



Hey Rocky Peak!

As promised this past weekend, here is the first Ministry Update for 2024! I'm excited to see what God has in store for us this year, and I want to bring you up to speed on four important topics:

- Our New Series
- The January Encounter
- Our Christmas Generosity Initiative
- The 2024 Proposed Budget & Elders

So, let's jump in and catch up.

Hearing God

Discerning His Voice

This weekend, we are kicking off our new series: *Hearing God... Discerning His Voice*.

I'm really excited about this series because the longer I walk with Jesus, the more I'm convinced that learning to recognize God's voice (in the many different ways He speaks) is one of the most important spiritual skills we need to develop if we want to walk well with God, develop a truly personal relationship with him, experience his presence and power, and carry out his vision for our lives.

So, I hope you can join us as we start this series this weekend!

This is such an important topic that we are having all our Life Groups go through the study we are writing for it. The main text we are using (outside the Bible) is *Hearing God* by Dallas Willard.

We sold out of all our copies last week and have ordered more. While we are waiting for them to arrive, we will post a pdf of the assigned reading pages, along with the Life Group study, on our website at rockypeak.org/hearing-god each week.

If you don't have a computer, tablet, smartphone, or printer, we will provide hard copies of both the Life Group study and the *Hearing God* pdf at the Starting Point each weekend until the books arrive.

Even if you are not in a Life Group this session, I encourage you to get a copy of the book and go through this study so we can all grow together as a church in this important area.

Encounter

Hearing God

On **Wednesday, January 31**, we will have our first Encounter of the year from **7-9pm** in the Worship Center.

For those of you who are new, an Encounter is a special night set aside to encounter God through prayer and worship. This Encounter will also include a time of celebration for what God has done in and through us at Rocky Peak in 2023.

The primary prayer focus of this Encounter will be to ask God to help us grow in our ability to hear and discern his voice this year-both as individuals and as a church.

It will also include a brief vote on our 2024 budget and elders.

To prepare for this Encounter, we are creating a special three-day Life Group study with short videos to be used on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Encounter, and we encourage you to use them whether you are in a Life Group or not.

This past year God has been meeting us in new and powerful ways at our Encounters. The worship center was packed out for the last two and we experienced the presence of God in a powerful way.

So, I hope you can join us!

Please note: As we have shared earlier this month, we are not able to provide childcare for younger children for this Encounter, but older students are encouraged to join us in the Worship Center.

Christmas Generosity Initiative

His Hands On Africa

This year we are partnering with *His Hands On Africa* to renovate the second story of their new Hope Dental Center so they can serve the poor, share Christ, and train and disciple dentists to impact Rwanda with the gospel.

The estimated cost for these tenant improvements and equipment is \$220,000. Our goal was to raise as much of this as possible. **But the amazing news is that we received \$276,000**-which makes it our largest Generosity Initiative ever!

We will be celebrating this milestone this weekend, but I want to thank you now for listening and following and giving so generously! We are excited to see how God will use this new dental center to impact the lives of the Rwandan people, and we will give you an update on this project later this year.

2024 Budget & Elders

A Quick Overview

One of the things we will do at our January Encounter is take a quick vote on our 2024 budget. So, let me give you a brief overview of this year's proposal (see budget attached).

The great news is that our giving in December exceeded our December contribution budget. As a result, we also surpassed our 2023 annual contribution budget! And on top of that, our 2023 expenses were less than budgeted, *so once again, we ended the year in the black!*

This is a tremendous praise and sets us up well for 2024. And once again, *I want to thank those of you who have given so faithfully and generously both in December and all year long!*

This year we are proposing a contribution budget that reflects our actual contribution totals for 2023 and our numerical growth as a church. (We have grown numerically 23% in 2023!)

What this means is that if our 2024 contributions match our 2023 contributions, we will be right on track.

If you look at the expense side of the budget, you will notice that there are several categories that are either more or less than last year's budget or expenditures. When these changes are significant, we have included footnotes to explain them.

As always, our budget is our plan for the year. We can adjust it as we go, but this is our proposed budget as we head into 2024.

If you have any specific questions about the budget, our elders and staff will be available as usual for our Q&A meetings after each service this weekend, **January 20/21** or next weekend, **January 27/28**. These meetings will be held in the conference room in The Vista (the building closest to the solar-covered parking lot).

At the Encounter, we will also be voting on our 2024 elder candidates. We have attached a brief bio on each of these leaders to this letter.

I think that's it for now!

I'm looking forward to seeing you this weekend as we kick off our new series, *Hearing God*, and then at the Encounter on January 31!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'M' and a cursive 'Yearley'.

