



Ministry Update Letter

Friday, January 13

Dear Rocky Peak,

As I promised last weekend, here is the ministry update for the new year. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us this year, and here is a list of the important updates I want to share with you.

- Christmas Generosity Initiative
- Rocky Peak Mortgage: Debt Free!
- RP Bylaws 2.0 Update
- RP Singles Launch
- Worship Center Patio Update
- 2023 Budget & Elders
- January 29th Encounter & Celebration

So, let's jump in and catch up!

Christmas Generosity Initiative

Hope Gardens

I want to give you a quick update on our Christmas Generosity Initiative. As you know, this year we are partnering with Hope Gardens in Sylmar to help them renovate several of the buildings they use to transition single moms and their children from homelessness to independence.

The estimated cost to upgrade all the buildings is \$325,000. Our goal was to renovate as many of these buildings as possible. The good news is that we received \$186,000 which is amazing! This is one of the largest Generosity Initiatives we have ever had, and this will enable them to renovate several of their buildings!

Thank you for your incredible generosity, and for making their dream come true! We will give you an update on this project later this year.

RP Mortgage

Debt Free!

As I shared last weekend, ever since we started meeting on our campus thirty-five years ago, we have always had a mortgage. But several years ago, our elders began to sense the winds of change picking up, and we began to envision a day when we might lose our tax-free charitable organization status due to our commitment to the Bible's teaching about human sexuality.

So, we decided to start saving a significant amount of our monthly income to pay this debt off early. And the great news is that because of God's goodness and your generosity we were able to pay it off this past fall.

What this means, is that for the first time in over 35 years, the church at Rocky Peak is completely debt free, and we are now better prepared for whatever the future holds!

I want to thank those of you who have given so faithfully over these years, and we want to celebrate this tremendous milestone with you at our January *Encounter* on January 29th.

For more on that, see the **Encounter & Celebration** below.

RP Bylaws 2.0

The Update

As I shared with you the past couple months, our Elders are recommending we update our church bylaws.

The main reason for this is that our legal counsel has recommended we update our doctrinal statement (which is part of our bylaws) to clarify our commitment to the Bible's teaching about human sexuality.

As we worked on this project this past year, we decided not just to update our current doctrinal statement, but instead to recommend a new one.

The reason for this is not to change any of our doctrinal positions. Our current statement has served us well and we are in full agreement with it.

However, our current statement is not very well-written or well-rounded. It has always felt a bit clunky, like it is the product of a "cut and paste" job that somehow skipped its final edit!

During this past year, we reviewed many doctrinal statements from large evangelical ministries to find one we could use as a basis for our new statement. The one we landed on is the doctrinal statement of the Evangelical Free Church of America. My guess is that most of you are probably not familiar with this denomination. But they are a solid group. One of their most famous pastors is Chuck Swindoll.

So, we used this statement as a foundation for our new statement, but we also added some of our own content and style to reflect our vision and values.

Outside of this change to our doctrinal statement, we have not made many other significant changes to our bylaws. But I do want to highlight two of the most important.

The first is our vision statement. Our current bylaws have the old vision statement from over twenty years ago. So, we have replaced that with our current vision statement.

The second change has to do with the role of deacons and deaconesses. Long before I came to Rocky Peak, we had deacons and deaconesses who served under the leadership of the elders. However, we have not had these positions (in a formal way) for over twenty years. So, we also have removed the reference to these roles.

We will be voting on these new bylaws at our all-church Encounter on Sunday, January 29th.

To prepare for this, we are posting a copy of our current bylaws and the new proposed bylaws on our website (and the RP app) so you can compare them.

If you have any questions or feedback on the new bylaws, feel free to email me, or discuss them with our pastors and elders at one of the Q & A sessions after the weekend services on January 14-15, or January 21-22 in the Summit building.

RP Singles

The New Community

On **Friday, February 3rd**, we are kicking off our new singles ministry (RP Singles). This is something we have prayed for and dreamed of for many years. But we were waiting for God to bring the right leaders to launch it, and this year our dream is coming true!

Pastor Joel and Christy Enyart will be leading this new ministry, and we believe they have the right gifts, leadership, experience, and passion to lead this well.

Our vision for this new ministry is simple. Our goal is to create a healthy community where single adults (of all ages) can connect, grow, and pursue Jesus together.

