

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

All Church Conference Report

November 6, 2017

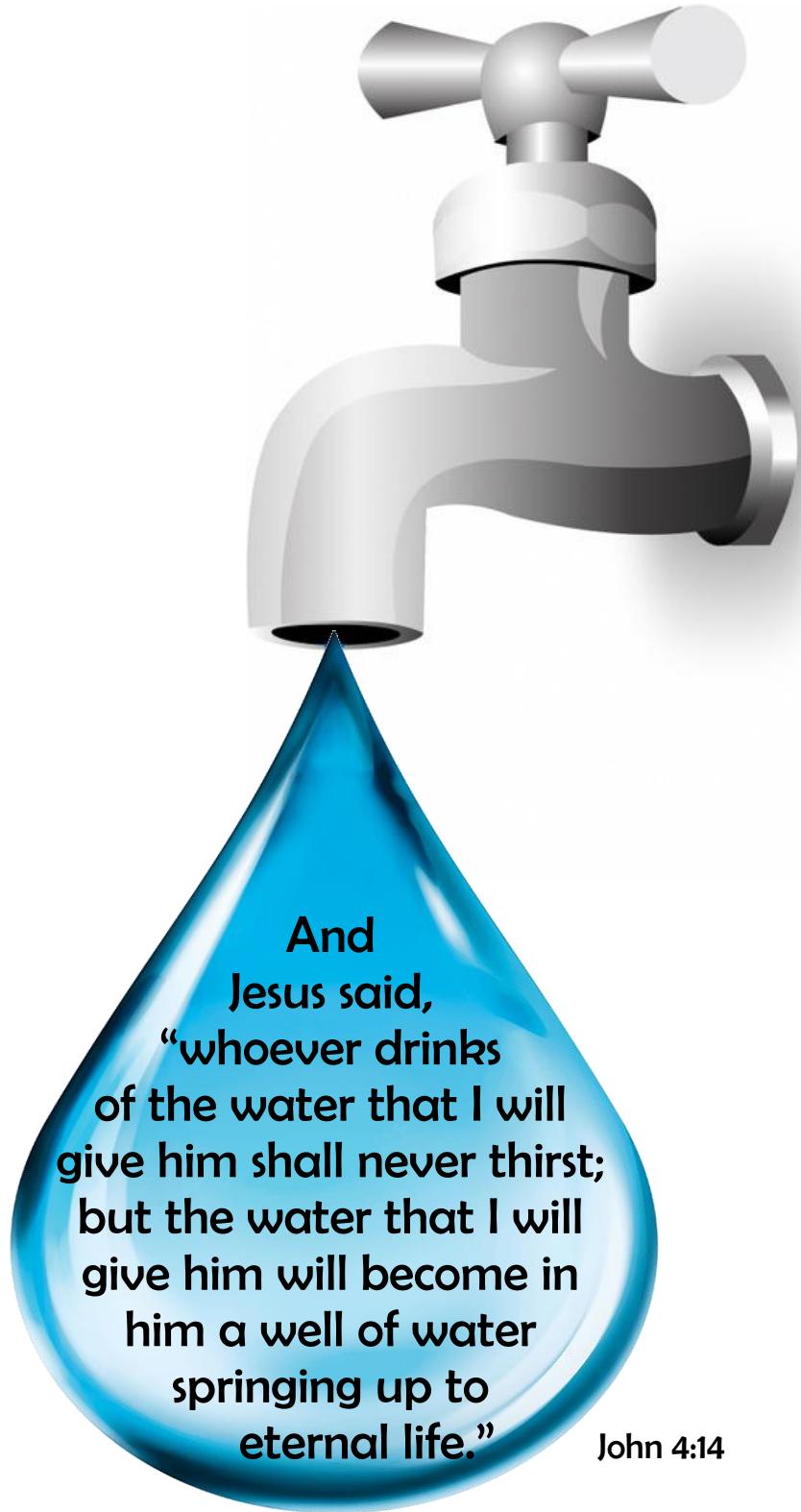


Table of Contents

Agenda	3
Senior Pastor's Report	4
Associate Pastor's Report	7
Leadership Roster	9
Membership Report.....	13
Core Leaders Team (CLT) Report	15
Board of Trustees.....	15
Finance Team	16
Staff Parish Relations Team	16
Worship.....	17
Children & Family Ministry	18
Youth Ministry.....	18
Young Adult Ministry	18
Aldersgate Christian Preschool.....	19
Mission and Outreach Team.....	20
United Methodist Women	20
2016 Charge Conference Minutes	21

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

All Church Conference Agenda

Rev. Brad P. Beeman, presiding

Greeting

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Business Items

Membership	Betty Fredeen
Ministerial Candidates	David Lutz
Election of New Officer(s)	Christian Hampson

State of the Church

Pastor's Report	Pastor Brad Beeman
Finance Team	Melinda Lilley
Preschool Report	Dorothy Beeman
Considering Reconciling Congregations	Robbin Price
Associate Pastor's Report	Pastor Laura Baumgartner

