

A NOTE FROM DAVE

It is a blessing to discover what you were born to do. It is empowering and invigorating to know without a doubt exactly why God has placed you on this earth. When your purpose is clear, you don't have to wonder whether what you do matters, only whether your effort is the best, the boldest, and the most excellent possible.

Riverbend was put on this earth by God, and placed in this city, to be different and to make a difference ... because GRACE.

This is true of any church or organization that desires to be worth the time and money it takes from people's lives. However, in all too many cases, time eventually corrodes and compromises the community's commitment to remain truly different. It's too easy to get comfortable. To stick with the familiar and the friendly. To forget the different and the difficult. To simply invest in birds of the same feather and their nests. Without pushing back on institutional entropy, being different dies a comfortable frog's death.

Dr. Gerald Mann was a rebel and a difference maker. God raised him up, brought him to Austin and gave him a difficult vision ... because GRACE. His was a vision that Riverbend would always take great risks to show grace. We call this being different on purpose. We are stewards of that unconventional

legacy, and he has left us with this lasting gift — and with one last challenge.

This because GRACE Campaign is about accepting that challenge, and about being good stewards of this legacy. It is about staying true to our spiritual DNA. It is about pushing back against the conventional and the comfortable. It is about being different and making a difference. It is about doing what we were put here to do, in the best, boldest and most excellent way possible.

Over the course of this campaign we will fix our attention on the future of a different kind of difference-making through Riverbend. We will do this without ever forgetting where we have come from. We will move forward remembering that what we are made of is why we are able to press toward the future with such confidence and clarity.

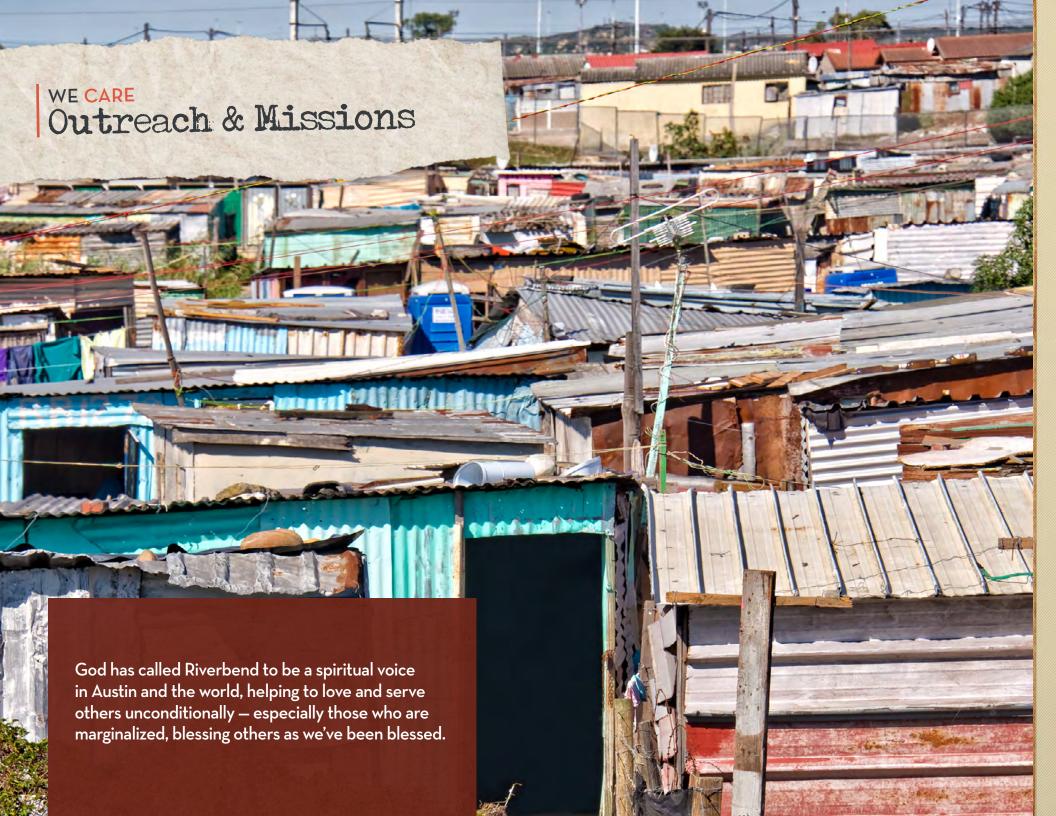
We are engaging in this Vision Campaign because we know why God has placed us here, and because we know what we are here to do ... because GRACE.

