



Aldersgate United Methodist Church Leadership Team Meeting

**February 18, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Leadership Team and Staff Members Present:

Paul Amos, Randy Orndorff, Terri Phillips, Sarah Lynn Mertins, Karen Latta, Richard Bass, Pandý Jansen, Ed Little, Shari Van Buren, Mark Husband, Emily Moore-Diamond, Vivian Baxter, and Molly Johnson.

Michelle Matthews, Shaun Evans, Carrie Henderson, and Hank Henderson were unable to attend.

- I. Welcome and opening prayer (Paul Amos)
Paul Amos welcomed the team and offered an opening prayer.
- II. Devotional Time
After an opening prayer, Ed Little provided a devotion for the group.
- III. Work of the Church
 - A. Included – Connections, Pandý Jansen
 - Things are chugging along nicely.
 - Volunteers are filling the opportunities earlier rather than at the last minute.
 - We had one family registered for Pizza with the Pastor and 5 showed up!
 - Another Pizza event is planned for March.
 - B. Inspired – Worship, Paul Amos
 - Last month the numbers for worship are averaging Saturday night 40, and 70, 130, and 130 at the Sunday morning services.
 - Ash Wednesday services will be held on February 26 at 9am & 7pm. The early service will be about 30 minutes and the evening service is more like the regular services and will last about an hour
 - Awesome Altars will reset on Monday for the new series.
 - We will be placing an order for communion wafers for Easter.
 - The Staff met today to discuss the Holy Week & Easter weekend services.
 - C. Involved – Mission & Service, Sarah Lynn Mertins
 - We had a very successful food drive for Fort Hunt Elementary School.
 - We had 18 youth help sort and load up the vehicle of the volunteer from Fort Hunt Elementary.
 - We doubled the amount of donations from last year, and they are so thankful.
 - UMW led a project to sew Heart Pillows and 120 pillows were completed.
 - Met with Ahnna Lise to discuss the Jr. High Mission Trip to the Eastern Shore. This is a joint trip with Kingstowne and a church in DC. They will work on oyster restoration projects and sustainable farming. They are planning on about 30 youth participating.

- The Lent Offering will be 50% to Kingstowne and 50% to our Mission Trips.
- D. Instructed – Education, Shari Van Buren
- New small groups are starting/started:
 - o Divorce Care Group
 - o Lent Study
 - o Seminary Style Class on Old Testament in the fall
 - o Pastors Lent Study with new members at the parsonage
 - o Gratitude study in the fall
 - Working to set up a leader training for small groups to prepare for new groups in the fall.
 - Looking at starting supper groups that will meet through the summer.
- E. Youth – Vivian Baxter
- Planning the Eastern Shore mission trip
 - Working to develop more service projects.
 - The Confirmation retreat is this weekend on site.
- F. Community Engagement – Emily
- We had to postpone the last meeting, but will meet tomorrow evening.
 - Researching the cost to rent a shelter at Ft. Hunt Park to do a pop-up event.
 - Finding events in the community that we might be able to connect easily.
 - Working to piggy back onto the supper groups to build relationships for local restaurants.
 - Looking to print cards that could be passed to folks as you pay for the person behind you in the line.
 - There is a joint women’s retreat with Kingstowne called LEAP on Feb 29.
- G. UMW - Karen Latta
- The Prayer breakfast will be held on March 14.
 - The speaker will be from Artemis House, a new women’s shelter
- H. UMM – Ed Little
- The next dinner was moved and will be on March 9.
 - Guest speaker will be Representative Dan Stork who will speak on the updates coming to the Route 1 Corridor.

IV. Church Work

- A. Finance Team Update – Ed Little
- The loan refinance was completed last week.
 - Thanks to Molly for helping get the information finalized.
 - We are In transition, with the mortgage payment coming down to approximately \$12,856 per month, but we are still looking at a monthly deficit until the capital campaign is final.
 - Our overall closing costs were approximately \$30,000, of which \$19,000 were the pre-payment penalties.
 - The total loan amount is approximately \$2.415 million.
 - At the end of 60 months, the balance of the loan will be approximately \$2.113 million.
 - January Financials were above average for Collingwood, Kingstowne is lower than normal.
- B. Loan Update – Molly

