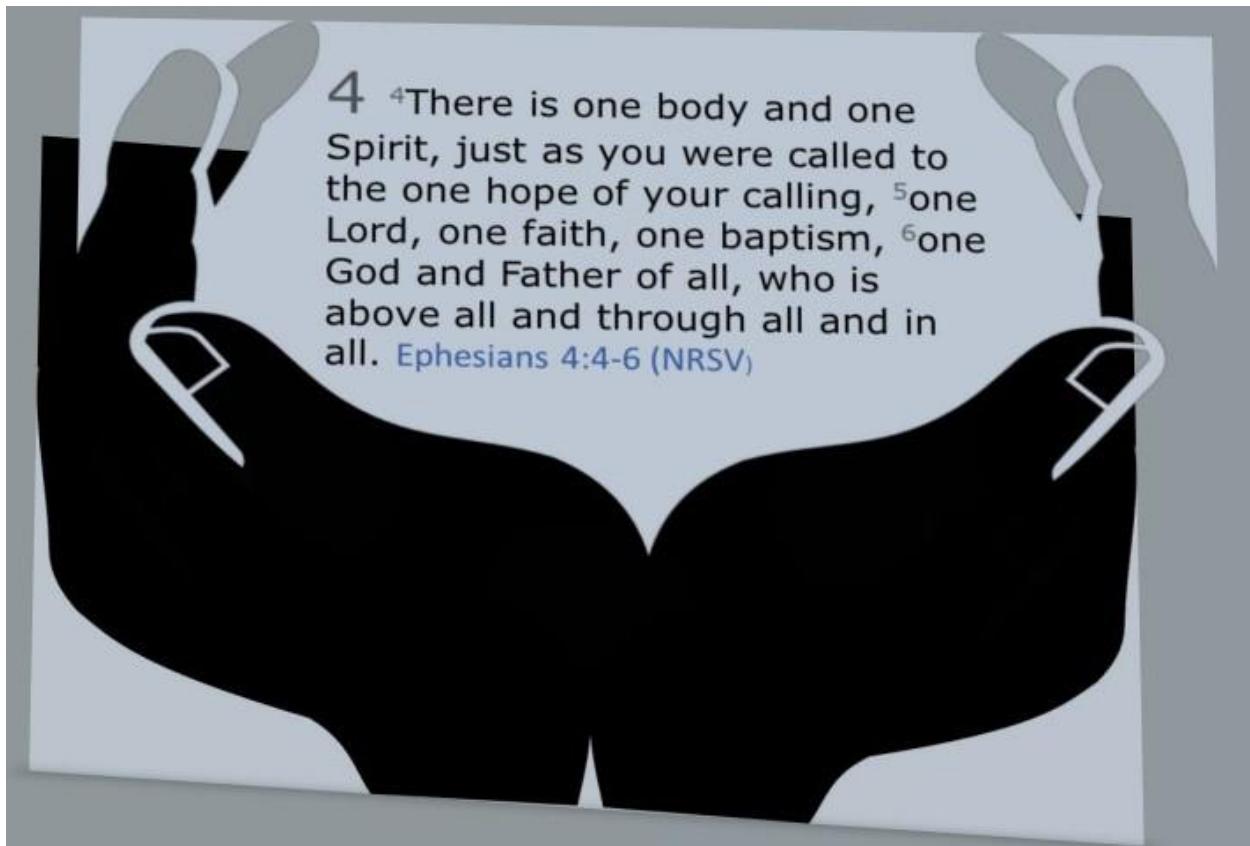


Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
All Church Conference Report  
December 17, 2018



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## All Church Conference Agenda

Rev. Rich Lang, Presiding

Greeting

Opening Song

One Bread. One Body

Opening Prayer

Business Items (Must Vote to Approve)

Ministerial Candidates  
Election of Leaders for 2019  
Pastors' Salary for 2019

Pastor Rich Lang  
Christian Hampson  
Joe Lee

State of the Church

Pastor's Report  
Membership  
Finance Team  
Children, Youth & Family  
Preschool Report  
Considering Reconciling Congregations  
Accountability Questions Answered  
Associate Pastor's Report

Rev. Brad P. Beeman  
Betty Fredeen  
Jim Phillips  
Jen Hoerber  
Linda Detering  
Rev. Laura Baumgartner  
Joe Lee  
Pastor Laura Baumgartner

Prayer for the Church

Blessing the Body of Christ

Closing Prayer

## Senior Pastor's Report

### All Church Conference

2018

Aldersgate, is a Christian community, without a doubt; continues to explore and find what it takes and what it means to be inclusive, moving consistently toward being vibrant, and is most certainly growing in faith, love, health and service. There is so much good news, so much that is positive and I want to cover that as specifically as possible in this report.