If you are single, I encourage you to circle this date on your calendar and plan to come. This new group is for single adults of all ages and we encourage you to invite your friends whether they attend Rocky Peak or not!

If you have any specific questions about this new ministry, feel free to email Joel and Christy at RPingles@rockypeak.org, or check out the new RP Singles webpage at rockypeak.org/singles.

Worship Center Patio

Back to the Future

During the past couple years, we have turned our Worship Center patio into an outdoor venue for our weekend services due to Covid. This has provided us with a large open-air venue which has been great.

However, there have also been some downsides. We had to move our café from the patio and remove all our round tables and umbrellas where people used to gather and connect before and after services. This venue also took up valuable space we often need for Life Group Signups, ministry recruiting drives, and other important ministries.

So, this weekend (if it's not raining) we are moving the Café back to its original location on the patio and bringing back our round tables and umbrellas.

We will still show the weekend services on the large screen and there will still be seating at the round tables, nearby benches, and some additional chairs as well. But it will have a new look and feel.

Ideally, we would love to be able to provide a large outdoor venue *and* a great patio experience, but this seems like the best option for now.

If you are passionate about worshipping outdoors, I encourage you to come early and take advantage of some of this new great seating at the shaded tables or one of the other seating options.

2023 Budget & Elders

A Quick Overview

One of the things we will vote on at the end of our January Encounter (the last ten minutes) is our elder candidates and our 2023 budget. So, let me give you a quick overview of this year's budget proposal (attached).

The first thing to notice is that we fell a little bit short of our contribution goal for the year. However, when you take into consideration what happened in the economy this year--with the high rate of inflation coupled with one of the worst years in the history of the stock market--we are very thankful for all we received!

And the good news is that though our contributions were lower than expected, so were our expenses! *So, once again, we ended the year in the black!*

This is a tremendous praise and I want to thank those of you who have given so faithfully and generously all year long!

This year we are proposing a contribution budget that is slightly less than last year's budget, but a little more than last year's actual contributions.

What this means is that if our contributions in 2023 are about the same as our contributions in 2022, we will be right on track.

The next thing to notice under the contribution section is that we received a large gift from an estate trust during 2022. We did not include this as part of our general contributions, but instead used it to help us pay off our mortgage early.

Next, as you review the expense side of the budget, you will notice that some of the categories are larger or smaller than what we budgeted for or spent this past year.

Sometimes these increases reflect the inflation we are all experiencing in our economy. At other times, they reflect a larger investment to expand current ministries or to add new positions to launch new ministries. For the categories that are significantly higher or lower, we are including footnotes at the bottom of the budget to explain these changes.

As always, it is important to remember that our budget is just our plan for the year. We can adjust it as we go, but this is our proposal for 2023.

If you have any specific questions about the budget (or the bylaws) our elders and staff will be available as usual for our Q & A meetings after each service this weekend, **January 14-15**, or next weekend **January 21-22**. These meetings will be held in The Summit building near our offices.

At the Encounter, we will also be voting on this year's elder candidates. We are including a brief bio on each of these leaders attached to this letter.

Encounter & Celebration

The Fresh Wind

If you're new to Rocky Peak, an *Encounter* is a night we set aside for a time of extended worship, prayer, and vision casting. The next Encounter will be on **Sunday, January 29**, from **6-7:30pm** in the Worship Center.

This year I will share some new vision about some new ministries we sense God calling us to launch this year in a message called *The Fresh Wind*.

Then afterwards, we will go outside and celebrate the major milestone of being debt free! We have invited **Sugar 'n Spice** from Balboa Island in Newport Beach to serve their famous **Balboa Bars** (hand dipped fresh bananas or ice cream bars in variety of delicious toppings). If you want to check these out, here's their website: sugarnspicebalboaisland.com.

We are also serving **Sprinkles cupcakes** and hand-crafted **Makenna Koffee**. This will be free of charge as we celebrate God's goodness to us as a church!

As usual, childcare will be provided for children birth-fifth grade, and our older students will join us in the Worship Center.

I think that's it for now!

I'm looking forward to seeing you this weekend as we continue our new *Worldview* series and then next weekend as we gather at the *Encounter* to pursue God together.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being particularly large and stylized.

