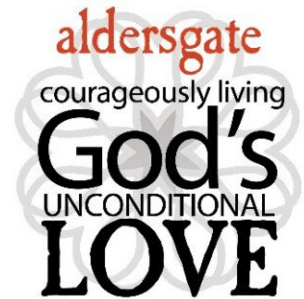


Aldersgate United Methodist Church Zoom Leadership Team Meeting

21 January 2025; 7 p.m.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86201985042?pwd=c3QyaXFuTFRxVzA0a20yRWM2ZlpQdz09>

1. Welcome, Comments, and Opening Prayer – Dave Halladay
2. Church Conference and Presentation of 2030 Strategic Priorities – Pastor Randy Orndorff & John McRae
Church Conference via Zoom – Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 – 7:00 pm
Approval of Strategic Priorities 2030 &
Approval to Apply for Infrastructure Grant Program UMC
Minutes Submitted to Northern Virginia United Methodist

Aldersgate Congregation Members Present: Sean Vermillion, Ed Little, Sandra Gehring, Ken Hamilton, Deborah Chusmir, Michael Chusmir, John McRae, Olivia Petersen, Deanna Jones, Lora Stanford, Mark Easton, Callie McIlwain, Steve Larkin, Bryce Edwards, Hilary Riedemann, Leigh Johnson, Don McIlwain, Mike Russell, Shari Van Buren, Dave Halladay, Jill Cox, and Senior Pastor Dr. Randall Orndorff.

The meeting opened with a welcome and prayer from Elder Dr. Randall Orndorff. Elder Dr. Randall asked for nomination for the Conference Secretary. Jill Cox was nominated by Steve Larkin. The nomination was seconded by Barb Roach and Mike Russell. The nomination of Jill Cox for Secretary was unanimously approved. Elder Dr. Randall Orndorff then introduced and turned over to John McRae, Strategic Priorities Lead. John McRae introduced each goal and then explained through a PowerPoint presentation each Strategic Priority in more detail. There was discussion regarding each of the Strategic Priorities for 2030. Don McIlwain motioned to bring to a with the proposal for Strategic Priorities Team to change language for Day School Strategic Priorities to align more with growing the relationship between church and school and not necessarily the enrollment of the actual school. The vote to accept Strategic Priorities for 2030 with these contingencies was unanimously approved.

Afterward, Elder Dr. Randall Orndorff introduced Sean Vermillion for introduction of the other church business on the agenda. Sean Vermillion shared that as the Lead Trustee he would like to get the approval to apply for Infrastructure Grant Program with the Northern Virginia District of the United Methodist Church in Virginia. He explained the Grant was to aim to enhance ministry capacity through projects such as facility improvements, accessibility up-grades, new construction, equipment purchases or debt reduction. Mike Russell moved to make a motion to start the process and apply for the Infrastructure Grant Program. Steve Larkin seconded the motion for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Randall Orndorff thanked everyone for attending and participating in the conference.