D:110

Dr. Dave Haney

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10



NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

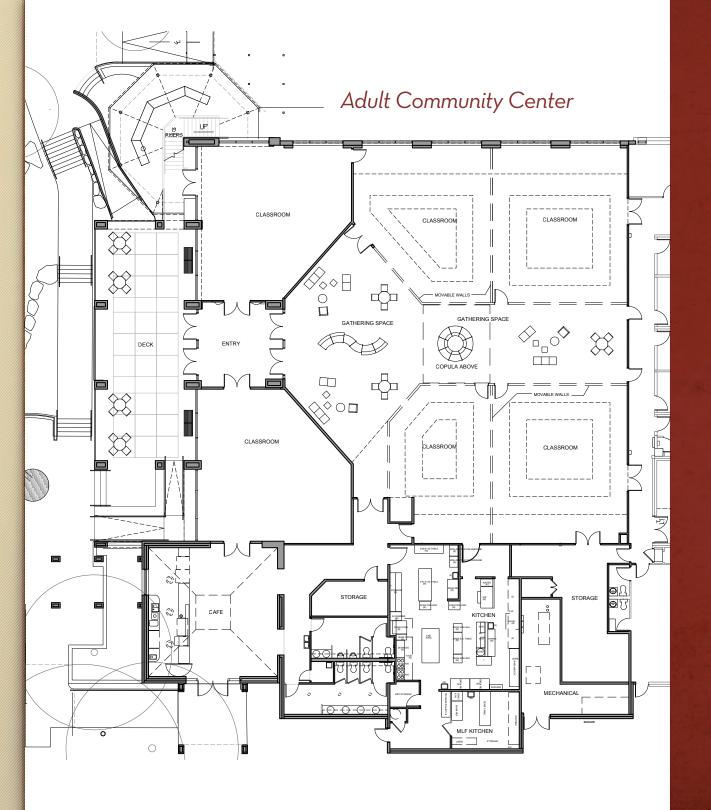
A non-traditional way for our church to live out the gospel, we envision a series of "Neighborhood Development Centers" (NDCs), each one unique and different, serving the needs of different communities. Today we are involved in developing five of these:

- The Northgate/Galewood Community in Rundberg: partnering with Pastor Santiago to reach a primarily Hispanic community.
- 2. **The Sparrow House in Rundberg:** a spiritual discipleship home that takes in "at-risk" women coming out of prison, off the streets, and/or out of abusive relationships.
- Community First! Village in East Austin: providing homes, community, and hope to the chronically homeless of the city, and placing our new ministry center, The RIVERBEND OUTPOST, within this village.
- 4. The Travis Heights Christian Outreach Center in South Austin: partnering with Pastor Stanley to distribute food, clothing, and spiritual nourishment to the homeless and impoverished to those living in the projects nearby.
- 5. **Siloe School in San Salvador, El Salvador:** Riverbend has a sister church we partner with that provides a private Christian education to 300 impoverished children from the surrounding neighborhood, many of whom are children of gang members. Opportunities have opened up for these children to go on to high school and, in some cases, acquire a college education. In addition, we sponsor five Salvadorian missionaries who work in the surrounding community bringing hope and help to children, youth, gangs, and the elderly.

The because GRACE campaign will provide \$1.5 million in seed money to expand our efforts to serve different communities through these five NDCs, as well as to open new ones across Austin and in other countries around the world. We envision a day in the not too distant future where hundreds of Riverbenders, together with people from the community, will be serving thousands of those in need through at least ten different Neighborhood Development Centers. In order to accomplish this, we need to continue to build the infrastructure that will enable us to equip and mobilize our members to be the hands and feet of Christ to those who are hurting and in need of a Savior.