I'm now in working in my eighth year here. I remember that first year as though it were yesterday, sitting with a very dedicated group of five people who served as the Ad Council. I had just come from time spent with the Staff Parish Committee as we walked through the challenges they had experienced with the Seattle District Superintendent, some pieces of pastoral history, and their longing to become something more. We covenanted together to take that on. In other churches where I've served, the whole idea of "taking that on" was accomplished in two or three years. Yet the complexities of this place, (not a bad thing) made the process more complicated. Partially because you are such a well-educated group, partially because of the pastors before me who did a good job of helping you identify who and what your gifts were and are, partially because of my experiences and expectations. We turned a dramatic corner a few years ago and the result is where we are today. Here are a few examples of what I mean.

I've never experienced a church so willing to go deep. And by deep, I mean theologically, spiritually, emotionally and relationally. You have been willing to ask the harder questions and seek the more challenging answers. You've been willing to go beyond comfort zones but for the right reasons. You've been willing to learn, to grow, to reach, to explore in ways I have not experienced, not just in my pastoral ministry, but in my experiences beyond being a pastor. You've allowed this somewhat aging pastor to explore different alternatives for team leadership until one fell into place. You've been patient as we've learned and grown together. You've supported the staff changes as they've happened, sometimes in overwhelming ways. You've supported the move toward a one board governance system even though none of us were really sure what all of that meant. You've been patient, albeit not too patient, as I've needed to shift the way I do my work, from what I did before becoming a pastor, to what you needed me to be as a pastor. All in all, we've grown together and it just doesn't get a whole lot better than that.

As I write this we've hired our fourth second service music director in four or five years. In my tenure here we've hired a new preschool director, a new church treasurer, a new director of family ministries, a new associate pastor, a new janitor, a new second service music director, a new facilities coordinator, and new accompanists. That in itself is a lot of change. And yet, as I look at our current staff, I will share again that I have never had the privilege of working with as talented a staff in any of my many positions in my professional careers. I know we all feel truly blessed by this group.

In my pastoral career I've never had as dedicated a leadership team as we have right now. It is a diverse group who, without exception, have both the expansion of the kingdom of God and the health of the church in mind with every discussion they have and every decision they make. For those who have never attended a Core Leadership Team meeting (and all are welcome any time) you may not understand the depth and breadth of the discussions that take place in that room. Every decision is prayerfully and carefully made. Every decision has Aldersgate's best interest in mind. Every decision is sacred and has Christ in the midst of it. It doesn't mean they are all correct. We're all learning and growing in this work. It does mean that there is a trust level in that group that takes the decision-making process deeper. I've truly never experienced anything like it. And constantly on their hearts and in their decision are the needs to build disciples here at Aldersgate and to take that love into the community, and into to the community we've gone.

Let me begin with the preschool. This one's a little tougher to talk about given my relationship with the Director. But that aside, I look at what has been accomplished down stairs and continue to be overwhelmed. The appreciation goes so much deeper than the renovations, although the renovations are pretty overwhelming. It has moved from a somewhat older facility and has been transformed into a professional looking, child and family friendly, beautiful preschool. It has consistently been done with current child development theory in mind. What many may not realize is how significant the staff changes downstairs have been. Given the changes in philosophy and culture, Dorothy has sought out the best teachers in town; teachers who build on the philosophy and create the culture needed in today's diverse and education-oriented location. Some of those are teachers that have been willing to take on the changes and have remained a part of ACP. Others have been recruited and have filled vacancies of those who may not have been as willing to take on this new culture. All in all, the population that has benefited most from all of this are the children. Yet, even beyond that, the Aldersgate Christian Preschool has continued to be the most profound, most effective, and most visible outreach programs of this church. It is once again recognized as one of the top programs for young children in the greater Eastside.

Beyond the preschool, this church has had a profound impact on our community in multiple ways and on multiple levels. Locally we continue to be a part of multiple organizations that help our poor and disenfranchised. We continue to expand our role as being a place where safe conversations can occur, even over complex political issues. We have introduced new things in and for this community; things like the Faces of Felons, League of Women Voters forums, National Association of Mental Health support groups, and coming shortly, hopefully at the beginning of 2019, an organization called PAL (Parents and Loved Ones of Opioid Addicts). We would be the only place in the greater Seattle area who offered a place for folks like me and Dorothy who seek support for our own struggles with an opioid addict. As you know, I've been talking about this for years, and finally stumbled on to this faith-based organization who does this work really well. This church feeds, clothes, helps house, offers its voice in places like the Faith Action Network, and even on the Bellevue City

Council. It lifts up, helps up, stands up, and offers up Christian love in so many ways it's almost tough to keep up. I simply can't imagine a church that does more than Aldersgate; and the offerings are effecting change in and around us.