Respectfully,

Jill Cox, Recorder

AUMC Values – Joyous, Risk-Taking, Welcoming, Faithful, and Generous

3. Pursuing God's Will together Chapter 4 – Dave Halladay

4. Work of the Church – Ministries

- Strategic Planning – John McRae
- Engage – **Barb Roach** and Beth Bachmore (*RAD Christmas*)
 - Barb reported that the Engage team will hold their monthly meeting Thursday (1/16), during which they will do a post analysis of their two December events- Caroling on the Corner and the Nativity Animals.
 - Barb reminded the team that she was out of town for the month of December, and therefore was not present for Caroling on the Corner, but received feedback that the event, despite having been moved indoors at the last minute due to weather, was well attended and well received.
 - The live Nativity animals were a hit as usual on Christmas Eve. Many church members and neighbors of Aldersgate stopped by for a photo or just to visit with the animals. The Engage team added an inflatable children's Nativity scene to the area around the animals this year, and although they received positive remarks about it, it was not sturdy enough to remain outdoors in that location for more than a night or two. Next year they hope to procure a Nativity scene that can remain outdoors for the Lenten period and become part of the church holiday decorations.
 - Barb reported that planning had begun for the spring dance for Father's and Daughters, with a change to include Mothers and Sons this year as well. The dance is tentatively being called "Miss and Mister Ball" and our hope is that it will be even more inclusive to the many types of families in our community.
- Connect – Connections, **Hilary Riedemann**
 - Help with Fellowship Hour - It may go dark here and there because of outside commitments and lack of volunteers.
 - Thinking of perhaps another church outreach speech ? To garner more response and interest - more marketing more numbers
 - Looking at also forming a Connect committee - a la the Engage team - go Barb!!
 - Worship - Steve Larkin + Don McIlwain are crushing it!
- Connect – Worship, **Steve Larkin** and Don McIlwain
 - For the past month weekly attendance has averaged 213. Confirmation Sunday on Jan 12th was a highlight. While we have had to follow up with volunteer vacancies, people have been willing to help when asked and we have been able to recruit "instant volunteers" when needed.
 - For Christmas Eve, attendance was down 126 from 2023. There could be a number of reasons for this--weather, communication, vacations, etc. We worked hard in advance to recruit volunteers and communicate their duties to them so we were prepared.
- Equip – Education, **Leslie Belcher** and Leigh Johnson Miller
 - All adult Sunday school classes and small groups are meeting regularly and doing well.
 - The Disciple's Path class will begin again in February.
 - Glenn Fatzinger's small group has been postponed starting in March. He broke his ankle and has to stay off it for a while. Pastor Keary has found help for him at home.
 - House Church continues every other week on Wednesday nights.
 - The Parsonage small group is studying "A Million Little Miracles" by Mark Batterson.
 - Our pastors have decided on a Lenten study: "Draw the Circle: A 40-day Prayer Challenge". I have copies of the small group DVDs and leader guides which I have shared with some of the small groups.
 - Kids Min update: From **Lisa Lee**
 - I am excited to share the latest updates from our Kids Ministry program. We are

AUMC Values – Joyous, Risk-Taking, Welcoming, Faithful, and Generous

experiencing significant growth and engagement this season.

- Our Sunday School program is currently averaging 55-60 children on Sunday mornings, with an additional 10 children consistently attending the nursery. This steady attendance reflects the vibrant and welcoming environment we've cultivated.
- During the Christmas and Advent season, we hosted several memorable events.
- Our "Jammie Jesus Sunday School" day was a heartwarming success, with children arriving in pajamas and bringing new pajama donations for the Epiphany tree.
- Erica Kraft led a beautiful performance of "Silent Night" during a 9:30 worship service, showcasing the children's musical talents.
- The 3pm Christmas Eve service was a highlight for our Kids Ministry. We presented a charming Christmas Pageant, featured Dante Lee's delightful recitation of Charlie Brown's Christmas Story, and were honored to have Pastor Randy deliver a special children's sermon.
- Looking ahead, we are preparing to host the "Divine Talents KidMin Talent Showcase" this month. This event will provide a platform for children to share and celebrate their unique, God-given skills.
- I am thrilled to report that our Kids Ministry is not just growing—it is thriving and creating a dynamic, engaging spiritual community for our youngest congregants.
- Creation Care notes:
 - Will implement “walk, bike, bus or car-pool to church Sundays at least 4 times per year
 - Aldersgate achieved a Green Church Status with The Green Church Initiative Covenant of the VA Conference of the UMC and we will work to see that effort recognized.
 - Andreas has completed the TREX Project and when the church receives the bench, we will take a picture and write an article giving thanks in the church newsletter and on the church website.
 - Mar 11 – UMM/UWF Dinner – Creation Care – Panel Discussion – Native Plants, Audubon at Home Program, and Rain Barrels. The first two panelists have been confirmed and we are waiting on the third panelist. A separate date will be selected for a Rain Barrel Workshop.
 - Earth Day is on April 22nd. Jill will be working with the Kid's and Youth Ministries to set up events.
 - Beth is establishing a Green Team at the Day School, and they will develop events and educational opportunities.
 - The team is thinking about Sunday, Apr 27th for a church wide event.
 - Ed said the trustees applied for a grant to have all parking lot lights changed to LED.
- Send – Mission & Service, **Julie Pfister** and Sandra Gehring
 - Alternative giving raised roughly \$9,500 for missions in Cambodia
 - Hypothermia shelter and winter clothing drive is going well and lots of clothing has been donated and all slots for hypothermia have been filled
 - February mission focus will be collecting healthier soups for rising Hope. Our goal is 500 cans.
 - We will continue the personal hygiene collection for the Kennedy shelter and the winter clothing drive
 - Send will have several people for the leadership summit
- Young Adults – TBD
- Youth Ministries – **Olivia Peterson**
 - Paint This- January 26th, 4-6pm in Old Town. We'll each choose a ceramic pottery piece to paint and spend time together creating our masterpieces. The cost will be between \$30-\$45, as the studio charges \$12 for the time spent, plus the price of the pottery piece.
 - TobyMac Concert - February 22nd, 7 PM. Bailey is planning to take a group to see [TobyMac at Eagle Bank Arena](#) in Fairfax! The ticket price for a group of 10 or more is expected to be around

AUMC Values – Joyous, Risk-Taking, Welcoming, Faithful, and Generous

\$65 per person, including taxes. The final price will be confirmed once she knows how many are attending, and she will collect cash and checks once tickets have been purchased.

