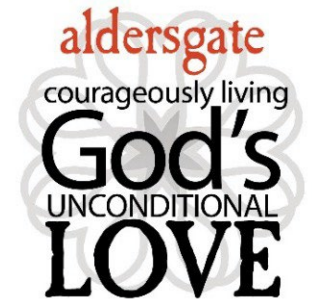


Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Zoom Church Conference and
Leadership Team Meeting

December 17th, 2024; 7 p.m.



Attendees: In person – no sign in sheet present. Dave Halladay, Randy Orndorff, Paul Amos

Aldersgate UMC: Room 209

1. Welcome, Comments, and Opening Prayer
2. Pursuing God's Will Together – Chapt 3
3. Work of the Church – Ministries
 - Strategic Plan Update – John McRae
 - Engage – **Barb Roach** and Beth Bachmore
 - The engaged team recently sponsored the December caroling on the Corner event. Due to cold and damp weather, the event was moved indoors, but was well attended, and the music, scripture readings and joyful singing helped everyone continue to get into the Christmas spirit.
 - Our final Engage team activity of the year is the sponsorship of the nativity animals on Christmas Eve. The camel will once again be the star of the show and our hope is that all Aldersgate members visiting the animals will be sure and say “hello and Merry Christmas” to any visitors that may be there as well. (Remember, this may be the only time some neighbors and friends take to slow down and think about the meaning of Christmas during this hectic month.)
 - Connect – Connections, Hilary Riedemann (*Status of Fellowship Time*)
 - Connect – Worship, **Steve Larkin** and Don McIlwain
 - For the past month, weekly attendance averaged 233. For Christmas Eve, all usher slots are filled. We are short 1 communion server in Founders for 7:30.
 - Don will be emailing sanctuary charts and responsibilities to all volunteers.
 - Looking ahead, we are short 3 ushers for 9:30 on 12/22. Currently, we are short 6 ushers for 12/29.
 - We need to adjust the Worship section of the Connections MAP.
 - Equip – Education, **Leslie Belcher** and Leigh Johnson Miller
 - All adult Sunday school classes and small groups are meeting regularly and doing well.
 - Tuesday House Church has been invited to attend Wednesday House Church, combining the two for now.
 - KidMin (Children's Sunday School) continues to go well and we continue to have a great showing on Sundays.
 - We have had one small group follow along with the "On the Way to Bethlehem" churchwide Advent ministry.
 - Randy/Leslie are thinking of offering a small class next year on the Mark Batterson book,

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"A Million Little Miracles."

- EQUIP has updated the MAP ahead of the January summit.
- Send – Mission & Service, **Julie Pfister** and Sandra Gehring
 - We met our goals for Rising Hope (RH) in October by contributing \$1,250 and over 1000 pounds of food. Also, we just donated an additional \$2,500 to meet the RH Food Market needs during the holiday season. Additionally, we have contributed hundreds of pounds of warm clothing to the hypothermia shelter.
 - Jill Cox reported on Be The Good that - We finished the BTG mission with 40 boxes that have been delivered. Therefore, anything in the donation food area was donated to Rising Hope
 - Alternative Giving will continue through the end of the month. We have gotten some feedback regarding the new catalog. People are missing the animals and some of the items in the old catalog and some of the new items are unclear. Hoping to hear back from Cambodia UMM Helen Camarace.
 - Epiphany Tree - Molly is heading
 - Rising Hope's new cook had to resign for medical reasons. We provided 4 meals for lunches. The new UWF women's circle Kiononia will also provide a couple meals.
 - Sandra and I spoke with a couple of the Moms at the Mom to Mom group about some SEND needs and we got a good response. SEND would like to reach out to other groups in person and talk about ministry area needs.
 - Karen Latta responded promptly to a call from the Kennedy Shelter about the need for hygiene items. We started a collection and will highlight hypothermia shelter for Jan mission focus. Karen reports that hypothermia project is going well. All volunteers are arranged for January, but we have an open slot on New Year's Eve. Meals for 24 guests.
- Young Adults –
- Youth Ministries – Olivia Peterson
- UWF & UMM – Lorrie Rezendes & Mike Russell
- Day School Liaison – **Barb Roach**
 - The Aldersgate Day School Evening with Santa sold out again this year and was bigger than ever. In addition to a home cooked meal served by their teachers. All of the families that came brought a toy for the Toys for Tots campaign.
 - This year, the Day School purchased a light up Crèche scene in silhouette which they are loaning to the church to use for our nativity animals area on Christmas Eve.

