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### High River and High River Alliance Church Profile

High River, Alberta is a town of approximately 12,000 people located 20 minutes from the southern city limits of Calgary. It is the largest agricultural servicing centre between Calgary and Lethbridge. In addition, it provides a home for many people who work in Calgary. High River is a rapidly growing community with a very attractive lifestyle. Calgary, and all that it offers, is right at our doorstep as is the highest paved mountain pass in Canada. Travelling only 115 km west are all the recreational activities found in the foothills, Kananaskis, and Banff National Park.

High River enjoys a relaxed pace of life and a high sense of community involvement. With the many parks and trails throughout the town including those along the Highwood River, High River is a great place to live. People move here not only because of the competitive value of real estate when compared to Calgary but also for the great quality of life. Foothills School Division and Christ the Redeemer School Division offer quality K – 12 public education. A variety of recreational facilities are available including swimming, curling, ice skating and weight-training venues. High River is in the Calgary Health Region and has a regional hospital. A wide variety of shopping opportunities are located throughout the Town. Additional shopping in larger “box” stores is available just to the north in Okotoks.

Approximately 350 people call HRAC their church home with an average Sunday service attendance of 225. HRAC staff consists of 2 full time pastors (Lead & Associate), a part time Director of Children’s ministry and a part time Director of Youth ministry. The Director of Youth position is presently vacant and will be staffed once the Lead Pastor is in place. In addition the church has a half-time office administrator and a part time custodian. High River Alliance Church recently finished (2006) a major facility renovation and expansion which has resulted in a very beautiful and functional facility which will enable the scope of the ministry to grow for some time. Our facility is located immediately next to Ecole Joe Clark School. Prior to our facility being complete, we held our services in the school. We have a terrific relationship with the school faculty and share facility space from time to time. Each December our church

hosts the school's Christmas concerts in our own facility free of charge. Our facility is available to other community organizations/events as a means of outreach and service to the community.

### Summary of HRAC Ministries

The purpose of HRAC is articulated as "*making fully devoted followers of Jesus, 24/7 - 360° - BEYOND.*" We seek to do that by:

- Leading people into a **24/7** journey with Jesus where they increasingly become fully devoted to Jesus and pursue him in a lifestyle characterized by the classic spiritual disciplines.
- Leading people to express their faith **360°** around them in terms of ministry, community and compassion towards others.
- Leading people to move **Beyond** themselves to reach others for the sake of Jesus, whether it be the spiritually lost, economically marginalized, lonely, broken, etc.

Sunday morning services remain our most active ministry. We presently enjoy having two worship teams which lead in a form of worship that would best be described as "contemporary." There is presently a need to further develop both the leadership and volunteer participation in this ministry.

More recently we have purposefully applied greater effort to expand the scope of making fully devoted followers of Christ. The recent hiring of David Schmidt, June 2008, as Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Ministry Development illustrates our desire to continue to broaden our 'ministry footprint' in people's lives. The children's ministry, whether it is Sunday mornings, Summer Bible Camp or Community Family Fun Nights, has been our more effective way of reaching families in the communities we serve. A snapshot of various ministries currently serving within the scope of HRAC includes but is not limited to:

Alpha

Lifegroups

Love in Action – a ministry addressing tangible needs in our church family and in High River

Two adult Sunday C.E. classes

Men's Breakfast (monthly)

Kidventure (Sunday Mornings)

Prime Timers

Fall Festival / Winterlude – community family fun events

Detour (Wednesday evening youth worship, teaching, small groups)

Fall Leadership Retreat (Weekend following Thanksgiving for Elders, Staff and spouses)

Christmas Banquet (outreach oriented)

Higher Grounds Coffee House – preceding and/or following Sunday services