- Methodist Youth Ski Retreat - February 14-16th. It's a ski retreat organized by a group of other Methodist Youth Programs.
- Donut Den in Wesley Hall at 10:30am on Sunday's. Youth are welcome for fellowship and enjoy tasty donuts.
- Youth Group is every Sunday from 5pm-6pm.
- Youth Group on Wednesday is back on after holiday break!
- **UWF & UMM – Lorrie Rezendes & Mike Russell**
 - In January we are collecting travel size hygiene products for the Kennedy Shelter and asked congregation members to donate as well. The drive is going very well. There is a bin by door #3 to collect these items. UWF also donated \$500.00 to buy other needed items for the Kennedy Hypothermia Shelter. The Sewing Circle has completed 150 heart pillows and will have their Heart Pillow Stuffing Event and Luncheon on Feb 11th in Guback from 10 am to 1 pm. Rising Hope UWF and Woodlawn Faith UWF and women from Norther Virginia UWF District have been invited. This is open to all women at Aldersgate and all are welcomed. The finished pillows will go to local hospitals to be given to heart surgery patients.
- **Day School Liaison – Barb Roach**
 - Barb reported that the Day School's registration is going well for next fall, and that they are holding a new fundraiser - A Date-Night Gala for parents and teachers of the day school on Feb 8th at Mt. Vernon Country Club.

5. Church Work – Operations

- **Finance Update – Mark Easton (*Updates on Finances, Mortgage, and Stewardship*)**
 - 1. Mortgage Refinancing: Ed Little has this effort on track and we should be able to pay off our current note, while refinancing the balance (payoff now approximately \$950K) with DEVCO (United Methodist Development Corp.) later this month. Thanks again to Ed for his perseverance and attention to detail in making this happen.
 - 2. Stewardship Campaign: We remain below our goals but are grateful to Mark Husband for leading this effort—currently at 157 pledges (vs. 200 goal) and \$885K (vs. \$1M goal). We are accumulating Time and Talent inputs and will receive them online and in services this Sunday (19 Jan). Please keep encouraging more open hearts and pledges from our many servants.
 - 3. December financial results: The synopsis below reflects the fact that we finished exceptionally well with non-pledged revenue in December that resulted with Total Revenue exceeding expenses this year—the first time in recent years. This budget “surplus” of approximately \$86K was used to pay apportionments at a level of 72%—an increase of 7% from last year, as well as providing our talented clergy and staff with a small bonus to recognize a very active and successful year. (Summary to be provided for information during the meeting).
 - 4. We are truly blessed with many open hearts and we will approach many opportunities in the new year with energy and enthusiasm. Some of the opportunities that we will report on in future months include elements of the new 2025-30 strategy such as increased revenue generation and continued transparency. We also need to develop increased insight into increasing the number and amount of regular pledging. The Financial Health Team will continue to focus on these elements and others during 2025.
 - 5. Finally, I am proposing that the Leadership Team approve the 2025 budget that was presented during our Church Conference last October.

AUMC Values – Joyous, Risk-Taking, Welcoming, Faithful, and Generous

December 2024			
MTD Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget 2024
\$61,101.50	\$862,413.81	\$950,000.00	\$950,000.00
\$217,033.64	\$483,567.61	\$483,000.00	\$483,000.00
\$17,655.61	\$73,268.06	\$39,750.00	\$39,750.00
\$295,790.75	\$1,419,249.48	\$1,472,750.00	\$1,472,750.00
\$0.00	\$82,300.00	\$204,084.00	\$204,084.00
\$0.00	\$5,599.83	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
\$6,101.52	\$22,873.39	\$38,315.00	\$38,315.00
\$239.86	\$8,260.73	\$13,100.00	\$13,100.00
\$591.93	\$2,528.71	\$2,650.00	\$2,650.00
\$826.13	\$8,471.45	\$15,075.00	\$15,075.00
\$8,272.66	\$109,573.85	\$117,895.00	\$117,895.00
\$27,820.72	\$382,264.99	\$447,018.00	\$447,018.00
\$57,734.91	\$711,009.13	\$676,427.31	\$676,427.31
\$101,587.73	\$1,332,862.08	\$1,521,564.31	\$1,521,564.31
\$194,203.02	\$86,367.40	-\$48,814.31	-\$48,814.31
\$9,190.68	\$117,451.48		
\$16,511.19	\$65,772.19		
\$9,000.00	\$29,150.00		
\$34,701.87	\$212,373.67		
\$23,326.28	\$188,240.45		
\$11,375.59	\$24,133.22		
\$210,319.04			
\$225,255.34			
\$379,659.53			
\$815,233.91			
\$51,241.48			

