

Riverside Presbyterian Church
Minutes of Stated Congregational Meeting
February 17, 2021
Riverside Church, Sterling VA

Congregation met via Zoom and in-person at Riverside.

Opening prayer – Becky Lemke opened the meeting in prayer at 7 pm.

Election and of Elders

(Preparation of Elders: Following the Nominating Committee’s process of discernment, Brian Clark met with each candidate to discuss their faith stories. Prospective elders also met with current elders to discuss the role.)

Jenn Reynolds explained the nominating process, as well as the requirements for and responsibilities of elders. Candidates were asked to share their faith journeys with the congregation, including 1) Who has been instrumental in introducing the love of God to you? 2) When did God’s love for you in Jesus Christ become real? 3) Who is Jesus Christ to you? The congregation heard from

- Kourtney Haake
- Jony Bell
- Eric Kruttschnitt

Fred Puhan moved that the congregation elect Kourtney, Jony and Eric as Riverside elders. Becky Lemke seconded the motion. The congregation voted to elect the new elders.

Highlights of 2020 and Plans for 2021

Brian Clark reviewed highlights of mission and priorities sent to the congregation via email on Feb. 16:

In 2020 we needed to pivot, yet stay focused on our mission and priorities to

- Care for those in need
 - Creating Ridgetop Kitchen serving meals 3 days a week
 - Expanding Feed-a-Student
- Proclaim the gospel
 - To our children
 - With online Sunday School
 - Backyard SonRise
 - Home packs to help families disciple their children

- To our students
 - With in-person youth group, socially distanced
 - Parking lot summer camps
 - Hosting students to do their online classes 3 days a week
 - Socially distanced in person weekly small groups and youth group
- To our community and the world
 - Through parking lot worship
 - Creating online worship
- Make disciples in small groups and missionary discipleship groups

In 2021 we plan to continue to care for those in need, proclaim the gospel, and make disciples. We have put together a budget that allows us to fulfill that mission. (Note: In November, Brian shared that 2020 giving was \$1,000 per week above the 2019 weekly amount. For the rest of November 2020 weekly giving dropped by \$1,000, finishing the year with \$560,684 given in General Offering, \$7,000 ahead of 2019. The 2021 budget takes that revenue difference into account.)

Some changes from last year in the 2021 budget to fulfill our mission:

- Jesse Colon is full-time as a worship and student leader, instead of being 1/3 time in Ridgetop Coffee and Tea with the remainder in worship/student ministry.
- Shannon Kiser has been added as part-time pastor of connection.
- We are considering having a weeklong summer middle and high school program at Ligonier Camp in Pennsylvania, where we believe we can do a safe, outdoor camp. This would be in place of beach week or canceling summer programs altogether.
- We are hiring Ruth Merced, who was our SonRise Camp guest speaker in 2018, as a staff member for six weeks to run Backyard SonRise camps, similar to last summer's programs, but with larger groups if possible.
- Continue online and parking lot worship. We are praying that by the time summer heat hits, it will be safe to move in-person worship inside.

Worship plans: Brian addressed the question of when we might get back to worship in the sanctuary. Because Riverside made the decision not to overspend by building a large sanctuary, it's difficult to social distance indoors in unusual circumstances such as COVID. Consequently, we expect to continue online and outdoor worship for a while longer. Plans are underway for parking lot worship in cars for Easter. Our prayer is to be able to safely resume indoor worship before the weather gets hot. In the meantime, we will continue to build engagement and connection through small groups and mission discipleship groups.

Ash Wednesday

Jesse Colon and Edwin Andrade led an Ash Wednesday worship service

Ordination of New Elders

- Edwin asked Kourtney, Jony and Eric the questions for ordination and they responded in the affirmative.
- Fred Puhan asked the congregation if they accepted and agreed to support Kourtney, Jony and Eric as elders, and the congregation agreed.
- The new elders knelt and Edwin and the congregation prayed for them.

Closing

- The congregation sang "Bless the Lord Oh My Soul."
- Brian Clark led a closing prayer.
- The meeting ended at 8:55 pm.