Prayer for the Church

Blessing the Body of Christ

Closing Prayer

Senior Pastor Report

2017 All Church Conference

Now mid way through my seventh year at Aldersgate I can say, without hesitation, that Aldersgate is a vibrant church. We are growing in faith, love, health and service. This church likes to be together, enjoys having fun, loves to serve others, and enjoys being pushed spiritually. It is an exceptionally intelligent place, well educated, and is a very busy congregation. In the midst of it all it continues to explore who it is, how it is, and what it is. Exploring becoming a Reconciling Congregation is certainly one piece of that. This congregation loves to learn, specifically about what it means to be Christian, followers of Jesus, and seeks to gain biblical understanding and depth, especially when the understandings gained turns toward action. They love to serve others and, at least many of our second service attenders, are involved in a wide variety of service-oriented organizations. The youth group, which was on Hospice support three years ago, is now one of the more vibrant aspects of the church. The children's program is growing and the relationship with the preschool, which had also been sporadic at best, is now also a vital part of the church. Aldersgate's staff, which had gone through a tremendous amount of shifting and changing, is now one of the most dedicated, talented, and engaging groups with whom I've ever worked. They are happy, upbeat, love each other, want the best for each other and the church, are healthy, and are most certainly focused. There is little wasted motion on the part of this staff, and each has engaged in their areas of ministry with passion, love, dedication and a Christ-like spirit. The leaders of the church are gifted in so many ways. They love this place, and want what's best for it. In as much as some are growing weary, they continue to seek to serve in ways that melt my heart. They are a wonderful, diverse, dedicated group. And the congregation gives its heart and its money to the work being done in and around this beautiful place. It also goes without saying that the property and location continue to be strengths. Beyond all of that, our worship music at both services is certainly a plus. We are so blessed.

In addition, we've designed and implemented an organizational model that allows for open communication from the congregation four or five times a year. In as much as the Core Leadership Team is doing its work, the greater church is able to attend what we call "Common Table" gatherings. The purpose of each gathering is promoted in a variety of ways. The gatherings often involve food and time for fellowship. In as much as specific items may be presented, there is always a time for questions and comments for all of those in attendance. It is the intention by this group of leaders that we continue to expand opportunities for those attending Aldersgate to be heard. Common Table is one example of that. Our presence in the community is growing, albeit slowly. Tonight we partner with the King County Library regarding what it means to be homeless in our area. In Friendship Hall at 6:30pm we will hear some of the stories. We have a church member running for City Council, we continue to be recognized because of our preschool, and we are expanding our role with partnerships with Jubilee Reach, Faith Action Network and others. It is another positive. There are many others but, suffice it to say, that we are most certainly growing in faith, love, health and service. We are exploring deepening a relationship with one of the newer Mandarin speaking Chinese churches in South Bellevue. And excitement is building around that emerging relationship. There is a lot of really good things happening. We do, however, have some current challenges.

Aldersgate is stable but not growing; at least it's not growing in ways that could move it toward reaching its full potential. To a great extent Aldersgate is not a church that seems to have an inherent desire to grow, at least not in the sense of being invitational. Whatever growth we have occurred because people have, for the most part, found us on their own. Some came upstairs from the preschool. Others found us on the web. Others have moved here from places where they were a part of other United Methodist Churches, and ours was the closest to where they now live. There are those who have invited others, and some of those have stayed, but it seems to be the exception rather than the rule. Being a non-invitational church is not necessarily a negative thing. I think it is part of our DNA and part of the DNA of the region in which we live. It does create challenges and those challenges need to be explored. As previously stated, South Bellevue is a very complex place. Its people are diverse, driven, and busy; so busy that many are focused on priorities that may include the church, but the church is not one of the higher priorities. The focus of many who see Aldersgate as their church, is on work, family, health, accomplishments, sports, music, academics for children, attention to the future, and cultural norms and, for those who have moved from other parts of the world (and there are a lot) realizations and learnings regarding living in America and specifically the greater Seattle area. None of those are negative things. It's just a reality we need to recognize and respond to in ways that will help them, and keep us moving ahead.

Given all of that, we find that volunteers who are willing to serve in roles at the church are hard to come by. For a long time I chose to try and motivate this challenge with negative statements around involvement as a lack of a priority for those involved. No longer. I now understand that it is simply a reality of living here. It is our current reality. Our planning, our infrastructure, our programs, and our vision has to come to terms with that reality. It will probably not change. Does it mean we hire more staff? Does it mean we let go of some of our hopes and dreams? Does it mean that we focus in on two or three or four very specific areas? All of that needs to be discussed at an upcoming Common Table. Also, our worship numbers are declining, more in second service than first. Both, however, are declining. I also now believe that we are stretched financially, which adds to the potential challenge of hiring more part time staff to fill some of our current needs. One example, the Finance Secretary (Linda Reichenbach is leaving the position) and given that no one has stepped up after numerous types of communication, Wendi (Office Manager) will be adding this to her job description. That means we need to pull some things from her desk that could have been done by volunteers. Yet given the lack of available volunteers, we will probably end up having a part time front office person as a paid position. That is part of our reality.

Finally, I believe, despite a lot of work to move us in a specific direction, we do not have shared goals or an overall shared purpose that could move us toward our greater potential. We continue to seem a bit scattered in our approach. That means that we need to focus in on some of the areas of service, and potentially become leaner in our program offerings. We also need to continue to strategize toward a more vibrant future. One example, we continue to support second service, even as it declines at a much faster rate than first service, with approximately 70+% of available worship funding. Part of that obviously comes from having three paid staff (organist, choir director, and bell choir director) verses one paid staff person (worship leader) in first service. The challenge deepens as we know that our growing edge are folks who would, for the most part, attend first rather than second service. I continue to

believe that part of the answer for our future is to become more representative of our surrounding and emerging community. The preschool has taken that on and continues to grow. Now it's our turn.

