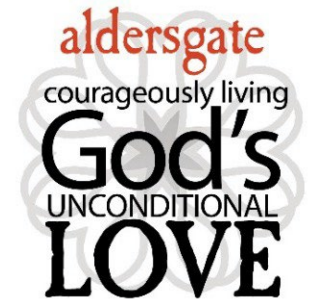


Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Zoom Church Conference and
Leadership Team Meeting

November 19th, 2024; 7 p.m.



Attendees: Paul Amos, Leigh Miller, Ed Little, Lorrie Rezendes, Barb Roach, Olivia Petersen, Dave Halladay, Steve Larkin, Don McIlwain, John McRae, Hilary Riedemann, Sandra Gehring, Jill Cox and Randy Orndorff.

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

1. Welcome, Comments, and Opening Prayer
2. Pursuing God's Will Together – Chapt 2
3. Work of the Church – Ministries
 - Strategic Plan Update – John McRae
 - Engage – **Barb Roach** and Beth Bachmore
 - Engage reported that the Trunk or Treat was very well attended. Team members agreed that the food truck concept still needed some work (either better promotion or fewer trucks) as the three that we had this year did not report sales as large as they would have liked. The team also agreed that marketing to young adults or adults without kids should also occur as folks could have come out to enjoy the beautiful fall day and listen to the band while grabbing a bite from the food trucks. (A missed opportunity this year).
 - Barb reported that Engage, along with Pastor Ann, had set up a welcome table at the Christmas Market and handed out flyers with the times of our Christmas Eve services on it to those in attendance.
 - Barb also reported that the Lunch Bunch group, that Dave Malzahn and Kitty Ahmad are hosting monthly, has been attracting a nice crowd. Today 14 folks met at the El Paso on Cooper Road for lunch and fellowship.
 - Coming up for Engage is Caroling on the Corner, and the Nativity Animals on Christmas Eve. We are looking to purchase a Nativity scene or Manger Scene in silhouette to be placed near the animals on Christmas Eve.
 - Connect – Connections, **Hilary Riedemann** (*Status of Fellowship Time*)
 - Deck the Halls - Molly Johnson taking the lead as a member volunteer - including within the day is a pizza lunch, Be the Good mission activity and decorating for Christmas!
 - Connect ministry moment - December 8th - Hilary will discuss connect + the fact that we need volunteers! –
 - Going to work on getting a hard sign up sheet as well as the sign up genius.
 - Connect – Worship, Steve Larkin and Don McIlwain
 - Equip – Education, Leslie Belcher and **Leigh Johnson Miller**
 - - Leslie and Leigh met with Keary Kincannon for 1 hour last week to provide an overview of EQUIP and the ministries it encompasses as well as the processes we use for communication and decision making. We recommended Keary also meet with Lisa Lee to discuss KidMin and VBS given the significant growth we've seen in those areas.

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

- - All adult Sunday school classes and small groups are meeting regularly and doing well.
- - KidMin (children's Sunday School) continues to go well and we continue to have a great showing on Sundays. Several new day school families/children have recently started participating. Erica Kraft is teaching all of the children to perform Silent Night using ASL and this will be presented to the church in December. There is some thought that these types of performances might help fill the void when Alison stops leading the children's choir due to her upcoming pregnancy.
- - Several groups are considering doing the advent study that Randy will be using in December.
- - Glenn Fatzinger has proposed starting a new adult Sunday School class in February centered on how we can apply Christian principles to living in a complex modern urban society. It would be called "Contemporary Christian Challenges" and would use the book "Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger" as the opening book.
- Send – Mission & Service, Julie Pfister and Sandra Gehring.
- Young Adults –
- Youth Ministries – **Olivia Peterson**
 - The youth have been up to a lot recently. We've still have been having Wednesday youth group every week and now are having Sunday youth group at 5-6.
 - On Sundays in the Wesley Hall Bailey has been offering a Donut Den after the 9:30 service to the youth instead of having Sunday School. The youth has really been enjoying having a tasty donut to catch up with their friends.
 - In December, the youth is planning to help with Be the Good/Deck the Halls. Everyone is so excited to get into the holiday spirit and help decorate our church!
 - In the future, we are planning to go to a Toby Mac concert on the 21st of February. More details will come closer to when the time comes.
 - Bailey will give more updates about events to the youth through WhatsApp to stay in touch.
- UWF & UMM – **Lorrie Rezendes** & Mike Russell
 - UWF's Christmas Market was a huge success with very positive compliments from attendees. We raised over \$13,000 for missions that support women, children, and families. More money will come in as we continue our pecan sales. UWF wants to thank the UMM and everyone else that supported this wonderful annual event.
 - UWF is also baking cookies for the church's "Deck the Hall Event!"
 - Our next large event will be our Heart Pillow Stuffing Event and Luncheon in FEB.
- Day School Liaison – **Barb Roach**
 - The Fall Consignment sale was the Day School's most successful one yet. Proceeds of this sale will go towards the continuing effort to upgrade the safety and security of the Day School facility.

