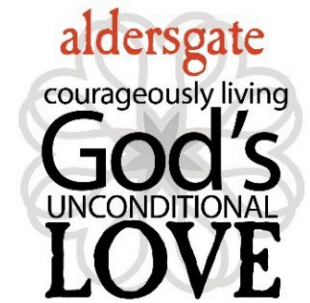


Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Zoom Church Conference and
Leadership Team Meeting

October 15th, 2024; 7 p.m.



Attendees: Steve Larkin, Dave Halladay, Olivia Petersen, Paul Amos, Ed Little, Barb Roach, Mark Easton, Leslie Belcher, Lorrie Rezendes, Leigh Miller, Bryce Edwards, Hilary Riedemann, Mike Russell, Sean Vermillion, Don McIlwain, Jill Cox and Randy Orndorff

Connect by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86201985042?pwd=c3QyaXFuTFRxVzA0a20yRWM2ZlplQdz09>

1. Welcome, Comments, and Opening Prayer

2. Pursuing God's Will Together – Chapt 1

3. Work of the Church – Ministries

- Strategic Plan Update – John McRae
- Engage – **Barb Roach** and Beth Bachmore
 - Engage team was happy to report that the Blessing of the Pets service was a successful opportunity to share fellowship and the message of Christ with our congregants, our neighbors and their four-legged friends. Approximately 60 people attended, and several came with friends or saw signs about this event from within our community. Barb reported that she would follow up with the contact information received from our visitors on Sunday via email.
 - Engage and the Day School are jointly hosting the Fall Festival / Trunk or Treat in two weeks on October 27th, and all Aldersgate members are encouraged to participate, and volunteer. There is a Sign Up Genius linked to the Announcement on our Web Page.
- Connect – Connections, Hilary Riedemann (*Status of Fellowship Time*)
- Connect – Worship, **Steve Larkin** and Don McIlwain
 - Worship attendance averaged 200 per week for the past month.
 - Don McIlwain and Steve Larkin will usher at John Pike's funeral on Friday, October 18.
 - Don and Steve will tape a request for Advent/Christmas worship volunteers to be aired Sunday October 20.
- Equip – Education, **Leslie Belcher** and Leigh Johnson Miller
 - All adult Sunday school classes and small groups are meeting regularly now.
 - I have spoken to the group leaders, and we have a good turnout in each area, and leaders continue to be excited.
 - The Tuesday night House Church has disbanded for the time being. The group (led by me) had gotten very small, and participants asked for a break to determine our next best steps. We will regroup after Christmas and see how we can fit the needs of the members. We may change from a HC to a small study group. But it's yet to be seen. All the members are active members of the church and other activities such as choir or UMM, so we haven't lost anyone.
 - The Wednesday night HC continues to flourish and meet every other week.

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- The Kids Ministry, now rebranded as KidMin, has seen remarkable growth and engagement. The ministry now averages sixty children in attendance on Sunday mornings. Thanks in large part to Lisa Lee, this growth is a testament to the vibrant and engaging atmosphere we have created for the children.
 - Send – Mission & Service, Julie Pfister and Sandra Gehring.
 - Young Adults –
 - Youth Ministries – **Olivia Peterson**
 - This month, our youth group has been buzzing with activity! On Wednesdays after school, we've been focused on creating our youth values while enjoying fun "this or that" games. We also held some exciting competitions, tossing ping pong balls into containers for points—lots of laughter and friendly rivalry!
 - On Sundays, we've explored meaningful themes including change and new beginnings, compassion and empathy, and navigating difficult people and differences. These discussions have fostered a deeper understanding and connection among us.
 - Looking ahead, we're eager to have Pastor Pamela share insights on how we can engage more with the community and boost attendance on Sunday nights. We're also planning fun outings like laser tag to strengthen our bonds and have a great time together.
 - Additionally, we're excited about providing opportunities for our youth to volunteer within the church, helping them develop valuable skills and contribute to our community.
 - UWF & UMM – **Lorrie Rezendes & Mike Russell**
 - Creation Care: The Creation Care Team will meet OCT 22nd at 1 pm. Jill will be the new co-chair of the team. A Bird Sanctuary Grant was approved, and three native black chokeberry shrubs will be planted on OCT 24th by the parking lot by door number 3. More plans are being developed to remove more invasive plants.
 - UWF: Women's Celebration Sunday was a success, and 4 women have joined UWF. Molly and Leigh worked hard on two flyers that were placed in the bulletin full of information on UWF and the Christmas Market. The Christmas Market will be held on NOV 9th from 9 to 2 pm and all are invited. There will be a table during coffee hour every Sunday until the Christmas Market giving out information especially to casserole makers and all bakers. Once loved jewelry, hats, handbags, and scarves can be dropped off at the church in the basket next to the Receptionist desk by door #3 through OCT 30th. White Elephant donations will be accepted on Thursday, NOV 7th from 4 to 7 and on Friday NOV 8th from 9 am to 4 pm.
 - The Sewing Circle will complete 50 heart pillows for Mended Heart and deliver them on OCT 24th as they are in dire need of more heart pillows.
 - Day School Liaison – **Barb Roach**
 - Barb reminded the leadership team that the Fall Consignment sale is right around the corner. Shopping in Wesley Hall takes place from October 24th - 26th.
5. Church Work – Operations
- Finance Update
 - – **Mark Easton** (*Updates on Finances, Stewardship, and Mortgage Refinance*)
 - > 1. Sept Financial synopsis (Jill should share this spreadsheet)— We continue to have cash solvency challenges, some due to the seasonal aspect coming out of the summer, and also due to the fact that both pledges and non-pledged giving lag where we would like them to be, after 75% of the year behind us. This is unfortunately part of a longer-term downward trend in our patterns of giving and it will come up again in our discussions of next year's operating budget. Several other items of note as highlighted in the notes section to the right.
 - > 2. SH Mortgage refinancing effort—this has been ably led by Ed Little. The pending sale of the #2 parsonage should allow us to need to finance a significantly smaller

