

The River View

Special Edition

Riverside

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
405 Riverside Ave. N., PO Box 139

July 28, 2010

Is there change in Riverside's forecast?

As some of you are aware, we had a vision meeting last week to discuss the direction that God would have us go as a congregation. Above all, what God has clearly put on our hearts is to become an increasingly more missional church. A missional church fulfills the great commission (Mt 28) as a congregation by placing a high emphasis of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ both far and near. While we remain committed to 10% of our budget going to missions, we also realize there is much more to be done to reach the community around us. We've created a long list of factors that may play a role in helping us to fulfill the great commission here locally in our community. We only had time to discuss a few of the factors, and while we're aware that there are many important things yet to be considered, we wanted to communicate with you the direction our session is leaning in a few areas. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOUR FEEDBACK as we seek to discern God's will with regards to the following.

Coffee - In order to create more of a gathering atmosphere in our information area and to help visitors feel welcome and at ease it was suggested that we offer coffee in addition to the information in the overflow room off the sanctuary. The coffee would be offered before the service with the understanding that people may choose to take it into the sanctuary for the service. To see this through, we're looking at adding some type of serving 'bar' and also possibly a cup-holder option to the pews. After short discussion among the session, there was general consensus that this was a good idea.

Service Time - Of course, one of the factors people consider when choosing a church (or whether or not to go to church) is the time of the service. While the majority of our session expressed a *personal* desire to keep the service time the same or to even have it earlier, they also recognized that from a *missional* standpoint we probably need to move it to a later time. The rationale is that un-churched folks are likely sleeping in now on Sundays, and 9 AM is likely an unnecessary road-block for them, especially those couples with children in the home. ***It is being proposed that the service time be changed to 10:00 AM.*** This is still on the early side compared to most churches that only offer one service. We understand that for some of you this change, were it to occur, would be an inconvenience - again we welcome your input in this area.

Job Opportunities - Perhaps you didn't know, but in an attempt to be missional we are trying to fill *two part-time jobs* here at Riverside.

1) Worship Leader - we've identified music as a major factor in regards to people's experience at church. In light of that, we've created a part-time position for a worship leader. For more details about the job description please visit our website - www.riversideepc.org.

2) Kingdom Kids Worker - we're also looking to hire someone who can consistently provide child care for our kingdom Kids (Ages 1-3) during the service. At the same time, we hope to relieve some of the strain on our volunteers by only needing one additional volunteer down there per Sunday instead of two.

Facility - One small component of people's experience here at Riverside is the facility. We're very excited about the changes that have taken place over the last year or so, in addition to those, the fellowship hall is being painted (along with a few other updates) in the next few weeks. However, we continue to discuss areas in need of improvement; two major components were brought up at

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our meeting. First, we would love to find some cost effective ways to update the exterior of our facility while gaining more attention from the high traffic count each day. Secondly, we are working on getting bids to update our downstairs restrooms - the biggest eyesore in our facility.

Items not yet discussed - Here are a few items that have been mentioned but not yet discussed. If there are other factors to consider, please let us know.

- Programs
- Advertising
- Outreach Events
- Preaching topics/quality

*When it comes to being a missional church, there is no substitute for our members praying for and reaching out to other people in their lives.

In Christ, with much love and appreciation,

Riverside's Session

SPECIAL EDITION

Visioning Meeting Update

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