- Thank you to everyone who helped to get all the loan documents finalized.
 - Nothing else to add, but it was a godsend to have Ryan (our lawyer) on the team.
- C. Capital Campaign – Richard Bass
- There have been 5 campaign meetings held so far.
 - 25 individuals have attended and 8 pledges received so far.
 - Richard passed around the literature given to those who attend the meetings.
 - Similar documents will go to the congregation with the campaign card around March 6.
 - There will be a Town Hall on March 22 and we are inviting folks to come with questions.
 - Campaign is a 3 tiered campaign to pay the mortgage, meet several capital projects as outlined in the material, and make additional principal payments.
 - The Capital Campaign Team meets this week to work on the next steps.
 - We may look at going to the existing small groups to add a personal touch to them.
 - Capital Commitment weekend March 28/29.
- D. Social Media Meeting – Richard Bass
- Kim Johnson, District Social Media Director, presented a Social Media class to the Aldersgate staff on February 11.
 - The basic take away was to get Facebook right first, then add the other social media platforms
 - Additional highlights:
 - o If someone comments on Facebook, respond! It does not have to be staff, but anyone.
 - o Make all of our events are Facebook events. These can then have paid “boosts” that will give a wider dissemination.
 - o Suggested guidelines on how images/posts should look.
- E. Trustees – Paul Amos
- We heard the renters in Parsonage #2 want to terminate the lease to build a house, not move.
 - The Trustees met and reviewed the lease and the fees associated with breaking the lease.
 - o Lease breaking fee
 - o Renter is responsible to pay rent through the end of the lease
 - Randy reached out to the District Superintendent about selling the parsonage
 - o There are several steps/channels that need to be worked through
 - o Once those are done, it then needs to be approved by the District Committee
 - As we were researching the lease, we also learned Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope is retiring this year. The new pastor may want to rent the parsonage beginning in July.
 - We let the Rental Agency know we would enforce the contract in full.
 - The District Superintended stated if a clergy person fills the home, our tax-exempt status changes.

The Team asked the Trustees to research with Fairfax County exactly what is required to return the property to tax-exempt status. Does the pastor need to be assigned to Aldersgate? If we receive rent payments, does this negate the exemption?

The team also asked Randy to clarify with the District Superintendent the exemption qualification and what other revenues might be available to offset the loss in revenue if pastor is in residence at a lower rental rate than we currently receive.

- We have 2 cemetery plots that have been gifted to the church. A request has come in and we wanted to see what criteria we have for donation. Other questions were asked including can we sell the plots and are there processes in place by other churches in the District?
- The Sanctuary roof has several areas in need of repair. Steve Braun is trying to find someone to make the needed repairs.
- We are working to change the process for Stock donations. New donations will go through the Conference Foundation in a more streamlined process for the donor as well as for our receipt of the donations.

F. Nominations – Randy Orndorff

- The team will be meeting on March 2nd to fill the vacancies for the upcoming year.
- Several packets have been handed out but would like to get additional names for consideration
- Packets have been updated and ready to be handed out.

G. Pastor Updates

- Randy
 - o We received a thank you from Wesley Housing Development Foundation for a gift given from the pastor discretionary fund.
 - o With Mark's passing, we need to fill an annual conference delegate slot for this year. Molly Johnson agreed to fill the role for this year.
 - o With Roger's passing, we need to fill the Endowment committee chair. Through recommendations, we are meeting with Joni Koons & Paul Tuohig, current committee members, to see if they would be co-chairs.

H. Protocol Update

- All of the available Protocol information has been disseminated fully to the congregation.
- The direction of the Protocol moves to a post UMC that is more progressive
- If it passes, the WCA (Traditionalists) would break from the denomination.
- Conferences would then need to vote to leave the denomination.
- The District Superintendent is encouraging churches to be patient and not take a vote until there is a plan in place.
- We will encouraging folks to go hear Tom Berlin & Keith Boyette on March 11, both of whom were part of crafting the Protocol.
- Aldersgate has a town hall scheduled for April 22.
- District Superintendent does not think there would be a vote by the Conference this year if anything comes from General Conference.

V. Closed Session

The open meeting concluded and after a short break the leadership team moved into a closed session to discuss personnel issues.

Submitted by,
Terri Phillips
Administrative Director