5. Church Work – Operations

- Finance Update
- – **Mark Easton** (*Updates on Finances, Stewardship, and Mortgage Refinance*)
 1. October statements. The October financial synopsis (please share) is attached. Giving (our primary source of revenue) continues to lag our budgeted projections, however while in October, as well as in September, our expenses exceeded revenue by a similar amount— approx. \$10K, this deficit has been manageable as we have cash reserves sufficient to make payroll and pay our bills. Overall, while we may finish the year with as much as \$100K under our total budget projections for all giving, our under-execution of our current budgeted expenses compensates for this potential (\$100K) deficit. This will be due primarily to NOT paying our budgeted apportionments, and lower Trustee expenses this year. We pray for a holiday season that typically provides much larger attendance and giving. This month we

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

decided to wait until January to make final decisions on apportionments. Depending on the results of our current stewardship campaign, I would recommend that we review our recently approved budget (approved by our church conference on 22 Oct) in the Spring to see if these trends are continuing.

2. Stewardship Campaign. This Sunday is Gratitude Sunday and we are praying for open grateful hearts. A delay in shipping of our traditional green envelopes, delayed our primary mailing until late last week so we are hoping that timing will coincide nicely with this Sunday. Thanks to Mark Husband and our entire Financial Health Team for supporting our excellent sermon series with email communications and personal Stewardship testimonies which I think have been particularly effective. Thanks to Jill, Jane and Callie for some heroic efforts in getting our mailing out. Thanks to Molly for helping to get our information out electronically through a superb Stewardship page on our website. Overall, I great team effort!

I would ask each of our Leadership team leads to reach out to their teams and small groups to help us encourage everyone's support for our campaign. While talking about money is not something we often like to do, the personal relationships in Sunday school classes, small groups and so forth, really help make our message of giving back for the many blessings we have been given come to life.

3. Shepherd Hall Mortgage refinancing/Sale of Parsonage #2. I would like to thank Ed Little and Sean Vermillion for executing the plan that was approved by our Church Conference..... delegating the authority to approve the new financing source.

At this point, I would turn over this discussion to Ed Little. Ed will present the decisions that we are recommending for refinancing the (now) much smaller loan principal and approving the selection of a new financing agent.

- – **Ed Little** (*Updates on Mortgage Refinance*)

The REFY Loan with DEVCO

The current Shepherd Hall loan with Atlantic Union Bank matures on February 14, 2025. It is necessary to pay off the loan at that time or to seek refinancing.

The Refinance Team consisting of Mark Easton, Sean Vermillion, Ed Little, Cindy Culbertson, Mark Husband and Lora Stanford evaluated 7 banks and has selected the Virginia United Methodist Development Company (DEVCO) as the financial institution to refinance the Shepherd Hall loan.

Why DEVCO?

1. Loan for \$1M after sale of Anesbury parsonage
2. Interest rate 5.8%
3. Low closing cost-only requires title insurance and minor other fees
4. No appraisal required
5. No prepayment penalty
6. Balloon payment required after 5 years, but an additional 5 years can be obtained for another 5 years with only a loan review
7. Allows flexible amortization rates-we have chosen a 15-year rate
8. Interest rates can be reduced by investments made with DEVCO

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

At the Church Conference on October 22nd the congregation authorized the Leadership Team to approve refinancing the Shepherd Hall Loan.

Motion for Leadership Team to approve refinancing the Shepherd Hall Loan:

“I move that the Leadership Team approve a \$1 million dollar loan from the Virginia United Methodist Development Company for the purpose of refinancing the Shepherd Hall loan.”

● – Paul Amos (*Mortgage Refinance*)

- The loan was approved and Ed offered the motion and Steve seconded it. Little discussion and then a successful vote.

Monthly Financial Synopsis	October 2024			Budget 2024
	MTD Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	
REVENUE				
Pledged	\$71,066.50	\$705,930.21	\$791,666.70	\$950,000.00
Non-Pledged	\$27,243.00	\$229,059.75	\$402,500.00	\$483,000.00
Add'l Revenue	\$2,001.25	\$50,562.42	\$33,125.10	\$39,750.00
Total Revenue	\$101,810.75	\$985,552.38	\$1,227,291.80	\$1,472,750.00
EXPENSES				
Apportionments	\$0.00	\$82,300.00	\$170,070.00	\$204,084.00
Engage	\$1,250.00	\$2,302.83	\$5,833.30	\$7,000.00
Connect	\$4,297.69	\$15,837.51	\$31,929.20	\$38,315.00
Equip	\$850.52	\$5,803.14	\$10,916.60	\$13,100.00
Send	\$50.00	\$1,794.65	\$2,208.40	\$2,650.00
Communications	\$2,109.73	\$6,312.86	\$12,562.50	\$15,075.00
Adminstration	\$9,003.46	\$92,624.85	\$98,245.90	\$117,895.00
Trustee	\$34,106.52	\$320,682.36	\$372,515.20	\$447,018.00
Personnel	\$60,575.85	\$597,094.97	\$563,689.40	\$676,427.31
Total Expenses	\$112,247.77	\$1,124,753.17	\$1,267,970.50	\$1,521,564.31
Net	-\$10,437.02	-\$139,200.79	-\$40,678.70	-\$48,814.31
SH Revenue Pledged	\$12,693.68	\$94,464.12		
SH Revenue Non-Pledged	\$4,825.00	\$39,995.00		
SH Other Revenue	\$17,800.00	\$19,950.00		
SH Revenue Total	\$35,318.68	\$154,409.12		
SH Expenses	\$32,826.28	\$152,087.89		
SH Net	\$2,492.40	\$2,321.23		
Bank Balances				
AUB	\$174,493.08			
BoA	\$86,408.90			
B&H	\$277,734.72			
Total Bank Balances	\$538,636.70			
Other Assets/Amortization Loan Costs	\$51,660.48			
Endowments	\$1,383,615.74			
Total Assets	\$1,973,912.92			

