



May 2014

Dear Friends,

*Alliance Covenant Church* has changed its name to *River of Life*. *River of Life* remains a member of The Alliance (the Christian and Missionary Alliance) and we have not changed any of our doctrinal views. Our hope is that our new name will prevent some of the confusion associated with the Alliance Covenant name.

This is by no means the first name change for our church. On March 10, 1899 a small group of Swedish people organized a church in Idaho Falls and named it *The Swedish Evangelical Mission Congregation*. In 1942 the church changed the name to *The Mission Covenant Church*. Once again in 1967 the church changed its name to *The Evangelical Covenant Church*. Then in the 1981 the church decided to withdraw from the Mission Covenant denomination, changing the name to *Alliance Covenant Church*. Although now a member of The Alliance the church retained "covenant" in the name because of the long heritage with the Covenant denomination.<sup>1</sup> Although no longer affiliated with the Covenant denomination the name led some to believe we retain an affiliation with them. In October of 2013 the church once again decided to change the name, seven months later selecting the name *River of Life*.

*River of Life* comes from Revelation 22:1, "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb." As Christians we understand Jesus supplies eternal life to all who put their faith in him. Not only does Jesus provide eternal life, he also causes his people to be fruitful as we draw life from him. The psalmist bears this out when he writes of those who delight in the law of the Lord with the imagery of a tree planted alongside a river supplying life, "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers" (Ps. 1:3).

Our hope is that our new name reflects who we are and what people can expect from our church. Please keep this and other changes, we are soon to make, in prayer. In September we will change our worship time to 10:00 am followed by *Reflect* groups that will concentrate on Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Grace to you,

Pastor Tim

<sup>1</sup> History of the Alliance Covenant Church, p. 52

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