In as much as what I just mentioned may seem negative, it is my hope that it not be taken that way. These are challenges we need to take on. And given what I shared at the beginning of this report, we have the ability, the intelligence, the passion and the willingness to do just that. It is why I can continue to say without hesitation that Aldersgate is a vibrant and inclusive Christian community growing in faith, love, health and service.

Rev. Brad P. Beeman

Associate Pastor's Report

2017 All Church Conference

I've been with you for four months and I've loved getting to know you and hear your stories, your dreams, and your passions. I know that there is much more to learn and I look forward to that as well. Thank you for the warm reception that I've felt as I've been making the rounds to visit with existing small groups and committees and teams. I so appreciate your openness and willingness to accept me as your Associate Pastor as we work together to figure out how we can best serve God and the community at this time, in this place. Here are a few of the ways that is happening.

I was excited to find a group of people at Aldersgate who are passionate and creative about Creation Care ministries and to begin to meet with them. The team calls itself the GREEN team. We have a silly acronym that we use for ourselves. We are the *Godly Renegades of Energetic Environmental Nerds* (GREEN). I mentioned we are creative, right? The GREEN team is working on increasing composting and reducing our use of disposable products in the building, but we are also planning for Earth Day events and speakers, educational information in the weekly e-news about environmental issues facing our community, and collaborations with our new partners through the Faith Action Network (FAN). Check out what's new with GREEN team on our bulletin board in the Narthex.

Creative worship design brings me great joy and the two services at Aldersgate provide some wonderful opportunities for collaboration and also for diversity of expression. Since I arrived, I've been privileged to cooperate with Brad during worship. It will take some time for me to learn your favorite songs and hymns and to recognize when something is new to you. I hope you will bear with me during that learning curve and continue to participate in the process of making Sunday morning liturgies each week truly a work of the people for the glory of God.

Soon after I arrived, the Aldersgate congregation began the process of considering whether to become a Reconciling Congregation. I will be the pastoral presence on the team that is designing a process for the congregation to move through as we discern God's work among us. We aren't sure how long it will take, but we are working toward being able to make a decision about whether or not to become a congregational member of the Reconciling Congregations Network and fully include people from the LGBTQIA community in the life and work of our congregation. I know that there is a desire on all sides for this congregation to be able to have conversations about issues that are difficult to discuss and I applaud you all for taking the risk to have those conversations. They are hard and they are important. God loves each of us and therefore we can love each other enough to create a space where we can be honest with each other about our questions and our concerns. I look forward to accompanying you all as we learn from each other and from the movement of the Spirit in our midst how to listen and what our next steps will be.

Finally, I want to keep you up to date on my progress toward ordination. Currently, I am a licensed local pastor, appointed to serve at Aldersgate. I am preparing to meet with the Board of Ordained Ministry in late February/early March to hear their feedback about whether this

year it's time for me to move toward becoming a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church. My official status in the ordination process does not affect my appointment at Aldersgate or my role as your pastor. However, it does impact you because it means that I have a lot of paperwork to prepare, potentially multiple sermons to record, and some letters of recommendation to request. I also ask that you pray for me as I go through these next few months. It is a rigorous and challenging process and one that I approach with great respect as well as a little trepidation. Your support means a lot to me.

Four months isn't a long time but it's long enough to know that God has prepared me for you and you for me. It's long enough to know that God's grace is a powerful force at work among us. It's long enough to know that the United Methodist Christians of South Bellevue are known for their love of neighbor and their love of God. Praise Be!

Rev. Laura Baumgartner

Aldersgate Leadership Roster

(as of November 6, 2017)

Aldersgate Core Leaders Team

Chairperson.....	Joe Lee
Trustee	Rich Detering
Finance	<i>To Be Elected (TBE)</i>
Staff Parish Relations	<i>To Be Elected (TBE)</i>
Lay Leadership.....	Christian Hampson
Aldersgate Christian Preschool	Dorothy Beeman
ACP Board Representative	Linda Detering
Children, Youth & Family Ministries	Jen Hoerber
Young Adult Coordinator	Katie Olleman
Mission & Outreach	Jean Harris
Advocacy	Janice Zahn
Lay Leader	Steve Rummel
First Service Rep	Patty Ferguson
Staff Representative.....	Jen Hoerber
CLT Secretary.....	Robbin Price
Brad Beeman (Pastor)	

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS

Board of Trustees

President	Rich Detering (CLT Rep)
Rich Detering	2017
Tom Breske.....	2017
Christian Hampson	2018
Dave Maybee.....	2017
Dave Sanford (secretary).....	2017
Dwain Zahn.....	2018
Dorothy Beeman (Preschool Director)	
Dave Carver (Facilities Coordinator)	

Building & Grounds Support

Technology Team	Tom Blakney, Bill Ferguson, Ron Pazan
Web Team	Andy Luedke, Adam Stuenkel
Lawn Coordinator	Jim Roelker
Kitchen Coordinator	TBD
Reception Hostess	Lea Fox
Wedding Coordinator.....	Norma Line

