

Riviera Presbyterian Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Reporting on 2023
February 11, 2024
Zoom Meeting ID: 829-1129-7118 Passcode: 056833

AGENDA

INSTRUCTIONS

For those in person: For questions, please raise your hand.

For those on Zoom: You must use your computer or device with a web camera. Calling in without video for this meeting will not be possible as we do not permit that at in-person meetings. You must show yourself on the screen to participate, and your first and last name must be on the bottom of your screen – no name slide or picture is accepted.

For questions, please raise your hand in front of your face, and the moderator will call your name.

For Voting, please raise your hand in front of your face. Please keep your hand raised until all votes are counted and you are instructed to place your hand down.

The CHAT will not be monitored.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Melanie Marsh, Moderator

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Susan Mazzola, Clerk of Session

PURPOSE FOR MEETING

Moderator

1. COMMITTEES OF SESSION REPORTS

Written reports can be found in the online packet or at the back table.

2. OVERVIEW OF 2024 BUDGET

Kathy Stults

Line item budget available upon request to Diana at rivierapresfinance@gmail.com

3. DREAMS & VISIONS FOR 2024

Moderator

Video from Rev. Geoff McLean, Associate General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Tropical Florida

4. MISSION STUDY

Susan Mazzola

BENEDICTION

Rev. Melanie Marsh

ANNUAL REPORT FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE –2023

The Congregational Care team consists of lay members and staff tasked with identifying and responding to the needs of our members.

We have a prayer email ministry that Bonnie Hannemann maintains. If you are interested in receiving these emails, please send a request to bfah@me.com. This is also where you would send any prayer requests.

We are fortunate to have many members who serve each other when a need arises.

We provide food bags to the food insecure with the help of our Food Pantry.

We also will call, visit, or help any members who are in crisis or dealing with a difficult situation to the best of our ability.

In September and October Karen Collier led a class studying a book on Empathy. This provided tools for our members to help others going through difficult times.

We are planning a new study for 2024 for helping people going through grief and loss. This will occur in April and May 2024.

Congregational Care consists of Rev. Melanie Marsh, Elder Karen Collier, and Bonnie Hannemann. Sandy Barrow sends out cards on behalf of the church and Barbie Prieto is our point of contact to identify needs.

You can contact us through the church at (305) 666-8586 or by email at rivierachurch@gmail.com.

You can email Rev Melanie Marsh at mail to: rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com

Karen Collier can be emailed at kc33134@aol.com or kdellcoll@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Collier – Elder and Chair of Congregational Care

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR *FELLOWSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
COMMITTEE 2023** *Name change effective October 2022

Co-Chairs Fellowship/Christian Education: Karen Collier and Carol Thompson

Staff: Melanie Marsh, Barbie Prieto, Anna Rosas

Committee Members: Amy Bogardus-Valdivia, Butch Sorenson, Ampy Hernandez, Lisa Torchut, Kathy Stults, Laura Fothergill

This Riviera committee is open to anyone interested in Fellowship – creating and supporting events to bring the Riviera community together or anyone interested in Youth and Adult Christian Education –developing ideas, planning, teaching, and/or participating in ongoing and diverse educational and growth opportunities for Riviera.

Below is a brief synopsis of Riviera’s events and educational opportunities during 2023.

Ongoing

Youth & Adult Christian Education, all CE education was held as scheduled:

Sunday School for Youth, (during worship) children in service on the first Sunday of the month; *Young Adult Book Club* – with Amy Bogardus-Valdivia - Wonder
Women’s Monthly Study Group, 3rd Wednesday, Led by Karen Collier and Valerie Deville.

Theology Uncorked, 2nd Sunday, monthly at Unseen Creatures Brewing & Blending
Reading to CCC Children every Wednesday Melanie/Anna

Spiritual Disciplines class - Anna

Empathy class – Karen/Melanie

Free Lending Library available by the east parking lot

Fellowship

Holy Grounds every week except the first Sunday & *First Sunday Lunch*

Intergenerational event – Game night

Beach Clean Up – Matheson Hammock

Souper Bowl event

Blessing of the Animals

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Beth Am

Banned Books reading and discussion w/Melanie

Frankenstein Halloween event

Decorating the church for Christmas

Longest Night Soup Supper & Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Cookie decorating for Christmas & Decorating pumpkins at Halloween

Respectfully Submitted

Co-chairs Karen Collier and Carol Thompson

ANNUAL REPORT FOR INVESTMENT COMMITTEE 2023

Active members: Cris Sweeny Chair, Kathy Stults - Secretary, Janet Peterson,

Non-voting members: Susan Mazzola, Rev. Melanie Marsh

Financial Advisor: Dennis Coral, Coral Wealth Management

Ameritrade accounts switched to Charles Schwab accounts through Coral Wealth Management in September.