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- principal. Not a “done-deal” yet but making some good progress. Ed has teed up three Bank proposals later this week and next. It should be noted that a few institutions looked at our finances and said that we wouldn’t qualify or meet their standards. Fortunately, we have some other more favorable sources interested in our business....and we’re fortunate that we will be closer to the \$1M level (with the parsonage sale) which means we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.
- > 3. Next, the proposed budget— Jill has done a fantastic job of getting this organized and I will be recommending that we approve this budget. (Jill should share a one-page summary to provide the big picture summary that will be included in next week’s church Conference.) Thanks specifically to Jill and to those of you who supported our review of your respective areas. With that said, I wanted to offer a few specific comments, given that our LT will be making most of the future decisions as we execute this 2025 Operating budget.
 - > —Referring to the 1-page summary, you can see that the budget is essentially “flat” with an overall 4-5% increase in both projected revenues and expenses. A couple of the larger expense drivers include: An increase in property maintenance, due largely to the installation of LED lights, that will hopefully return some of that in the form of lower utility bills. Also, Professional salaries are also higher, but that includes some of the changes in staff that we are planning...however I’d note that overall increase in salaries is a meager 1%.....and we are limited in doing anything for our clergy, given that we have been unable to pay our apportionments. I think we would all like to recognize our staff a bit more but with our current levels of revenue, this is the best we can do right now.
 - > So, in general, we have a great church family, supporting some very meaningful programs, and this budget does just that. But I’d also like to inject a bit of realism, while also knowing that God is at work, and the resources in the form of time, talented and financial support will be provided, God willing.
 - > That realism is in the form of a Revenue trend that is clearly negative. Since Covid days, revenue income (aka “giving”, either in the form of pledged or non-pledged income, has been about 10-15% below target estimates for the last three years...but we continue to make those more hopeful projections. Further, only a small % of our membership is currently making a commitment or pledge.
 - > Our projected shortfalls have been accommodated by: 1) not always executing the budget numbers that we have historically planned for, 2) limiting apportionment payments to the bare minimum required, and 3) on occasion dipping into the Shepherd Hall funds set aside and given specifically to retire the mortgage.
 - > We will be working to communicate the need in our Stewardship campaign, but I wanted to make sure we were all on the same sheet of music.
 - > 4. Turning now to Stewardship— we are blessed to have Mark Husband chairing this year’s campaign—The Heart of a Servant. You will see an email out this week to announce the campaign, and it will follow the traditional 4-sermon series in November, culminating on Gratitude Sunday—24 November.
 - > In summary, I’ve covered each of this years’ strategic plan elements—Refinancing the Shepherd Hall mortgage; developing next years’ budget; and our stewardship campaign. I’ll relay more on our efforts to use our facilities to generate additional revenue in future meetings.
 - > Thank you for your patience in allowing me to cover so much. Pending any questions, I’ll turn it over to Paul Amos who wanted to mention a request for some lead commitments for this year’s campaign.

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Monthly Financial Synposis	Sept 2024			Budget 2024
	MTD Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	
REVENUE				
Pledged	\$65,081.00	\$633,363.71	\$712,500.03	\$950,000.00
Non-Pledged	\$28,524.00	\$201,816.75	\$362,250.00	\$483,000.00
Add'l Revenue	\$1,253.27	\$48,561.17	\$29,812.59	\$39,750.00
Total Revenue	\$94,858.27	\$883,741.63	\$1,104,562.62	\$1,472,750.00
EXPENSES				
Apportionments	\$0.00	\$82,300.00	\$152,063.00	\$204,084.00
Engage	\$0.00	\$1,048.83	\$5,249.97	\$7,000.00
Connect	-\$253.04	\$11,539.82	\$28,736.28	\$38,315.00
Equip	\$606.02	\$4,952.62	\$9,824.94	\$13,100.00
Send	\$372.82	\$1,744.65	\$1,987.56	\$2,650.00
Communications	\$0.00	\$4,203.13	\$11,306.25	\$15,075.00
Adminstration	\$6,450.20	\$83,630.68	\$88,421.31	\$117,895.00
Trustee	\$37,567.23	\$286,570.79	\$335,263.68	\$447,018.00
Personnel	\$60,406.43	\$536,519.12	\$507,320.46	\$676,427.31
Total Expenses	\$105,149.66	\$1,012,509.64	\$1,141,173.45	\$1,521,564.31
Net	-\$10,291.39	-\$128,768.01	-\$36,610.83	-\$48,814.31
SH Revenue Pledged	\$4,829.68	\$81,770.44		
SH Revenue Non-Pledged	\$4,226.00	\$35,170.00		
SH Other Revenue	\$0.00	\$2,150.00		
SH Revenue Total	\$9,055.68	\$119,090.44		
SH Expenses	\$12,826.28	\$119,261.61		
SH Net	-\$3,770.60	-\$171.17		
Bank Balances				
AUB	\$142,655.12			
BoA	\$92,861.31			
B&H	\$277,289.95			
Total Bank Balances	\$512,806.38			
Other Assets/Amoritization Loan Costs	\$51,869.98			
Endowments	\$1,436,487.45			
Total Assets	\$2,001,163.81			