Pastor Michael

2023 Proposed Budget

	Proposed 2023 Budget	2022 Budget	Variance	2022 Actual *	2023 Budget to 2022 Actual *
INCOME					
General Contributions	\$7,860,000	\$8,100,000	(\$240,000)	\$7,945,108	(\$85,108)
Estate Gift (1)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$563,848	(\$563,848)
Other Income	\$391,190	\$411,525	(\$20,335)	\$596,870	(\$205,680)
Generosity Initiatives	\$270,000	\$210,000	\$60,000	\$234,370	\$35,630
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,521,190	\$8,721,525	(\$200,335)	\$9,340,196	(\$819,006)
EXPENSES					
EXPENSES					
Wages & Benefits (2)	\$4,383,736	\$3,915,300	\$468,436	\$3,774,446	\$609,290
Program Ministry Expenses (3)	\$1,040,500	\$957,370	\$83,130	\$818,902	\$221,598
Supplies	\$181,207	\$148,524	\$32,683	\$180,718	\$489
Professional Services (4)	\$509,958	\$455,932	\$54,026	\$373,220	\$136,738
Travel Expenses	\$55,870	\$23,400	\$32,470	\$23,926	\$31,944
Equipment Maintenance	\$61,477	\$67,127	(\$5,650)	\$91,566	(\$30,089)
Equipment Lease & Rental	\$113,752	\$103,960	\$9,792	\$116,464	(\$2,712)
Utilities & Telephone	\$307,370	\$252,659	\$54,711	\$259,236	\$48,134
Care Expenses	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$0	\$29,312	\$6,688
Insurance & Taxes	\$210,136	\$185,100	\$25,036	\$180,057	\$30,079
Mortgage & Loan Expense (5)	\$0	\$1,068,000	(\$1,068,000)	\$820,513	(\$820,513)
Property Maintenance	\$171,905	\$216,914	(\$45,009)	\$205,136	(\$33,231)
Deferred Maintenance	\$100,000	\$100,000	(\$0)	\$100,000	\$0
Campus Improvements (6)	\$463,479	\$256,140	\$207,339	\$706,140	(\$242,662)
Capital Purchases (7)	\$200,240	\$219,095	(\$18,855)	\$219,491	(\$19,250)
Global Ministries (8)	\$685,560	\$716,003	(\$30,443)	\$750,883	(\$65,323)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,521,190	\$8,721,525	(\$200,335)	\$8,650,009	(\$128,819)

(1) Estate Gift represents a one time 2022 estate gift received.

(2) Wages & Benefits: Includes all salaries, benefits, insurance, and taxes. The increase in this category includes new planned positions in 2023, along with overall increase in benefit costs and wage adjustments due to inflation.

(3) Program Ministry Expenses: 2023 expenses reflect camp increases and additional retreats.

(4) Professional Services: Includes increased costs for current independent contractors and new independent contractors needed for Communications and Worship Arts.

(5) Mortgage: Paid off in the fall of 2022.

(6) Campus Improvements: This includes HVAC repair and replacements, new fencing, and Iverson lot lighting funded in 2022 to be completed in 2023. 2022 completed projects included fencing, Worship Center and Summit audio refurbish. 2023 budget includes new irrigation and landscaping, parking lot maintenance and Kids building upgrade.

(7) Capital Purchases: Includes computers, Worship Center audio equipment, etc.

(8) Global Ministries: Amounts include Generosity Initiatives.

* 2022 Balance represents amounts prior to our annual 3rd party audit.

2023 Elder Board



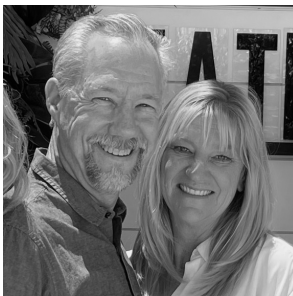
Albert Avila – Albert and his wife, Monica, have been married 37 years. They have four children: Silvana, who is married to Tim Schoen, Alessandro, who is married to Laura, Sergio, who is married to Madison, and Isabella. They also have three grandchildren, Sam, Lily, and Joey Schoen. They have been attending Rocky Peak since 2003. Albert has led Mexico mission trips, is part of the prayer ministry, has been a Life Group leader and is currently serving as an Elder. Monica has served in Celebrate Recovery from 2007 to 2022, as the Ministry Leader Apprentice, the Training Coach and an Open Share Group Leader. She has also been a Life Group leader.