Finance Team

Chairperson.....	Melinda Lilley, CLT Rep
Brad Brewer	2018
Melinda Lilley	2018
Darrell Lowe	2018
Kathy Osler	2019
Jim Phillips.....	2018
Gary Swearingen	2019
Marie Vieth (Treasurer)	
Brad Beeman (Pastor)	
Financial Secretary	Linda Reichenbach
Counters	Al Allott, Dorothy Bennett, Gerry Cherry
	Gayle Kreek, Ted Snyder, Wilma Tucker
Stewardship Committee	Core Leadership Team
Memorials Committee	
Chairperson	Lea Fox
	Dorene Johnson, Garnet Ormsby

Staff Relations Team (Personnel)

To Be Elected (TBE)	Chairperson, CLT Rep
Dorothy Bennett.....	2017
Dorene Johnson.....	2017
Renee Kroese.....	2018
David Lutz	2017
Jean Rummel	2018
Brad Beeman (Pastor)	

Lay Delegates to Annual Conference

Delegates.....	Jean Harris, second delegate TBD
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PROGRAM MINISTRY TEAMS**Worship Team**

Staff	
Rev. Brad P. Beeman	Senior Pastor
Rev. Laura Baumgartner.....	Associate Pastor
Roger Ingalls.....	First Service Music Director
Pam Johnson	Handbell Director
Hanae Straub.....	Second Service Music Director
Jason Suchan	Organist/Accompanist

Worship Team Representatives

David Dana	Choir
Bill Ferguson	Video, Sound
Patty Ferguson	Worship Band
Norma Line	Banners & Flowers
Sabrina MacIntyre	Contemplative Service
Wendi Brick	Ushers
Betty Fredeen	Greeters
Joe Lee	Liturgists
Malia Hampson	Communion

Worship Support

Sunday Lock-UP	Rich Detering, Darrell Lowe
Banner Committee	Norma Line, Jane Lee, Sabrina MacIntyre
Flower Committee	Norma Line, Renee Kroese, Linda Detering

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Chairperson, CLT Rep	Jen Hoerber, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
Sunday School Teachers	Pastor Laura Baumgartner, Sarah Fritz, Kristin Thornsness,Kathy Green Wilson, Susan Wong, Robbin Price (Music Time)
Children & Family Supporters	Pam Breske, Wendi Brick, Chris & Emily BrowderMelissa Pearce, Jean Rummell, Rick & Lori Wilson
Youth Supporters	Tom & Pam Breske, Chris & Emily Browder, Patty DeanPatty Ferguson, Cami Fritz, Sarah Fritz, Allison George

<u>Church Activities</u>	Colleen Olleman
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Aldersgate Christian Preschool Board

ACP Chairman	Jen Hoerber, Director of Child, Youth & Family Ministry
ACP Director	Dorothy Beeman
ACP Financial Manager	Jill Swanson
Church Representatives	Linda Detering
Preschool Parent Representative	Molly Kleberg, Kristin McNamara
Preschool Teacher Representatives	Carissa Person

CARE MINISTRY TEAMS

Congregational Care Ministries

Helping Hands	Lea Fox, Renee Kroese, Dorene Johnson
Prayer Chain Coordinator	Dorothy Bennett
Sunshine Cards	Wilma Tucker

MISSION and OUTREACH TEAMS

Green Team

..... Pastor Laura Baumgartner, Linda & Rich Detering, Jean Harris
..... Betty Fredeen, Kate Ingalls, Geri Martinsen, Dave Carver (Facilities Coordinator)

Mission & Outreach

Chairperson..... Jean Harris, Rotating CLT Rep
..... Ruth Carver, Linda Detering, Jean Harris, Gwen Pazan, Karen Yellman

Special Projects:

Christmas Gifts (Hopelink & others) Dorothy Bennett
Congregations for the Homeless Dave Maybee
Congregations for Kids School Supplies Malia Hampson

Crossroads Dinner

Coordinators..... Dave Maybee
Food & Servers Melinda Lilley
Thanksgiving Tom Breske, Joe Lee
Gleaning Project..... Ruth Carver, Kelly Carver
Grace Boarding House Kara Bennett, Wally & Audra Bennett
Habitat for Humanity Coordinators Darrell Lowe, Dave Sanford
Hopelink Food Bank Betty Fredeen, Christian & Malia Hampson
Rummage Sale Linda Detering, Kristie McLean, Gwen Pazan
The Sophia Way Jean Harris
Vision House Melinda Lilley

United Methodist Women Jean Harris

Deborah Circle Clarine Goodleaf, Leader
Mary Martha Kathy Maybee, Pauline Williams, Co-leaders

RESOURCE TEAMS

Library Resource Center Team

Chairperson..... Sabrina MacIntyre
..... Barbara Brackbill, Jean Harris, Sabrina MacIntyre, Nancy Phillips

Historian Betty Fredeen

Membership Report

(as of All Church Conference on November 6, 2017)