CREATING MORE SPACES FOR COMMUNITY ON THE RIVERBEND CAMPUS

because GRACE will provide the needed capital for us to redesign, remodel, and repurpose the Fellowship Hall, transforming the building into an Adult Community Center. Imagine with us, if you would, an oversized covered patio as the entrance into this new community center. As you enter the building, you would have matching "Plaza View" rooms on either side — large gathering spaces that can facilitate meetings of 20-80 people per room. Or enter into the main hall, where it can still provide meeting space for as many as 500 (conferences, Citywide AA dinners, wedding receptions and more). Or, with the addition of drop ceilings and movable walls, this space can be converted to provide up to four additional large meeting rooms, plus a large indoor gathering space.

Now imagine a redesigned, remodeled, and repurposed commercial kitchen with brand new appliances, designed to enable multiple groups to use it simultaneously to service our needs not only on campus, but also off campus in support of our growing ministries across the city.

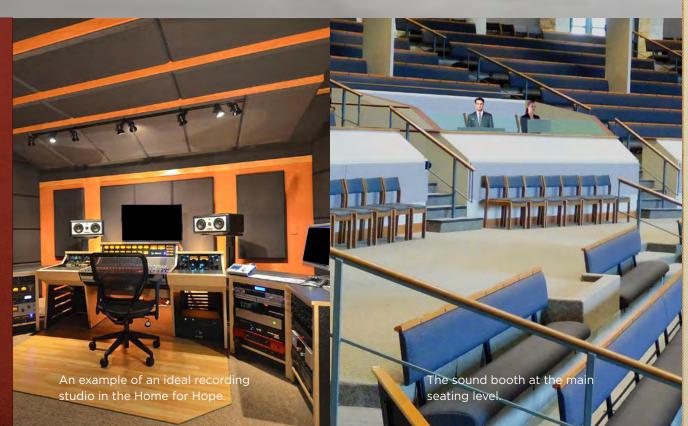
Outside this new Adult Community Center is a two-story covered terrace, with a large 1,650 square foot upper level that leads into the Community Center. There will also be a lower level covered terrace, about 800 sq. ft., that will serve as the new entrance to the Children's world on the lower level of the Fellowship Hall. Parents will be able to wheel their strollers directly into the Children's area — no more steps to have to navigate.



The new Welcome Center, which will replace the current bookstore in The Mann Auditorium — another example of increased community space

The Riverbend Centre building, built in 1998, is one of the most beautiful sanctuaries in the country, and one of the premier arts venues in Austin.

Funds raised through the because GRACE campaign will enable us to rededicate this building as The Mann Auditorium — A Home for Hope, to honor our founding pastor, Gerald Mann, and his vision for this building and its ministry.



TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES, WELCOME CENTER & COFFEE BAR

THE MANN AUDITORIUM will continue to be a place where artistic expression can be explored, developed, shared, and celebrated by anyone and everyone. It will continue to be a place to connect with and experience God — the ultimate Creator — not only on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week as we host both sacred and secular events.

For this venue to be fully updated and equipped properly, we want to significantly upgrade the A/V systems — audio, video, broadcast and lighting equipment — much of which was installed nearly 20 years ago. This will provide a more transformational and immersive experience for every Sunday morning service and event: brighter, clearer video; better text and image quality on screens and surfaces; much-improved sound control; and dramatic upgrades to lighting.

To do so, we have sought out industry professionals and leading-edge technology solutions to address these issues:

- For media presentation, ground-breaking technologies in switchable smart-glass, OLED and transparent LED technologies continue to emerge. Riverbend will benefit greatly from adoption of these specific technologies as very few churches have the unique challenges (large window), and opportunities, to fully take advantage of these advances. Upgrades to our IMAG (image magnification) and broadcast (cameras, switcher) systems will accompany this upgrade.
 - The main sound systems within the auditorium are in need of strategic upgrades to deal with end-of-life use and fine-tuning of the system overall. Most strategically, we plan to relocate the audio front-of-house position of the tech booth from the fourth floor to the Mezzanine level providing the audio engineer with the correct mix position. Audio infrastructure re-designs and installations will also occur.

» Upgrades to theatrical lighting will provide more dynamic, flexible and ultimately efficient experiences. Many fixtures and systems are beyond their useful life, and newer technology presents LED options that significantly reduce operational costs — and ecological impact.

