

December 7, 2016

Dear AUMC Brothers and Sisters in Faith,

We pray with Thanksgiving and gratitude for the vibrant presence of the Holy Spirit!

In 2016, Aldersgate has experienced unprecedented growth. Five children and youth were baptized. Of the 15 Confirmands, 12 joined by Profession of Faith. In addition we had 3 people transfer their church membership to Aldersgate, and we expect more new members with 15 people currently considering membership.

By every measure we are a fruitful congregation. As described by Bishop Schnase, Aldersgate practices:

- Extravagant generosity – myriad local giving of time, talent and treasure
- Radical hospitality – homeless task force
- Passionate worship – uptick in worshipers at each service
- Risk-taking mission – Katherine Parker, Sophia Way
- Intentional faith development – Confirmation, small groups

We find ourselves at a crossroads, this year we can and must take Aldersgate Beyond Our Doors - To make (our South Bellevue neighbors) disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Core Leaders are praying, and with the Holy Spirit, building a strategy to accomplish this mission.

To grow means change, and we know we need to embrace that change with love and hope. One thing that we need to change is how we fund our new strategy and ongoing church operations through gifts of money and talents. To better enable for the future, we are changing the way we conduct Stewardship with the goal of greater alignment with our programs and our strategy.

Phase one will be simple. We are asking everyone that attends to give. That means 100% of the Aldersgate community needs to find a way to help with financial gifts. Our request of each of you is simple - every one gives what they can base on what their heart and faith tells them. As part of this process, we will move our primary Stewardship campaign to the time of Lent. This enables us to align financial needs with our strategy, as well as symbolically align our giving with a time of spiritual growth and energy.

That said – we cannot shut the doors for the interim period. We will be doing a simple campaign in the Fall season to sustain our budget operations and fund critical needs in the new year.

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Our investment needs to fund the budget are as follows:

- Please- please - please catch up on all committed 2016 pledges including your kitchen pledges. It is critical that we meet all planned expenses for our 2016 operational budget.
- We ask that in December that each person make an extra gift to the church, equivalent to your monthly pledge amount in 2016, e.g. a 13th month. These funds will primarily be used to cover funds needed with the kitchen plus expected costs in early 2017.
- Please fill out a Pledge card for the time period from January 2017 – June 2017. If you had planned to increase your giving, please do! If you are new to pledging, this is also a great way to help establish your giving as part of your monthly budget. At a minimum please keep giving at the same level as 2016.
- Then sit back and enjoy the holidays! The Core Leadership Team plans to complete the strategy for AUMC in January, and we will follow with a complete communication of the plan, along with the funding needed to support it, in early 2017.

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, we hope this lighter and less stressful approach helps provide more opportunities to simply enjoy the experience. Our request is to help us transform into our new model, which everyone on the Core Leadership Team believes will enable greater AUMC growth and expansion.

We look forward to an exciting 2017!

Yours in Faith – the CLT for Aldersgate.

My/Our plan to give *for expanding beyond our doors:*

Annual Operating Budget

\$ _____

weekly monthly quarterly annually

Capital Campaign/Kitchen Remodel

\$ _____

One-time donation in 2017

To be given over one year

To be given over two years

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Electronic Giving: Please send information on setting up automatic withdrawals or credit card payments.

Envelopes: Please send me giving envelopes.

Estate Plan: Please send information on including AUMC in my estate plan.

(Please complete other side of card.)

Name _____

Please check the areas of ministry you would like to learn more about, that you are not currently involved in:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings & Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment / Green |

Other areas of interest: _____

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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