- - Trustee Update – Sean Vermillion and Ed Little
 - Sean Vermillion:
 - Freezer situation, we have temporary freezers while we are looking at options to purchase new freezer
 - Sale of Parsonage 2
 - Offer to Purchase
 - We received full price offer (\$925,000)
 - They asked us to pay \$25,000 in seller concessions
 - Painting, flooring, cleaning cost prior to listing for sale \$9,000
 - Selling Commission \$27,750
 - Settlement cost \$5000
 - Expected proceeds \$858,250

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- Home Inspection came back with a large list of repairs/replacements the Purchasers wanted us to do. We negotiated and came up with a list of items that we agreed to fix.
 - Safety issues, smoke and co2 detectors, mold in basement, handrail to basement on exterior stairs and columns resting on rocks instead of footings
 - Electrical, replace electrical panel, fix ungrounded receptacles, install gfi in 2nd floor bath, install wirings in attic in junction box
 - Plumbing, leak under laundry tub sink, repair hose bibs, repair bathtub drain stopper, and repair half bath sink stopper
 - Systems, replace roof (had to be done because of the VA loan), inspect furnace, replace hot water heater
 - Other, properly vent exhaust fans, clean chimney, repair broken window
 - The cost of the home inspection items is approximately \$20,000. This brings the proceeds down to \$838,250.
- Appraisal came in lower than the contract price. (\$909,000) The Purchasers asked us to lower price to \$909,000. We declined and told them they would have to handle it on their side. They came back to us and offered to split it, \$8,000 each. We accepted. The reason we accepted was we were concerned that if the deal fell apart, it could affect the refinance. The contract price was lowered to \$917,000. This reduces the expected proceeds to \$830,250
- Ed Little:
- Our current loan for Shepherd Hall matures on February 15, 2025. The refinance team is working with a number of bank candidates to refinance the loan. The refinance team includes Pastor Randy, Jill Cox, Mark Easton, Cindy Culbertson, Mark Husband, Lora Stanford, Jane Kratovil, and Ed Little. Meetings with banks will occur in the next few weeks. The first meeting will be this Wednesday evening with DEVCO, the business section of the United Methodist Foundation. Key dates for refinance activities are as follows:
 - Meeting with candidate Banks (15-30 October)
 - Motion at Church Conference (October 22) for approval of Leadership Team to approve the new loan.
 - Leadership Team approves new loan-November 19th
 - Approval request to Circuit Court November 20th
 - Loan settled January 8th, 2025
- Executive Director Update – Jill Cox
 - Focus: Kick-off of Stewardship Campaign, Begin Church Conference Prep of Documents, Begin Work on All Saints Service, Finalization of Budget, Quarterly Letters/Statements, Mortgage Refinance. It is a very busy time with preparing for many different budgeting, campaign, and upcoming conference.

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**

Randy:

It's good to be back with you after 8 days away with Lee Anne to Arizona. Final preparations are

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now under way for Church Conference next Tuesday evening in Founders at 7pm.

A friendly reminder that this Sunday is Laity Sunday, and our Lay Leader Paul Amos will be sharing the message.

Stewardship is working diligently, and our kickoff Sunday is November 3rd with the theme The Heart of a Servant from Peter 4:10. The first mailing will be out soon, if not already.

Gratitude Sunday is November 24th.

We had 3 families attend Pizza with the Pastors last month. New families show up each week for worship.

Blessing of the Pets was a real blessing. Lots of hair and wagging tails. 😊

We are working on our All-Saint's service for those laid to rest in the columbarium for Sunday November 3 at 12:30. I'll be sharing a message called All Things New and Andreas will be offering music.

We are preparing for John Pike's memorial service for this Friday at 11am. John will be laid to rest in the columbarium.

And of course, our Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat is just around the corner. It's a great way to connect with our community and hope you can participate.

Looking ahead, our Advent theme this year is On the Way to Bethlehem. We'll be decorating the church building before we know it.

7. Closed Session

8. Future dates and closing prayer:

- Oct 22, 2024 Church Conference, 7 PM
- Nov 19, 2024 Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Dec 10, 2024 Staff Christmas Luncheon, Noon at Guback Cntr
- Dec 19, 2024 Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m. **(In Person - Founders)**

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