Michael Yearley

2024 Proposed Budget

	Proposed 2024 Budget	2023 Budget	Variance	2023 Actual *	2024 Budget to 2023 Actual *
INCOME					
Contributions	\$8,320,000	\$7,860,000	\$460,000	\$8,361,428	(\$41,428)
Other Income (1)	\$763,280	\$391,190	\$372,090	\$850,865	(\$87,585)
Generosity Initiatives	\$260,000	\$270,000	(\$10,000)	\$317,068	(\$57,068)
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,343,280	\$8,521,190	\$822,090	\$9,529,361	(\$186,081)
EXPENSES					
EXPENSES					
Wages & Benefits (2)	\$4,671,610	\$4,383,736	\$287,874	\$4,295,831	\$375,779
Program Ministry Expenses (3)	\$1,209,983	\$1,040,500	\$169,483	\$971,553	\$238,431
Supplies	\$217,518	\$181,207	\$36,311	\$239,399	(\$21,881)
Professional Services (4)	\$578,617	\$509,958	\$68,659	\$488,825	\$89,792
Travel Expenses	\$40,670	\$55,870	(\$15,200)	\$43,964	(\$3,294)
Equipment Maintenance	\$65,925	\$61,477	\$4,448	\$61,378	\$4,547
Equipment Lease & Rental	\$120,460	\$113,752	\$6,708	\$124,382	(\$3,922)
Utilities & Telephone	\$283,415	\$307,370	(\$23,955)	\$237,635	\$45,780
Care Expenses	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$0	\$15,942	\$20,058
Insurance & Taxes	\$211,468	\$210,136	\$1,332	\$174,546	\$36,922
Property Maintenance (5)	\$279,653	\$171,905	\$107,748	\$239,391	\$40,262
Deferred Maintenance	\$100,000	\$100,000	(\$0)	\$100,000	\$0
Campus Improvements (6)	\$444,638	\$463,479	(\$18,841)	\$463,479	(\$18,841)
Capital Purchases (7)	\$280,763	\$200,240	\$80,523	\$222,977	\$57,787
Global Ministries (8)	\$802,560	\$685,560	\$117,000	\$647,101	\$155,459
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,343,280	\$8,521,190	\$822,090	\$8,326,401	\$1,016,879

(1) Other Income: Includes interest, rentals, concessions, special activities, camps, and on-campus adult classes.

(2) Wages & Benefits: Includes all salaries, benefits, insurance, and taxes. The increase in this category includes an Operations Pastor in 2024, small adjustments, and an overall increase in benefit costs.

(3) Program Ministry Expenses: 2024 expenses reflect costs for new ministry events, additional on-campus courses, and camp cost increases.

(4) Professional Services: Includes increased costs for current independent contractors and new janitorial services.

(5) Property Maintenance: 2024 includes additional landscaping and irrigation projects.

(6) Campus Improvements: Budget includes parking lot repairs, fencing, building improvements, and parking lot lights.

(7) Capital Purchases: Amounts include tech equipment, vehicle repair, and computers.

(8) Global Ministries: Amounts include Generosity Initiatives and Mission Trips.

* 2023 Balance represents amounts prior to our annual 3rd party audit.

2024 Elder Board



David Cox – David served as a pastor at Rocky Peak for 25 years. He has a background in law enforcement and is currently serving as COO of ZOE International, an organization that provides rescue and restoration for children who have been trafficked. At Rocky Peak, Dave leads a specialized prayer ministry team that brings freedom and wholeness. He is married to Christie, and they love doing ministry together. They serve in various ministries when needed. Christie is a life coach helping people discover calling and experiencing freedom. They have a teenage son named Caleb who enjoys serving in the kids ministry.



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 31 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.



Erich Hoefke – Erich has been attending Rocky Peak his entire life. In 2013, he married his wife Tori, and they have four sons: Ansel (7), Walden (5), Brandt (2), and Friedrich (8mo). Erich and Tori have served in several ministries at Rocky Peak including worship team, RPK, Life Groups, and prayer ministry. Erich is a detective with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and Tori homeschools their children.



Steve McCormick – Steve and Christy have been married for 42 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 adult daughters, Melissa (29), Rachel (26) and Jessica (25). Steve is a commercial general contractor and is one of the fourth-generation owners of a 110- 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 three years. They have three children between them, Kayla (34), Kayla (31) and Briana (27). They also have two grandchildren, Clayton (7) and Wesley (5). 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 off and on as an Elder since 1995. Laurie serves in our Flourish women's mentorship program and is on our First Impressions team on Saturday nights, and Kevin serves at the same time in our Café. Laurie is an Oncology Nurse at USC and Kevin is a Personal Property Specialist with Liberty Mutual.

2024 Elder Board



John Mercado – John and Christy have been married for 30 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 eighteen 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 30 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.



Greg Wood – Greg is an attorney who focuses his practice in the area of intellectual property, mediating and arbitrating complex commercial disputes, and is an adjunct professor of law at Pepperdine University. He and Candy have been married for 54 years and have two sons, Jered and Nathan; daughters-in-law, Heather and Jessica, and three grandchildren, Zeke, Zane and Zaddok. Greg and Candy have been part of Rocky Peak since it began in 1977. They have served together in numerous ministries, including leading several Life Groups, teaching young married classes, serving on the prayer team, and participating in worship arts, and serving as an elder.

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