ADDITIONAL BUILDING & TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- » Plans to design, construct and equip a professional-level recording studio within the Mann Auditorium. This studio supports our original mission to connect with and support local talent, while also leveraging Riverbend's incredibly gifted staff and members of our congregation. Plans are to make original recordings available through various distribution channels including the development of an Indie record label.
- » Opening up the bookstore space to be used as a Welcome Center and Café. This exciting project will allow us to provide a place for visitors to comfortably learn more about the church, and help themselves to a cup of coffee before or after the service.
- » Remodeling all eight public bathrooms, with new tile, new counters and sinks, lighting, and stalls.
- » Replacing all of the original carpeting throughout the building including the foyers, the staircases, the mezzanine, the art gallery, the new Welcome Center, and the east and west stairwells.
- We will be repairing the two glass towers above the art gallery and bookstore, which have significant leaking issues when it rains.

Key Investments

STRATEGIC HIRES

- » Director of Missions & Outreach This position would support the Missions & Outreach Pastor and the Missions Committee, as they look to dramatically expand Riverbend's missions and outreach.
- » Spiritual Formation Staff Enhancements To strengthen our spiritual formation efforts, helping our congregation to grow stronger in their faith, we will be making strategic investments in personnel to help.
- » Director of Riverbend's next NDC This position will be a dynamic leader who will help us identify, plan, and open our next Neighborhood Development Center.
- » Database Administrator This position will help us install and reinforce a new database, to better connect with and communicate with our members, helping them to get more involved in areas of their passion.
- » Communications Director New position created to strategically expand our internal and external communications.
- Staff reorganization To help expand some initiatives such as:
 - Faith in the Workplace new initiatives will be developed to help our men and women learn new and creative ways for living out their faith in the workplace.
 - Connection Ministry help first-time guests as well as those desiring to get more involved, connect with others and with ministries, figuring next steps for them inside and outside the walls of the church.

OTHER KEY INVESTMENTS

- Renovation of the Quads. Similar to what was done four years ago with Building 5, we will repair and paint the interiors and exteriors of the four buildings, lay down new carpet, and enhance the video delivery systems in select rooms. We will also construct permanent walls creating two rooms each in Building 3 & 4, eliminating the accordion walls.
- Replacement Golf Carts. We will replace the current golf carts to better shuttle people across our campus on Sunday mornings and during big events.
- Church Management Software. We will replace the existing database system, using a more up to date, user-friendly system, that will enable us to better track our membership and activity levels.
- **\$400,000 Reserve Fund.** We will replenish and maintain our special reserve fund, which is used for unexpected capital expenditures and other unforeseen needs.

because Grace campaign goals

WE CARE:

WE CONNECT:

WE CREATE:

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THE ARTS

\$1.5 M \$2.2 M

\$1.3 M

TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL:

\$5 Million





Why is it important for us to do this vision campaign now?

Less and less of the Austin population wants to come to church these days than ever before. Therefore, we need to train, equip, and mobilize Riverbenders to go beyond the walls of our church to love and serve them where they are, and hopefully, enabling others to experience God's grace through us.

How were the projects determined for this vision campaign?

The church leadership (comprised of our Church Council and our Pastoral Staff), aware that the city and world around us is changing, has spent the last year praying and discerning what Riverbend needs to do in the future to effectively pursue the mission to reach people who are skeptical of church – a mission that this church has had for 38 years.

How did the \$2.0 Million Gerald Mann fund come to be?

In 1996, the church was required to take out a key-man life insurance policy on then Senior Pastor Gerald Mann, as we had taken out a significant loan to help fund the building of the Home for Hope Sanctuary. When Gerald retired, the church leadership felt it would be prudent to continue the policy. Following Gerald's passing in November 2015, Riverbend Church received \$2.0 million in proceeds. It has been sitting in an account pending the church leadership's determination about how to best spend those funds. These funds have been incorporated into this vision campaign, so essentially \$2.0 of the \$5.0 million campaign is already in the bank.

Can I designate what portion of the campaign my pledge goes to?

Yes, you can pledge toward Missions & Outreach, Building Community, The Arts, or simply to "because GRACE" as a total.

Will we incur more debt as a church as a result of this campaign?