Betty Fredeen, Membership Secretary

Membership – December 31, 2016 **302**

Received by Profession of Faith 0

Received from other United Methodist Churches 5

Received from all other denominations 0

Received by Confirmation Class 0

Add to correct reporting errors 0

Total **307**

Transferred to other United Methodist Churches 0

Transferred to other church denomination 1

Removed by Request 12

Removed by Charge Conference 5

Removed by death 6

Subtract to correct reporting errors 8

Total December 31, 2017 **275**

Participating Non-Members - Adults 64

Participating Non-Members - Children (not confirmed) 62

Number of Persons Baptized 0

No Confirmation Class this Year 0

Average Weekly Attendance 133

Received by Faith

Transferred from Other Methodist church

Ben Beeman
Cora Beeman
Dorothy Beeman
Bob & Peggy Hager

Transferred from Other Church Denomination

Baptized

Removed by Request

Devin Bennett
Kara Bennett
Keegan Bennett
Don & Edna Fadden
Jessica Ferguson
Kathlyn Kinney
Christopher Lilley
Ben Pasero
Amy Pazan
Courtney Pazan
Jenn Peterson

Removed by Transfer to Other Methodist Church

Removed by Transferred to Other Church Denomination

Alena (Bennett) Thurman

Removed by Death

Anne Bennett
Lane Dreher
Marjorie Krueger
Jo Nanninga
Thelma Nicklett
Peter Ting
Len Knapp (Not a member)

Second Reading**Received 2 letters 2016 & 2017****Remove by Charge Conference ****

Tom Greenwood
Kaitlin Lowe
Betsy Norton
Linda Page
Tony Page

First Reading**Received 1 letter 2017**

Gloria (Backus) McKinley
Marilee Gossard
Adrienne Schultz
Steve Schultz

**The members to be removed by a vote of the Charge Conference have not attended or contributed in the past two or more years according to our records. The Membership Secretary mailed out 2 letters to the last known address over the last 2 years requesting them to confirm their church membership. No response was received. These names have been listed in the church newsletters to get help from the congregation in locating these people. The names are read at two Charge Conferences before removal.

Ministry Team Conference Reports

Core Leaders Team

Joe Lee, Chairmen

As we approach the end of 2017, we offer up prayers of thanksgiving for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and rejoice in the accomplishments of the past year:

- We are grateful for all leaders – past and present and their dedication to accomplishing the business of the church
- We continue to pursue solutions for our homeless neighbors: becoming a member church in the Faith Action Network; co-sponsoring with the King County Library Stories and Experiences of Homelessness; and exploring the formation of a parking lot use policy
- We welcomed Pastor Laura Baumgartner
- We set out to streamline the way the business of the church is to be conducted – adopting the first version of One Board Governance
- We continued the dialog that will lead to taking Aldersgate Beyond Our Doors - growing Aldersgate to look more like our neighbors by age, culture and orientation
- We continue to grow Aldersgate through our emphasis on Children, Youth and Family Ministry
- We, the Core Leadership Team and entire congregation have grown in the four pillars as defined in our Vision - Aldersgate: a vibrant and inclusive Christian community growing in faith, love, health and service.

Board of Trustees

Rich Detering, President

Summary

The church property, buildings, and parsonage are in good condition. All yearly inspections and corporate filings have been carried out. All maintenance or safety issues been taken care of. We would like to thank all of our church volunteers for the many hours put into keeping our grounds and building in good shape and looking it's best. The board wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation to Dave Carver, facilities coordinator, for his dedication and devotion to maintaining our church building and surrounding property.

Projects Completed

- Installed energy efficient windows in rooms A & B in Education wing.
- Replace light dimmers in Friendship Hall with LED compatible dimmers.
- Replaced kitchen ovens with larger units more suitable to our needs.
- Upgrade kitchen hood to a commercial design to meet requirements of the larger ovens.
- Replaced door and repair electrical baseboard heating system in AA portable.
- Began a review of our IT needs in hopes of simplifying maintenance and tech support.
- Sponsored biannual CPR/AED training class.

Finance Team

Melinda Lilley, Chairman

In 2017, the Finance Team prepared two budgets as we moved toward a new fiscal year. A six-month balanced budget of \$237,286.74 for January 1 - June 30, 2017 was reviewed and approved by the Aldersgate Core Leadership Team. The six-month budget ended with a net income of \$16,750.56 at the end of June. Thank you, congregation for your contributions and thank you staff for keeping expenses under budget. Then a one-year balanced budget of \$511,547.05 for July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 was reviewed and approved by the CLT.

The Finance Team reviewed actual income and expenses against the budget on a monthly basis. As of September 31, the church has a total actual income of \$118,528.75 compared to a year-to-date budget income of \$127,499.39. If you are behind in your pledge giving for both the Annual Operating Budget and Kitchen Capital Campaign, please fulfill your commitment as soon as possible so that our church will be able to fully fund our mission of growing in faith, love, health and service.

The Finance Team exchanged audit services to review 2016 finance records with Renton First United Methodist Church. A list of all current fundraisers and dates was compiled. Electronic giving was encouraged. The Capital Campaign for the Kitchen Remodel continued. And a request for funding a Youth Assistant position was launched.

2017 Finance Team Members: Melinda Lilley, Chair, Marie Vieth, Treasurer, Linda Reichenbach, Financial Secretary, Brad Brewer, Jim Phillips, Benny Biesmans, Darrell Lowe, Kathy Osler, Gary Swearingen

Staff Parish Relations Team

David Lutz, Chairman

The Staff Parish Relations Committee primary purpose in the church is to be the liaison between the church lay congregation and the staff. The committee is responsible for hiring, growth and support of our staff members and working with the District Superintendent and Bishop to ensure a good match between our congregation and appointed clergy.