○

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

- Trustee Update – Sean Vermillion and **Ed Little**
 - Sean Vermillion:
 - Ed Little:
 - Expenses in October have been about \$50K below budget
 - Fairfax County conducts a variety of inspections throughout the year. Examples are Fire Marshall, Elevator, and Storm Water Management. The recent Storm Water management inspection revealed significant deficiencies in our Sand Pit. We are selecting a new contractor to fix the deficiencies and maintain the drainage system up to specs. We do not yet have an estimate from the new contractor, but we expect the costs to be substantial.
 - There is a facility cost for each activity that uses our facilities. We recently conducted a basic cost analysis program for the use of our facilities. If we know the building square footage the activity uses, we can then pro rate the cost based on that number. This analysis can be used to determine the amount to be charged for activities we rent out or for our own activities such as the Day School and ACCT.
 - We need to get the facilities to pay for themselves. We are launching an aggressive program to advertise our facilities for rent. Sean has taken pictures of our facilities to use for the advertisement. Information on the program will be available soon.
 - Other items
 - We have changed a number of lights in the parking lot with LED bulbs.
 - We have switched the HVAC systems to heat. To maintain the proper humidity level for the organ in the Sanctuary, we have humidity canisters in the Sanctuary supply ducts. They need to be changed now for about \$800.
 - There are two pump motors that need to be replaced-Narthex and old classroom pumps are the issue.
 - The Wesley Hall kitchen freezer needs to be replaced. We are investigating funds to purchase a new freezer. Gifts and Memorial restricted account is an option. Estimated cost are for \$15-20K.
- Executive Director Update – Jill Cox
 - Focus: Stewardship Campaign, Statistical Reporting for Conference, Church Conference Prep of Documents and Event, Begin Work on All Saints Service, Finalization of Budget, Mortgage Refinance, Be the Good Monthly Mission Project Lead. It is a very busy time preparing for many different Stewardship campaign communications, church conference, and preparing for Advent.

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**

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

Randy:

The last 4 weeks have been a bit challenging with many funerals, transitions in the pastoral team and many other important ministry matters to include stewardship, refinancing of the mortgage, strategic priority work and much more. Thanks to the wonderful staff and leadership team and the teams that work in these areas, the work is much easier and enjoyable. We seek God in all these areas.

Over the last week I have had the privilege of being part of the Confirmation retreat with the faith sharing stories of 5 church members and attending Mass at Good Shepherd. We are looking forward to confirmation Sunday on Jan 12th.

I'm aware SPRC is working to move forward on interviewing and hiring a student Ministry director. In the meantime, Bailey Johnson has been doing a great job connecting with Parents and youth. Donut Den has begun in Wesley and the Youth group is back to meeting every Sunday evening, along with every Wed youth hangout in the afternoon. Bailey is also starting to connect better with youth and families through What's App?

I have shared 3 of the 4 stewardship messages and have given my best to invite our congregation to make commitments and encouraged people who have never pledged or given online to give it a try, even to step up to tithing. Follow up work will begin Dec 2 and 9th with a Core team meeting and then celebration and follow up calls and contacts of those we have not yet heard from who typically make a commitment.

Pizza with the Pastors is set for Monday Dec 2 at 6pm with 13 families being invited.

Children's choir has 18 children and will sing Nov 24 and Dec 15th. Allison Wilson will be stepping away as they are adding to their family.

The Advent/Christmas season is now around the corner, and I look forward to sharing our sermon series "On the Way to Bethlehem" where we will encounter places of longing, waiting, simplicity, humility and return. We'll move towards our Christmas Eve services at 3, 5 and 7:30pm and enjoy wonderful Christmas music, live nativity animals, communion and light our candles as we sing Silent Night. It's hard to believe 2024 is nearing an end.

As we move into 2025 a new 6-week sermon series called Do unto Others will be shared. We'll focus on Kindness, Compassion, Humility, Respect and Love as we live through another inauguration and are still living in a divided country. What will our Christian response be?

7. Closed Session

8. Future dates and closing prayer:

- Dec 10, 2024 Staff Christmas Luncheon, Noon at Guback Cntr
- Dec 19, 2024 Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m. **(In Person - Founders)**
- Dec 25, 2024-Jan 1, 2025 – Church Office Closed

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