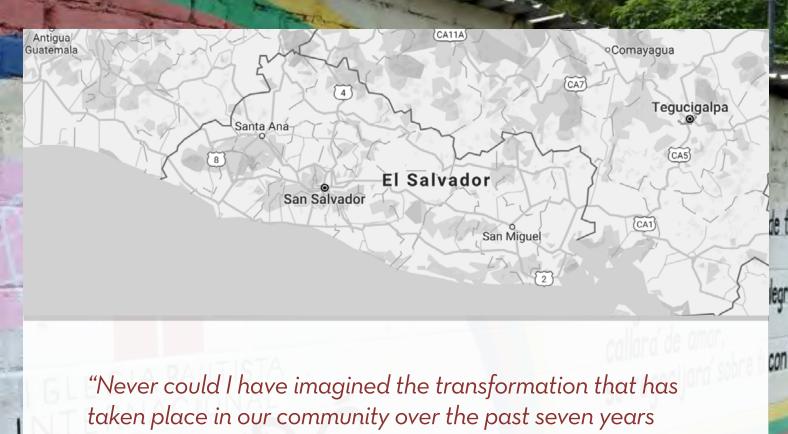
No, we will only spend money as it is received, and do not plan to take on any additional debt.

What happens if there's not enough money pledged to cover the cost of these projects?

The projects have been prioritized, and we will only spend as much of the money that is pledged and contributed.

What are you asking of me?

A vision campaign in reality is a spiritual exercise. It's an opportunity for you to go in prayer and see what it is that God is asking from you at this time. We are inviting you to consider making a two-year pledge toward this vision campaign, **above and beyond** any regular giving you are currently giving to the church. So, please be in prayer for this campaign, and also for how God wants you to participate as well.



"Never could I have imagined the transformation that has taken place in our community over the past seven years as Riverbend has walked with us. Today the children are learning about Christ and going on for higher educations. The poorest families are being served. Even the gangs have joined with our church to make our neighborhood better!"



Pastor Javier Osorio
SILOE CHURCH · SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

"A vision that Riverbend would be different on purpose, to take great risks to meet people wherever they are in order to make their lives better."

Dr. Dave Haney
SENIOR PASTOR

Stories

"The RIVERBEND OUTPOST, currently being designed and built at the *Community First! Village* for the homeless, is going to be amazing! My wife Linda and are I thrilled to be living at the village as a missional couple to the new residents that have moved in off the street. I can't wait for lots of Riverbenders to begin joining us at the OUTPOST for great times of community building, and seeking ways to love and serve the people of this incredible village!"



MIKE SCULLEY

Director of the Riverbend Outpost

Community First! Village, East Austin

"Riverbend is home. It's a place where people just entering faith can sit side-by-side and worship with people who walked the aisle since birth. It's a place where what we agree on is more important than what divides us. Grace is paramount. Jesus is our focus. We have great music. We have great preaching. We do good stuff. But it's a church HOME no matter your background. We don't sweat the small stuff of faith—and I think that's critical because the message of Riverbend is the barest bones of the gospel: Jesus, grace, redemption, relationship, and forgiveness. It is an unapologetic offer—Jesus is worth your time. The choice is yours."



KELLY JOLET

Chairperson of the Missions Committee

"In just five months: a 3,400 sq. ft. building was leased and renovated; 1,500 people in need, per month, are getting food; our clothing closet was just installed and filled with used clothing; the homeless come off the street to shower; our church is growing and disciples are being made. I believe that our South Austin neighborhood will never be the same! I praise God as all of this would be impossible without the divine provision of Riverbend as they follow God's call to help us create this new Neighborhood Development Center to serve south Austin!"



PASTOR STANLEY CLARK
Travis Heights Christian Outreach

"Riverbend was founded on 'different', that was the initial intent and I feel that has continued over the years. Maybe the different is evolving over time, but it still involves unconditional acceptance of a person right where they are with the challenge to grow and become a better version of themselves."



SANDY LOUNSBERRY Director of the Women's Ministry

"In a town filled with music, the music and musicians are extraordinary. Whether I am singing with the choir, listening from a pew, or talking with someone in the community about Riverbend, I have a deep peace knowing that I belong, and that I am free to worship and understand as suits me and the Spirit."



SUSAN ARBUCKLE, AUSTIN-BASED MUSICIAN Soloist & Congregation Member