This year we have few significant things to mention in our annual report. First to call out are our new staff members. At the beginning of the year we hired Pam Johnson to be our regular Bell Choir director. She had been serving in the roll as an interim director since the beginning of the program year the previous fall. Also early in the year we hired Hanae Straub as our Second Service Music Director. Hanae directs the Chancel Choir and oversees the music program at our traditional worship service. This summer we were able to hire Jocie Matheny as our Summer Youth Assistant Intern to work with Jen Hoerber and the youth groups. And last, but not least we welcomed Laura Baumgartner as our Associate Pastor. Laura has been appointed to Aldersgate as a Licensed Local Pastor. She has the full authority of a Pastor, but only at Aldersgate as she proceeds through the full ordination process.

While on the subject of hiring, we are still looking for a regular Youth Assistant to help Jen with our youth program. We have an active search committee with members from the SPRC, Youth members and parents. We have had a number of candidates, but the right match has not yet been found yet.

One final thing of note this year. As we look to strengthen our relationship with Aldersgate Christian Preschool, the SPRC has assigned committee members to regularly liaise with Dorothy Beeman and Jill Swanson the ACP.

Worship Team

Pastor Laura Baumgartner, Facilitator

For the first six months of 2017, Worship Team was facilitated by Pastor Brad and worked jointly between the two services to plan worship and lead the congregation on Sunday mornings. The Worship team has been blessed to have committed representatives tending to banners and decorations, flowers, communion elements and servers, music, liturgy, preaching, readers, children's helpers, audio and visual technology, and so much more. The team members have been faithful and conscientious about making sure that their part at the heart of worship gets done.

With the arrival of new Associate Pastor, Laura, worship planning changed slightly. Laura and Brad began to work together to plan worship, both short-term and long-term. During Brad's vacation, Laura led worship for three weeks in a row and began to experiment, most notably leading the Aldersgate community in blended outdoor worship over Labor Day weekend.

After a summer break, the Worship Team began to function slightly differently, facilitated by Laura. This fall, the worship leaders from the two services met separately to plan Advent and Christmas Eve. Starting in 2018, you may notice some additional adjustments. We are moving in the direction of a shared planning process for both services so that there is transparency between those who worship at different times and so that each service has the opportunity to learn from the other. In addition, there is an intention to open the process of worship design to people who don't have time to participate every week but who have creative ideas for bringing the word of God to the people of God in a fresh way and making Sunday morning liturgy available to all people. However, the two services also need to maintain the feel of worship that is appropriate for those who attend and therefore there will be some times when the teams from each service need to meet and act separately as well.

The first step in opening the process of worship design to more short-term involvement by more people was the Worship Brainstorm Party held on November 4 around design for the worship series that will begin just after Christmas. The ideas generated at the brainstorm party will be developed into scripts for each worship service by the staff and others who are interested. By working on a series (4-8 weeks) at a time, it's possible for volunteers to move in and out of active participation as their schedule allows. By having parties periodically for brainstorming, it allows for some who have limited availability to participate in just one event but share ideas that can be developed by others for a whole season. If you are interested in knowing more about how worship team may develop over time or if you have ideas for the team, please contact Pastor Laura.

Children and Family Ministry

Jen Hoerber, Director

Children and Family Ministries has continued to grow this past year with the continuation of our programming. The church events such as Family Fun Nights, Foot Golf, Bingo Night and the return of the New Years Eve party provided ways for families to come together and get to know each other and have some fun. The community events offered (Eggstravaganza, Flashlight Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, Fall Festival and Christmas Bash) also had increased attendance from the congregation, preschool and community alike. The goal is to continue to offer these family and community events throughout the year to provide a safe and fun environment to come together and celebrate life. We will strive to keep the activities fresh and advertise them well.

Sunday morning programming has been going well with the flow of Kid's Club, music time and Sunday School. The children were able to put on a Christmas Program last December and are looking forward to doing it again. Our Sunday school program has grown to now offer three classes from preschool through 5th grade. A new curriculum is being used and will take the children through the Bible within two years. The goal will be to support our teachers and find even more significant support from the congregation especially for Kid's Club.

Youth Ministry

Jen Hoerber, Director

Youth Ministry has been very active this year and continues to provide a place for youth to come be in fellowship and continue to grow in their faith. Some of the wins for youth ministries this year have been an increased number of participants especially at the SUMYT retreat, more involvement within the church, an introduction this Fall of a Youth Sunday School class. An Aldersgate only Youth Retreat was held this October and the youth determined they want to actively grow the youth group by having 'Bring a Friend' night, as well as increase their involvement with mission work. The goals set were to participate in some type of mission work dealing with the humane society this spring and go on a mission trip this summer as well as plan a bigger mission trip for the summer of 2019 or 2020. Another goal for this coming year is to hold a confirmation class and continue to seek support for these youth and our program as a whole.