December 31, 2023 funds balance

Account name	Balance 01/01/23	12/31/23
RPC Investment Fund	\$707,524	\$791,373
Firehouse Fund	\$731,440	\$798,929
RPC Reserve Fund.	\$ 91,555	\$3,575.
Totals	\$1,529,457	\$1,593,877

Withdrawals for 2023 (from cash reserve funds goal balance is \$200,000)

January \$20,000 insurance and operating expenses

February. \$20,000 insurance, payroll, operating expenses, 8K to finish AC installation

April \$20,000 operating expenses

May. \$20,000 operating expenses, payroll

August. \$26,000 insurance for July & August

October. \$30,000. Payroll, insurance, Board of Pensions

December \$20,000 to cover year end unbudgeted deficits of \$11,000;(approved by Session 12/12/23) payroll, Board of Pensions, FPL, water, waste management

Total of \$156,000 from investments 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Stults, Investment Committee Chair

ANNUAL REPORT FOR STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2023

- We completed the fall Stewardship Campaign for 2023, with weekly “Why I Give” worship reflections by church members.
- Riviera has continued building usage agreements with multiple external partners. The Child Care Center, YES Institute, Greater Miami Youth Symphony, Spanish Camp.
- 2023 total pledges/donations remained roughly stable for 2022 levels.
- Accountant Freddy Montenegro retired, and church member Diana Florez took his place in June. Thanks to Diana for so many ways, she has looked at increasing revenues, updating usage agreements, and finding more economical ways to reduce operating costs.
- Phone and fire security updated.
- Center greens area had new sod and bushes planted thanks to a grant to the CCC.
- Investment withdrawals were \$156,000 to cover budget deficits throughout the year. However, the year-end balance in investments was \$1,593,877 (12/31/23), which was higher than the year's beginning balance of \$1,529,457. (1/1/2023).

We meet monthly via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm.

Chair: Kathy Stults

Members: Butch Sorenson, John German, Rey Prieto,

Staff Advisors: Barbara Prieto, Melanie Marsh, Diana Florez, Glenda Beltran



ANNUAL REPORT WORSHIP/MARKETING COMMITTEE 2023

This year brought a renewed sense of consistency, interaction, and depth to the growth of Riviera's spiritual life. Rev. Melanie Marsh as Riviera's transitional pastor for the last year and half has led the worship planning committee with a variety of sermon series that have both supported and highlighted passions, missions, and important values of the Riviera community. The committee continues to work alongside church worship staff to bring creative, relevant, and challenging worship experiences to the congregation. Aside from lectionary-based Sunday worship services, the past year saw the following series:

- Spiritual Disciplines Lenten Series
- Music/Wedding Income Generation
- Marketing of specific worship series and events
- Summer Sanctified Art Series
- Psalm Series
- Season of Creation Series
- How Does a Weary World Rejoice Series
- Additional Worship Services: Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, Longest Night Service, Additional Christmas Eve service

The Worship Committee's other responsibilities of marketing and membership continue to be at the forefront of monthly business, but it also can be challenging to plan for and complete with limited volunteers and resources. For marketing, the committee hopes to do some intentional goal-setting and grow our social media and website influence and targets. We are proud to consistently reach people outside our regular in-person Sunday worshipers on Facebook and YouTube. We were also excited to welcome many new members into the congregation last year.

The Worship Committee is looking forward to growing and strengthening the faith of our members and community and being a light in a dark world.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Fothergill, Chair

2024 Approved Budget

Account	Total
Income	
2023 Members/Friends	68,010.00
Facility Usage	
Asociacion de Orquidea	2,640.00
Child Care Center	
CCC Revenue donation	100,000.00
Total for Child Care Center	281,704.00
Embroidery Guild	1,380.00
Greater Miami Youth Symphony	11,472.00
Miscellaneous Facility	9,000.00
Project YES	20,100.00
Sprint/Tmobile	48,194.91
Summer Camp	10,000.00
West Parking Lot 19	8,160.00
Total for Facility Usage	392,650.91
Giving-Unrestricted	
Loose	2,200.00
Total for Giving-Unrestricted	2,200.00
Insurance Reimbursement	
Property & Liability	35,000.00
Total for Insurance Reimbursement	35,000.00
Investment Income	60,000.00
Per Capita	2,248.00
Special Offerings	
Joy Gift Offering	250.00
OGHS Offering	500.00
Peace and Global Witness Offering	650.00
Pentecost Offering	350.00
Souper Bowl	0.00
Total for Special Offerings	1,750.00
Total for Income	561,858.91
Cost of Goods Sold	0.00
Gross Profit	561,858.91
Expenses	
Discipleship Committee	
Christian Education Committee	
Background Check	150.00