5. Church Work – Operations

- Finance Update – **Mark Easton**
 - I am providing the following four key discussion points relating to our current financial status:
 - The November financial synopsis is attached. We ended the month of November with a positive net position, but will end the year in a negative position, relative to our planned budget. We have maintained the necessary cash liquidity to make our pay our talented staff and maintain our facilities, despite seasonal ebbs and flows. On the revenue side, non-pledged giving is significantly less than projected. This budget deficit (and related liquidity needs) has been offset by occasional use of Shepherd Hall funds, deferring apportionment commitments, and UNDER-executing our planned budget.
 - The status of our Stewardship Campaign, ably led by Mark Husband is: 137 pledges received and \$818,361.72 pledged. We are currently conducting a series of phone call and email follow-ups. Each of our church family who have pledged will be receiving a small book and thank you note from Pasto Randy, as a memento of our appreciation. We will be asking for inputs of Time and

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- Talents (to include occupational talents) in January.
 - Shepherd Hall Refinancing: Our Refinancing sub-committee, ably led by Ed Little, has negotiated the terms of a new loan agreement with the Virginia UM Development Company (DEVCO). JD Driscoll supported the court action necessary last week, and Ed is finalizing the details and schedule for closing on our new loan—likely in January 2025. Included in my email is Ed’s status update providing details on the status of our Refinancing plans.
 - One key element related to our efforts to Refinance our current Shepherd Hall Mortgage debt involved the sale of Parsonage #2 in October. As approved by the Leadership team, Net proceeds of the sale have been applied directly to the principal that will need to be financed, resulting in a balance under \$1M. As a result of discussions within the financial health team, I would like to make the following motion relating to this transaction:
 - “That an appropriate accounting entry be made that essentially liquidates the balance of Operating funds (an internal liability) that have previously been taken from the Shepherd Hall capital accounts”
- – **Mark Easton** (*Updates on Finances, Stewardship, and Mortgage Refinance*)
 - DEVCO Refinancing Status
 - Five Trustees approved to sign Loan documents by Fairfax County Circuit Court Order on September 13, 2024
 - Trustees approved are Mark Easton, Sean Vermillion, Dave Halladay, Steve Larkin, and Ed Little
 - Loan Commitment with Virginia United Methodist Development Company (DEVCO) signed on November 15, 2024
 - Draft DEVCO Settlement papers submitted to Aldersgate on December 10, 2024.
 - DEVCO Settlement attorney is Ashley Harris. Ed Little is Point of Contact.
 - JD Driscoll acting as our lawyer received the Fairfax County Circuit Court. Judge signed final order to encumber church property on December 13, 2024
 - Settlement Attorney has initiated actions to procure Title Insurance and Survey documents. Completion of these documents will most likely drive when settlement will occur. Settlement attorney estimates mid-January 2025 for settlement.
 - Atlantic Union Bank loan matures on February 14, 2025.

| Monthly Financial Synopsis | November 2024 | | | Budget 2024 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | MTD Actual | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | |
| REVENUE | | | | |
| Pledged | \$96,882.10 | \$801,312.31 | \$870,833.37 | \$950,000.00 |
| Non-Pledged | \$37,474.22 | \$266,533.97 | \$442,750.00 | \$483,000.00 |
| Add'l Revenue | \$3,550.03 | \$55,612.45 | \$36,437.61 | \$39,750.00 |
| Total Revenue | \$137,906.35 | \$1,123,458.73 | \$1,350,020.98 | \$1,472,750.00 |
| | | | | |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Apportionments | \$0.00 | \$82,300.00 | \$187,077.00 | \$204,084.00 |
| Engage | \$3,297.00 | \$5,599.83 | \$6,416.63 | \$7,000.00 |
| Connect | \$934.36 | \$16,771.87 | \$35,122.12 | \$38,315.00 |
| Equip | \$2,217.73 | \$8,020.87 | \$12,008.26 | \$13,100.00 |
| Send | \$142.13 | \$1,936.78 | \$2,429.24 | \$2,650.00 |
| Communications | \$1,332.46 | \$7,645.32 | \$13,818.75 | \$15,075.00 |
| Adminstration | \$8,944.78 | \$101,301.19 | \$108,070.49 | \$117,895.00 |
| Trustee | \$33,761.91 | \$354,444.27 | \$409,766.72 | \$447,018.00 |
| Personnel | \$56,179.25 | \$653,274.22 | \$620,058.34 | \$676,427.31 |
| Total Expenses | \$106,809.62 | \$1,231,294.35 | \$1,394,767.55 | \$1,521,564.31 |
| Net | \$31,096.73 | -\$107,835.62 | -\$44,746.53 | -\$48,814.31 |
| | | | | |
| SH Revenue Pledged | \$13,796.68 | \$108,260.80 | | |
| SH Revenue Non-Pledged | \$9,471.00 | \$49,466.00 | | |
| SH Other Revenue | \$200.00 | \$20,150.00 | | |
| SH Revenue Total | \$23,467.68 | \$177,876.80 | | |
| SH Expenses | \$12,826.28 | \$164,914.17 | | |
| SH Net | \$10,641.40 | \$12,962.63 | | |
| | | | | |
| Bank Balances | | | | |
| AUB | \$184,013.89 | | | |
| BoA | \$126,081.36 | | | |
| B&H | \$278,179.49 | | | |
| Total Bank Balances | \$588,274.74 | | | |
| Other Assets/Amoritization Loan Costs | \$51,450.98 | | | |
| Endowments | \$1,422,853.94 | | | |
| Total Assets | \$2,062,579.66 | | | |
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- – Ed Little
- – Paul Amos (*Mortgage Refinance*)
- Trustee Update – Sean Vermillion and Ed Little
 - Sean Vermillion:
 - Ed Little:

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- Facilities Partners
- Church Repairs and Maintenance
- Contract Review/Negotiations
- Executive Director Update – Jill Cox
 - Hi everyone, I hated to miss, but am so excited to be spending time with my family again in Sanibel, FL this week. My husband and I have a timeshare there at haven't been able to go due to the hurricane that destroyed it a few years ago.

As you can imagine, we've had to finalize many bulletins this month in preparation for vacation and Christmas Eve, funerals, special services like Longest Night, etc. The office is closed after Christmas, so we've been working on December 29th and January 5th. Many e-communication tasks include Year-End Giving, Stewardship, Coming Home for Christmas, and getting together our LT/Staff/Clergy Merry Christmas and Happy NY communications. The building is bustling, so I have been double- and triple-checking facility needs for those needing access and room setups and working with Trustees and Tony on security arrangements for Christmas Eve. I was excited to bring in the Poinsettias early this year, hoping to arrange them before I left so everyone could enjoy them for more than just Christmas Eve. I am also happy to report the keepsake giveaway ornament has arrived, and I left one for Randy to share with you all. We will give these out at our Christmas Eve services. There has been a lot going on with Stewardship and getting finalized lists together for the volunteers to follow up on. Our team is working on many other tasks, but these are a few of the highlights. I am so blessed to work with such a great team of people and volunteers, and I appreciate them. I will be back on the 23rd and will for see you on the 24th! 😊

6. Pastor Updates – **Randy Orndorff**, Keary Kincannon

Randy:

Christmas is upon us, and we are finalizing everything for the 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve services. Thanks to all who have had a hand and heart in bringing everything together and we are now praying for meaningful services as we share communion and light our candles together.

For me, I have officiated 2 more funeral services and attended Sean V.'s father's service. Sermons are being prepared for 12/22 and 12/24 and 1/5/25.

I will meet with Tony to review all slides for upcoming services on Monday- Dec 23rd.

I will be going to the Fairfax with Bill Perry and Keary to share a little Christmas reflection with our members there on Wednesday afternoon and hope to visit our residents in Paul Springs this Thursday afternoon.

Have helped organize our Longest Night Service of Lights for those who have gone through loss this past year with Judy, Keary, and Chelsey on Saturday Dec 21st at 4pm in Founders. Chesley will offer her Grief workshop for those going through this holiday season without their loved one.

Have continued work with our stewardship team making follow up calls, and contacts and preparing thank you gifts for those who have made commitments for 2025. Those gift books will be out this Sunday to pick up. Thanks Mark, Mark, Jill, Jane and all the stewardship team. You all are amazing!

Our next Pizza with the Pastors will be Monday, January 27 at 6pm.

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Our next Leadership Summit focusing on Moving Forward by Staying Focused from Joshua 1:1-9 will be on Sunday January 26th from Noon til 4:30 with our coach Ideal Curtis flying in. Ideal is retiring so this will be her last Leadership Summit with us. Please plan to attend with your team and feel free to invite new team members.

Again, thanks for a wonderful Advent season. Looking forward to Christmas.

7. Closed Session
8. Future dates and closing prayer