Young Adult Ministry

Katie Olleman, Coordinator

This year, Aldersgate UMC's At the Crossroads Young Adult Ministry celebrates three full years of young adult programing. During the 2016-2017 program year, the young adults gathered 11 times for laughter and conversation over dinner at Crossroads Mall. For the program's 4 quarterly events the young adults volunteered at Fall Festival 2016, had a Christmas Special viewing Party, enjoyed a board game night at Aldersgate UMC, and threw the 2017 Young Adult Summer BBQ. Beyond this the young adults engaged regularly at Aldersgate UMC in many other events. Plus, At the Crossroads went to the

PNW conference Young Adult Retreat at Twinlow. As we enter the 2017-2018 programing year – the 4th year of At the Crossroads – the young adults have already hiked to Twin Falls, attended Blues for Mister Charlie, Played Foot Golf, and volunteered at Fall Festival 2017 in addition to their monthly dinner at Crossroads Mall. The program continues to grow surely from year to year as the following statics demonstrate:

Statistics	2016 Calendar Year	2016-2017 Program Year	% Increase
Total Events	17	18	6 %
Total People	24	31	23 %
Avg Attendance	6.29	7.17	12 %
Max Attendance	10	12	17 %
Min Attendance	4	4	0 %
Mode Attendance	6	6	0 %
Total Attendances:	107	129	17 %

For more information please contact Katie Olloman, 2016-2017 Young Adult Coordinator

Aldersgate Christian Preschool

Dorothy Beeman, Director

Aldersgate Christian Preschool (ACP) is an extension of the Christian Education Program of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. At full capacity, ACP serves 181 preschool children and their families in and around our community. The students range in age from two to five years old. Our current enrollment is 178 students with 3 spots still available. This reflects an additional 4% in capacity and an over 6% increase in enrollment since the 2016-2017 school year.

We continued the work that began last summer with more maintenance projects including new blinds in two classrooms and some new furniture. Minor repairs will continue throughout the school year with another renovation project adding new floors and new blinds in two more classrooms during the summer of 2018. A three-year rotation of painting classrooms has been put into place so that every classroom gets a new coat of paint and other maintenance projects as needed every three years.

As more parents desire their young children to attend preschool at an early age, ACP has added a new Friday Class for our youngest children, ages two to three years old. This allows children to attend more days to allow consistency to their week and more time to interact with other children their age. Due to lack of interest, ACP was forced to discontinue the drop in Nursery Care which had been popular in past years.

Jen Hoerber, the Director of Children & Family Ministries has continued to build a strong relationship between the preschool and the church. As the Chairman of the ACP Board, the governing body of the preschool, Jen continues to bring strong leadership to the ACP Board and brings new and exciting programs to the church which always include the preschool. Many families from the preschool attend

such events as the Fall Festival, Vacation Bible School, Eggstravaganza, Christmas Eve services and other worship services as well as Sunday School. The preschool had a successful Bike Rally Fundraiser last spring and will continue to add additional fundraising events throughout the school year to help keep down the cost of tuition.

With the continued help of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, ACP is able to provide a safe, loving Christian preschool for the children and families of this and surrounding communities.

Missions and Outreach Team

Jean Harris, Chairman

The Outreach team meets once a quarter to distribute funds that are earmarked for Mission and Outreach.

This year we have distributed to many local charities including our monthly feeding program at Crossroads, Sophia Way, Congregations for the Homeless and Habitat for Humanity. We also provided funds for the GaGa Pit and other one-time projects

We provide ongoing support to Katherine Parker in Nepal whose mission focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene as well as Jamaa Letu orphanage in Africa

United Methodist Women

Jean Harris, Chairman

The Aldersgate United Methodist Women consists of two circles – Deborah which meets on the first Monday of the month in the evening and Mary Martha which meets on the third Thursday of the month in the morning.

We have many service projects in the church including Sunday coffee four months a year as well as organizing memorial and other receptions as required during the year and Days for Girls.

We have two main fundraisers during the year: The spring salad supper in April and the bake sale in December. The money raised supports many local charities as well as the District and Conference.

Members attended Mission U., and UMW District and Annual Conferences.



**Aldersgate United Methodist Church
2016 Church Charge Conference
November 28, 2016, 7:00pm**

In attendance: 31 members of the church body

Brad opened the meeting with prayer.

Brad shared the story of a young man who left an angry post on our Facebook page, complaining at length about the church. Brad reached out to the poster, but he hasn't yet responded. Brad pointed out that many people have a dim view of churches, thinking we are hypocritical and money hungry and not helping the community the way we should. He emphasized that this is why we need to be more vocal, more apparent, and more connected to our neighbors with grace and compassion, so that they can see the great things we accomplish and want to be a part of them.

Brad pointed out one way that we are connecting to the community: Janice Zahn and Jack Morrison were not in attendance at the Charge Conference, because they were representing the church at a City Council meeting concerning the men's homeless shelter proposed for the Eastgate area. Their goal was to present the full support of the Aldersgate Core Leadership Team for the shelter, and to help allay concerns about safety.

Brad described us as "incredible people that nobody knows about," and expressed a desire for us to grow and reach out wherever we can.

Colleen pointed out that if we ever see a vicious post on the church Facebook page that we should take a screen print and let the church know immediately. Such posts are essentially graffiti, and need to be removed quickly. She made the point that nasty posts on the Internet are unfortunately quite common, and that we can combat them by modeling appropriate discussion and debate.

At this point we moved on to the business items on the agenda.