AUMC Values – Joyous, Risk-Taking, Welcoming, Faithful, and Generous

\$1,382,168.06			
\$2,248,643.45			

- Trustee Update – Sean Vermillion and Ed Little (*Facilities Repairs*)
- Executive Director Update – Jill Cox
 - Focus: Stewardship Campaign, Begin work on setting up Time & Talent Campaign – online survey & hard copy format, Strategic Priorities, Church Conference Prep of Documents Needed, Finalization of Budget for Church Conference (Jan 21), Finish Mortgage Refinance, Preparations for Leadership Summit, Onboarding of New Children’s Choir Director, Funerals (Latta & Scheilbler), Marketing Prep for Sermon Series Do Unto Other, Confirmation Graduation Prep (Bulletins, Certificates, etc.), Begin Work Preparing for Lent Needs, Begin Work Preparing for Staff Retreat.

I oversee the functions of Office Management, HR Onboarding/Hiring Panel, IT, Receptionist (Christine McElwain), Finance Department (Jane Kratovil), Facility Management (Tony Pittman) and Digital Ministry (Molly Johnson) which includes our newsletter, social media platforms, website, slide production for worship services and weekly bulletin production for worship services. I work closely with Pastors, Ministry Teams, Finance, Trustees and Endowment.

•

6. Pastor Updates – **Randy Orndorff**

We are off and running into the new year- 2025. We have enjoyed 14 youth joining our church through confirmation, Pastor Clyde joined us on MLK. Jr. weekend and shared the message as part of our exchange/partnership with Woodlawn Faith UMC and we have kicked off our new sermon series for 6 weeks- Do Unto Others.

We have had our first Leadership Summit of 2025 with Ideal Curtis and reviewed our newly approved Strategic Priorities that we will soon share with the entire congregation which were approved at our Church Conference tonight at 7pm. Thanks for your work, John McRae.

We have our next Pizza with the Pastors coming up Jan 27 at 6pm with 5-6 families planning to attend. We have had a new member join in January and several families planning to join in Feb/March as well.

We have had 3 memorial services in January for long time members- John Latta, Joe Scheibeler , and Sam Schrage. I will be speaking at the Judicial Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, Jan 28 at Patricia Millett’s invitation.

I look forward to our upcoming UMM Men’s supper and program with Mt Vernon’s resident historian and fifer, Don Fransico sharing the program.

Work with our 2025 Stewardship team is wrapping up. Our refinance on the mortgage is about settled as well. Performance Reviews for all staff will take place in February.

AUMC Values – Joyous, Risk-Taking, Welcoming, Faithful, and Generous

Plus, many other great things happening at AUMC.

On a personal note, Lee Anne and I will be away Jan 29 through Feb 7 for a break.

As an add on- during closed session with SPRC I did announce my retirement plans for the summer of 2025. We walked through how that would be shared with staff first, then the Leadership Team, then the congregation on Sunday Jan 26th and a follow up letter on the morning of Jan 27th.

What a great congregation I get to serve!

– Keary Kincannon

7. Closed Session

- Staff Parish Relations Committee update – Bryce Edwards (*Status of Hiring the Youth Director and the Children's Choir Director*)

8. Future dates and closing prayer

- Jan 26, 2025, Leadership Team Summitt, 1200-4:30
- Feb 18, 2025, Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m., Pursuing God's Will Together Chapter 5
- Mar 18, 2025, Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m., Pursuing God's Will together Chapter 6
- Apr 15, 2025, Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m., Pursuing God's Will Together Chapter 7
- May 20, 2025, Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m., Pursuing God's Will Together Chapter 8
- Jun 17, 2025, Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m., Pursuing God's Will Together Chapter 9