Curriculum	490.00
Leadership Training	500.00
Total for Christian Education Committee	1,140.00
Fellowship	
Holy Grounds Supplies	230.00
License for Videos	300.00
Sponsored Events	2,000.00
Total for Fellowship	2,530.00
Total for Discipleship Committee	3,670.00
Missions Committee	
Mission-Presbytery of Tropical Florida	2,000.00
More Light Presbyterian	200.00
Presbyterian for Earth Care Membership	250.00
Undesignated Mission	4,000.00
Total for Missions Committee	6,450.00
Office Expenses	
Bank Charges	490.41
Computer	435.00
Copier & Printing	3,600.00
Payroll Fees	2,580.00
Postage & Equipment	1,000.48
Supplies	2,720.11
Total for Office Expenses	10,826.00
Property Committee	
Additional R & M Building	2,500.00
Insurance	
Property and Liability	153,152.00
Total for Insurance	153,152.00
Lawn Maintenance	6,600.00
Property	
Misc R & M	20,600.00
R & M Supplies	7,500.00
Service Calls	1,000.00
Total for Property	29,100.00
Total for Property Committee	191,352.00
Salaries & Benefits	
Anna Rosas	8,900.00
Barbara Prieto	
BP Pension	4,035.84

Death/Disability	474.84
Dental	891.24
Education-Church Administrator	2,500.00
Eyewear	92.28
Medical	20,553.48
Temp Disability	493.08
Wages	52,400.00
Total for Barbara Prieto	81,440.76
Bookkeeping Service	22,000.00
Glenda Bertran	39,000.00
Music Director	29,884.56
Nursery Subcontractor	5,200.00
Pastor	
Books and Professional Expenses	4,250.00
CCC Tuition	4,520.00
Death/Disability	860.40
Dental	1,002.60
Eyewear	46.68
Housing Allowance	48,000.00
Major Medical Deductible	2,400.00
Medical	23,230.08
Pastor Continuing Education	1,250.00
Pastor's Wages	35,837.00
Pastor Temp Disability	430.20
Pension Benefits	7,313.16
Relocation	11,000.00
SS/Medicare Reimbursement	3,057.12
Total for Pastor	143,197.24
Professional Fees-Worship Services	13,750.00
Staff SS/Medicare	9,000.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,750.00
Total for Salaries & Benefits	354,122.56
Utilities	
Fire Alarm	3,498.59
FP&L	24,000.00
Gas	800.00
Internet (Comcast)	1,380.00
Miami Dade Water and Sewer	2,124.98
Telephone	180.00

Waste Management	24,235.75
Total for Utilities	56,219.32
Worship Committee	
Communion Supplies	350.00
Marketing	5,000.00
Music Licenses	500.00
Music & Literature	500.00
Organist Supply	1,200.00
Organ Maintenance	3,500.00
Piano Maintenance	500.00
Pulpit Supply	900.00
Sanctuary Equipment	300.00
Sanctuary Supplies/ Equipment	250.00
Total for Worship Committee	13,000.00
Total for Expenses	635,639.88
Net Operating Income	(73,780.97)
Other Income	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00
Net Other Income	0.00
Net Income	(73,780.97)

Riviera's Journey to a Called Pastor
Next Step – MISSION STUDY

- September 2021 - The Rev. Missy Shiverick retires after ministering to Riviera for five years.
- October 2021 – The Presbytery appoints The Rev. Dr. David Welton as the interim moderator of Riviera's Session. An Ad Hoc committee is formed to begin the process of searching for a Transitional Pastor.
- July 2022 - The Rev. Melanie Marsh is welcomed as Riviera's Transitional Pastor.
- January 2023 - Melanie takes the lead on Riviera's journey to a Called Pastor by facilitating the process of Devotion, Visioning, and Discernment with The Session during their meetings and with the congregation during worship.

The journey brings us to now, when we will begin the work of researching and preparing a Mission Study - a necessary step in this process to a Called Pastor.

A Mission Study is a written document that comprehensively examines all aspects of Riviera. Our history, the congregation and its members and staff, local community demographics, missions, The Child Care Center, finances, stewardship program and participation, property and buildings, music program, and adult and youth programs. The document is ultimately submitted to the Presbytery for their approval before Riviera can proceed to the next step in the journey – forming a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Our mentor from Presbytery in this process is the Rev. Geoff McLean, Associate General Presbyter, and our leader at Riviera, Melanie. Our goal is to complete the Mission Study document by May 2024. Every Session member will be involved and responsible for one or more sections of the document.

Members of the congregation will be asked for their input, and if interested, you can be involved in the research and writing of one or more sections of the Mission Study.

We will update you as the project progresses and the pieces come together. The Session is excited and looks forward to Geoff's input, direction, and Melanie's steady leadership.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Mazzola
Clerk of Session