Leadership

A motion was made to accept the slate of leaders presented in the Charge Conference booklet (pp. 5-9). The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made to allow the Core Leadership Team to add leaders and participants as needed. This motion also passed unanimously.

2017 Pastor's Compensation

Brad stepped out of the room so that we could discuss his salary. Harris Atkins presented the recommendation of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (pp. 10-11 in the Charge Conference booklet). The new salary of \$67,755 includes a cost of living increase.

A motion was made to adopt the pastor's salary as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on our Ministerial Candidates

Brad presented an update on our five ministerial candidates:

- Jenn Peterson is taking a sabbatical from her ministerial path, but is still providing counseling.
- Laura Wall is also currently on hiatus from her ministerial pursuits.
- Carrie Bland is moving from Bryn Mawr in South Renton to Fairwood to work in ministry there.
- Rachel Shannon continues her seminary studies and appreciates our encouragement.
- Dirk Robinson remains grateful for our continued support of his ministry.

It was clarified that we support all of our ministerial candidates through our prayers and regular communication and encouragement. We do not support them monetarily.

A motion was made to approve our support of these ministerial candidates. It passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Wendi Brick presented the membership report, which is summarized on pp. 12 and 13 of the Charge Conference booklet. She explained that we make every effort to reach members who appear to have left the church but are still on the list of members. After two years, if we haven't heard from them, we remove them from membership at Charge Conference.

A motion was made to drop twelve members from our roles after repeated attempts at contact. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was also made to acknowledge a first letter sent to six members who appear to have moved on. This motion also passed unanimously.

We prayed for those members that have left us. We also prayed for the four members that we have lost to death this year, and for their families.

Accountability Questions

Several accountability questions are asked annually at Charge Conference and answered by the appropriate committee head or team leader.

1. Have the church financial activities been audited for 2015? (Yes, according to our Finance Team Chair, Melinda Lilley)

2. Are our corporate status and property tax exemptions current? (Yes, according to Board of Trustees Chair Rich Detering)
3. Is our insurance current and paid? (Yes, says Rich)
4. Does our church have a “safe church” policy? (Yes, according to Wendi Brick, Church Secretary)
5. Is your church current on apportionments? (Yes, says Melinda)
6. When was the last time the parsonage was inspected by the Trustees? (This will be happening very soon.)

State of the Church (Testimonials)

Finances: Melinda Lilley presented a current look at our finances, sharing some graphs she created to give a visual idea of where our money goes, which will be included with these minutes. She started by thanking the congregation for their time, talent, and donations, and she also thanked the staff for their efforts to keep expenses down.

She pointed out that we are looking at a shortfall as the end of the year approaches, and everyone is encouraged to give a “thirteenth month” donation to help support the tremendous work of the church. There will be a stewardship focus this coming Sunday. She explained that the proposed 2017 budget increases slightly to cover increased expenses, primarily for staff. She cautioned that the budget is still a work in progress, and as far as this year’s expenses go, the year isn’t over yet.

Roger Ingalls wondered if we could somehow track all the tremendous volunteer work our congregation does, both in and out of church. Ideas were suggested about how we might do this, although it was also pointed out that not everyone likes to have their volunteering recognized publicly. Brad suggested we continue discussing this and see what develops.

Preschool: Dorothy Beeman described how much our preschool has accomplished in the last couple of years (summarized on pages 20 and 21 of the Charge Conference booklet). There has been a successful remodel. Several staff members have retired, but we’ve been blessed with experienced new teachers, and some retired teachers have come back to substitute on occasion. Someone asked about what makes our preschool special. Dorothy mentioned our excellent staff and facility (our playground is very popular), our reasonable price, and the way our part-time schedule benefits younger children who need to spend more time with their parents. We also have diverse staff serving our diverse families. Jon Tucker complimented the preschool on how it connects the families it serves to other church activities. Dorothy credited Jen Hoerber for her help with this.

Youth Ministries: Jen Hoerber talked about how our youth and family ministries have grown, which she summarized in her Charge Conference report (pages 18 and 19 of the Charge Conference booklet). She mentioned how the youth are taking ownership of the youth group and coming up with suggestions for activities. Someone asked about the role of the youth in the larger church, and Jen mentioned how more youth are involved in helping in worship (three youth now help run the sound board), more youth are attending church, and the youth are also helping with activities like Kids Club, the Fall Festival, and the upcoming Christmas Bash and Christmas program (December 10 and 11 respectively. Get them on your calendar now!).

Jim Phillips mentioned how good it is to see a vibrant youth group, and that he sees it as a sign of a healthy church.

Church Activities: Colleen mentioned that we will be having a New Year's Eve party at the church from 6:00 to 9:00pm on December 31. This is the first of many church activities that we can expect to see over time. She encouraged everyone to come.

Brad ended the meeting by thanking the church for all that we do and for the privilege of being our pastor. He then prayed for the church as we continue striving to do God's work and be God's people.

We were asked to pray for Livonia, who goes in for outpatient surgery on Friday, and Joe Lee, who is stuck at home with stomach flu. (And you might want to pray for Brad, too, who was fighting a fever all during Charge Conference. The hand sanitizer was flowing thick as God's mercy all evening.)

These minutes humbly submitted by Robbin Price. Any omissions or mistakes are mine, and corrections will be gratefully accepted.