Dave Cox – Dave has been attending Rocky Peak since his teens. He had the privilege of serving on staff in various pastoral roles at Rocky Peak for 25 years. In 2005, he married his wife Christie, and they have a son, Caleb. Dave is currently the COO of ZOE International and works as a reserve officer for LAPD. He has a passion to see people reached for Christ, rescued from the darkest places and restored to wholeness through the love and power of God.



Terry Fahy – Terry and his wife Cindy have attended Rocky Peak for over 15 years. Terry plays bass on the worship team and together they host a Life Group. Terry is the Region Vice-President of Salem Media Group, which operates radio stations nationwide, including KKLA-FM, The Fish, KRLA and KTIE in Southern California. Cindy is the host of the nationally-syndicated radio program *Bring It Up*, bringing Biblical truth to our most pressing cultural issues. The Fahys have been married for 41 years and have twin sons and two sets of twin grandchildren.



Danny Fernandez – Professionally, Danny is a physical therapist at Glendale Adventist, where he serves as the Rehab Manager for their Home Health department. He has been married to his wife, Crystal, for 30 years and they have four adult children, Christian, Kellie, who is married to Sebastian, Cambria, and Sam, who is married to Dayne Johnson. Danny and Crystal have served in a variety of ministries at Rocky Peak, leading Life Groups, Kids Ministry, Global Ministries, Elder Board and Prayer Corner.



Jason Kemp – Jason and Bre have been married over 20 years and have 5 kids: Abby (17), Josiah (14), Ethan (10), Matthias (5), and Eliyah (1). Jason works in IT and has served in many ministries over the years at Rocky Peak. Bre enjoys homeschooling, cooking, and reading. Jason and Bre both love spending time with their kids hiking, reading, traveling, and exploring God's creation.

2023 Elder Board



Steve McCormick – Steve and Christy have been married for 41 years and have attended Rocky Peak for over 30 years. Since becoming members, they have served faithfully as Life Group leaders, in preparing communion, in Kids Ministry, and in Prayer Corner. They have three daughters, Melissa (29), Rachel (26) and Jessica (25). Steve is a commercial general contractor and is one of the fourth-generation owners of a 107- year-old construction company. Steve’s interests include golf, snow skiing, volleyball, and spending time with the four girls in his life.



Kevin McDonald – Kevin and his wife Laurie have been married for two years. They have three children between them, Kayla (33), Kayla (30), and Briana (26). They also have two grandchildren, Clayton (6) and Wesley (4). Kevin has been part of Rocky Peak since 1989 and Laurie has been attending since 2018. Kevin has led different Life Groups, including young married couples and men’s groups since 1991, and has served as an Elder previously since 1995. Laurie serves on our First Impressions team on Saturday nights and Kevin serves at the same time in our Café. They also currently host a life group in their home. Laurie is an Oncology Nurse at USC and Kevin is a Large Loss Claims Adjuster with Liberty Mutual.



John Mercado – John and Christy have been married for 29 years and they have three adult daughters. John and Christy have attended Rocky Peak for five years and have been a part of Life Groups during that time. Christy currently serves in Rocky Peak Kids while John serves in First Impressions ministry. John has served on two missionary trips to Thailand with Zoe International. John is a Lieutenant with a Southern California Police Department.



David Riddick – David and Kirsten Riddick are both educators. David is an elementary school leader in Los Angeles. Kirsten has taught in the Simi Valley Unified School District for over 20 years. The Riddicks are involved in Global Ministries, All Serve, Kids Ministry, and Life Groups here at Rocky Peak. They have been married for seventeen years and have three children, Jackson (15), Ellie (12), and Jamison (10).



Jeff Wong– Jeff and his wife, Susie, have attended Rocky Peak since 2016. They have been married for 29 years and have two adult sons, both of whom also attend Rocky Peak. They have led Life Groups for married, young married and engaged couples for many years and have been involved at Rocky Peak also as a part of First Impressions and RPK ministries. They have served on multiple medical mission trips, including those to Mexico, Kenya, Tanzania and Russia. Jeff is a Pediatric Cardiologist and Susie is a 5th grade teacher.

The elder board also includes our Lead Pastor, Michael Yearley, and our Executive Pastor, Tony Bowick.