2010

Riverwood Community Chapel exists to glorify God by proclaiming Christ and developing lifelong followers of Him.

It is from this mission statement that we receive our guiding priorities of Worship, Community and Outreach (Matthew 22:34-40). To pursue our mission the Session and Pastoral leadership of Riverwood Community Chapel in concert with God have developed this plan, this “Walk of Faith” to guide our ministries over the next three years. This plan has been developed through continued prayer and dialogue with the community of Riverwood.

The purpose of this document is to:

- describe where we are as a church;
- define our preliminary assumptions;
- present new faith initiatives that reinforce our priorities and pursue our mission;
- set measurable goals to measure progress by the end of 2010.

The Session and Pastoral leadership recognize that a step of faith of this magnitude is not powered by man. Only through the Spirit of God will any of this be accomplished. The Session and Pastoral leadership also believe that this plan is God’s initial response to our continual request for Him to use us as instruments for His glory, by giving us a task that is impossible to accomplish, unable to be completely comprehended and difficult to maneuver through without His guiding hand and assistance. It is our desire for these things to be accomplished so that the *surpassing greatness of God’s power* will be evident in our lives and in our church and throughout our local communities (*cf. 2 Corinthians chapter 4*).

BACKGROUND:

There is any number of metaphors we could employ to describe the history of Riverwood. When we met at Kent Roosevelt High School it was like that first full-time job out of college or High School. We lived in rented facilities, we were young, everything was new and we were literally making it up as we went along. We created budgets with magic markers while eating pizza and watching the World Series. Then we built a building of our own, like a young couple transitioning from renters to homeownership. With that transition came family growth and added responsibility. We’ve lived in our community for sixteen years and for nine years we’ve lived in our first home. It has been a good experience the names and faces are many. The stories of God’s grace being poured out through us are many as well.

CURRENT SITUATION:

With the departure of our founding Pastor and the arrival of Brian Bales the metaphor of a family life-cycle is not sufficient, so we'll employ a new one – a literary metaphor. Over the past two years Riverwood has written the closing chapters of Volume 1. During that same time we have written the prologue to Volume 2. We believe the following initiatives, these steps in our *Walk of Faith*, are the opening pages of the first chapter of our second volume.

PLANNING CONTEXT:

In formulating these faith initiatives it is helpful to list these preliminary assumptions:

- Our church community has stabilized and will start a process of numerical and greater spiritual growth over the next three years.
- Giving from our church community will be sufficient to meet Riverwood Community Chapel's ongoing ministry and budget needs.
- No program or personnel at Riverwood Community Chapel is (in itself) sacrosanct. In an effort to become better aligned with our priorities and mission, each ministry area and staff member will undergo an annual review.
- All ministry budgets and future giving will be aligned to assist in accomplishing the priorities set forth in this plan.
- We will continue the practice of prayer and dialogue which brought us this plan. In light of this, we must be prepared to adjust direction and/or emphasis as we implement our ministry priorities as led by God.

Faith Initiative #1:

The community of Riverwood will reduce our debt by 50% by year's end 2010.

What does this accomplish?

- This will significantly decrease the percentage of Riverwood's budget that is committed to fixed costs freeing funds for use in current and future ministry initiatives which reinforce our priorities and mission.

How is it measured?

- The elimination of \$700,000 of debt by the end of 2010.

Faith Initiative #2

The community of Riverwood will transform to a church of Life Groups.

Definition of a Life Group:

- Life Groups, consisting of 10-20 people, are designed to make our large church smaller. Life Groups meet on a regular basis to participate in the priorities of Riverwood (worship, community, outreach) through diligent study of His Word, sharing of lives, and serving those in the surrounding communities and beyond.

What does this accomplish?

- Life Groups will become the lifeline for the individual to Riverwood and vice-versa, so as to improve our ability to accomplish our mission in our local community and improve the communication between the leadership and the people of Riverwood.

How is it measured?

- Within the next three years 50% of Riverwood's Sunday morning adult attendance will be actively engaged in a Life Group.

Faith Initiative #3:

The community of Riverwood will invest in the improvement and development of our Campus.

What does this accomplish?

- This will facilitate growth and connection to our surrounding communities, and continue our commitment to excellence in all that we do.

How is it measured?

- The raising of \$200,000 for improvement and development projects. These will be done without incurring additional debt.

Projects to be researched:

- Create additional signage facing Stow on Fairchild.
- Develop an entrance/exit to Newcomer Road.
- Improvements to Worship Center and Lobby.
- Improve parking lot by resurfacing.
- Develop a playground for Riverwood and our surrounding communities.
- Create a Prayer and contemplative area.

(These are among the projects to be researched; this list is neither inclusive nor exhaustive, that is, improvement and development projects may include some of these examples but not all of them, as well projects may also include others not listed.)