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**REPORT OF  
RIDGE HAVEN  
BREVARD, NC – CONO, IA  
TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

7 Ridge Haven has a unique ability to foster engagement in the church by targeting and training  
8 our youth. This is clearly demonstrated during our summer camp program, as each counselor  
9 is trained to have one-on-one conversations with their campers about what Christ means to  
10 them. Our counselors are the “hands and feet” of our ministry. We pray that the model of  
11 servant leadership will inspire younger campers to get “fired up” about serving the church  
12 with their own lives.

13  
14 We are cultivating this call to leadership at a young age. Ridge Haven actively encourages  
15 campers to identify the ways they can minister to other youth. Additionally, we provide about  
16 100 students with opportunities each summer (and many weekends during the year) to receive  
17 training in youth work by working at camp. We hope that they never lose the vision and high  
18 calling to serve as youth leaders themselves.

19  
20 The Lord has chosen to bless this effort and continues to grow the Ridge Haven ministry. In  
21 2019, we hosted over 11,000 total campers and guests—exceeding 2018’s previous record  
22 10,000 guests. It is humbling to see the Lord continue to sustain and grow the ministry of  
23 Ridge Haven in both North Carolina and Iowa. This increase came from our retreat ministry  
24 and more specifically, an increase in college campus ministries utilizing Ridge Haven for their  
25 student retreats during the school year. Recent Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) groups  
26 include Clemson, University of Georgia, Davidson College, University of Tennessee, and  
27 Appalachian State. Additionally, we have hosted many other college campus ministries like  
28 Campus Christian Fellowship, FCA, Brothers Under Christ Fraternity, BCM, and church’s  
29 college ministries.

30  
31 As we reported last year, it has been a huge blessing to utilize our new Jolly Dining Hall and  
32 the three camper housing villages with 148 new camper beds. We are now wanting to build  
33 the final piece of the puzzle: an indoor meeting space that doubles as an indoor recreational  
34 gym facility.

35  
36 A multi-purpose gym will provide Ridge Haven Brevard a long-term sustainable ministry as  
37 we continue to grow year-round. Currently, our largest indoor meeting area is packed at 220.  
38 We enjoy the use of an outdoor rec shelter for assemblies in the summer months. But as shown  
39 in our growth this past year, our retreat ministry is on the rise. The projected new space will  
40 hold near 1,000. We are currently grading the site with hopes that we will have the final  
41 funding by the end of the year.

42  
43 While the centerpiece project of our new campaign is the new indoor meeting facility and  
44 gym, we have undertaken other projects to accommodate our growth. Projects include

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1 transforming the old dining hall into a soda shop. We are also hoping to build additional camp  
2 and staff housing, pave several roads, and continue our expansion to the mid-west.

3 Ridge Haven Cono in Iowa continues to take shape. We hosted our second summer of camps  
4 in 2019 and the testimonies from the 400 kids we have served thus far has been very  
5 encouraging. At a nearby presbytery meeting last fall, pastors reflected on their experience at  
6 Ridge Haven Cono this past summer. One pastor shared that three of his kids prayed to receive  
7 Christ the last night of camp. Afterwards, his group sat in a circle for over an hour and a half  
8 as students shared and gave praise to the Lord. He reported that this time has continued to bear  
9 fruit in his youth ministry. It was very humbling and exciting. God is indeed at work.

10  
11 In addition to Cono providing camp and retreat opportunities in the Midwest, it has become  
12 evident that Cono can also provide outreach initiatives to the surrounding community. We  
13 hope that by providing after-school and summer programs during work hours children will be  
14 provided both supervision and discipleship where few opportunities currently exist.

15  
16 By God’s grace, the Ridge Haven staff has been steadily expanding with the growth of our  
17 ministry. Camp ministry—notably residential employment—can be challenging roles to fill.  
18 I am grateful to report that the Lord has assembled a team of dedicated people who are working  
19 to see Ridge Haven’s ministry flourish in both Brevard and at Cono. We are thankful for his  
20 timely provisions.

21  
22 Ridge Haven has enjoyed an exciting start to the decade. We had over 730 youth attend our  
23 Winter Retreat events in January and February. We also have the busiest spring retreat  
24 calendar. Summer is also looking good as early registrations are up by about 10%. We rejoice  
25 in all that the Lord has done through the ministry of Ridge Haven and are grateful to continue  
26 the earnest mission of equipping the next generation to build Christ’s Kingdom.

27 **Recommendations:**

- 28 1. That the Ridge Haven 2020 Budget as presented through the AC Budget Review  
29 Committee be approved.  
30 2. That the 2018 audit dated August 20, 2019, performed by Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan,  
31 be received.  
32 3. That the following minutes of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven be approved: March  
33 11-13, 2019; October 7-9, 2019.  
34 4. That February 21, 2021, be a day for our churches to pray for the ministries of Ridge  
35 Haven.

36  
37 Wallace Anderson  
38 Executive Director