And how are we able to do so much for so many? We are able to offer it because of the way we are with each other. What we offer outside the doors, we also offer inside the doors. There is a tangible love here that I've not seen before. There is a feeling of mutual support that I have not experienced in any church where I've either served or attended. There is a love that is shared throughout, a patience that passes understanding, and a spirit of faith that is unstoppable. Yup, there are still areas where we can grow. It's just the nature of church. The difference is that we're willing to see those places, deal with them and move ahead. You are...no we are... Aldersgate, a vibrant and inclusive Christian community growing in faith, love, health and service, and it's a rare privilege to walk this road with you for what is now seven and a half years. Let's keep it going. I love you, respect you, and care deeply for each of you.

Pastor Brad

## Associate Pastor's Report

### 2018 All Church Conference

It is truly an honor to be one of your pastors. I am so moved by the work that you are doing in the community to spread the good news of God's love and hope for all people and all of Creation. I want to share with you a few stories from this year where I've witnessed God's presence in the life of this congregation, in the way that God works through us, the ways that God works with us, and the ways that God works among us.

I rejoice in the many ways that Aldersgate UMC is the Body of Christ in the world. For me one of the best examples of this is the various feeding programs you run. At Thanksgiving, over 40 of you served dinner to over 400 community members. At that event, there were people serving for the first time and people who had been to the event for many years. There were adult children who had been coming and helping at the event since before they could see over the height of the tables. It was an honor to get to stand side by side with you as you greeted, shook hands, shared with, and generally respected people whom some might regard as the "last, lost, or least". Every month, a small Aldersgate army serves dinner at the Salvation Army. In the summer, they also serve dinner at Congregations for the Homeless. Like at Thanksgiving, in the summer when I came and helped with dinner, I found that the Aldersgate community was sitting with those who had a different life story and listening without judgement or denial, giving out love with a side of brownies. Each month a team of volunteers collects pastries they "glean" from local bakeries and delivers them to those who need them. It's not any one of these actions that is so remarkable, although sometimes it is remarkable what one or two people can do! What's even more important to remember is that God is working through our church when we are out there feeding the hungry, listening to the lonely, and being changed in the process.

I rejoice in the ways that God works through us here at Aldersgate as well. I'll share another example of what I mean. Last spring, we got an email from Nicole Jackson, the youth director at a United Methodist Church in Anaheim, California. She was looking for a place for her youth group to stay overnight on the way to a service project they were doing near Spokane. When the request was shared, at every step, it was met with joy and a desire to be welcoming. At every decision point, there were those who stepped up and provided, those who showed up and served, those who believed in the possibility of a common table, a hospitable open door, and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives. We had over a dozen adults and far more youth over the 4th of July holiday weekend coming to church at all hours to make pancakes, wash dishes, find gluten-free alternatives, direct traffic, and talk, sing, praise, and eat together. That's what it means to make the road by walking. That's what it means to co-create with God's Holy Spirit the kin-dom of God here on Earth. That's what it means to be Christians who believe that there is a good God making a difference in the lives of real people and that the church has a role to play.

I rejoice in the ways that God has found to work in us too. We are not immune to the workings of the Holy Spirit here in our own lives. I see it in your smiles and your hugs. I see it in the way that you check up on each other, and the way that you care deeply and share well. One of the best examples of God working among us was the leaders retreat last spring. The Core Leaders and other leaders in the congregation met one Saturday afternoon in Lent and I was privileged to facilitate the conversation. Through prayer, brainstorming, discussion, and some confrontation, what emerged from that session was a set of three priorities that continue to guide us. You've probably heard them. They are to nurture a culture of inclusion, to be in fellowship and discipleship together, and to put our faith into action. Perhaps they aren't surprising or revolutionary. They are reminders for us as we make decisions that lead us into the future about what we are becoming. The real news however, isn't even in the priorities that came out of the meeting. It is in the relationships that were built and the collaborations that were forged as a result of the time together. The real news is that God showed up and worked with us for those hours and we are all better for it.

Lest you feel slighted that I didn't pick your favorite story, I have to say that there are so many more stories I could tell. There is the way that you included a family support group from the National Association for Mental Illness in our building use. There are the ways that you all shared of yourselves during the Life Until Death sermon series in the summer by bringing stories and pictures and prayers. There are the ways that you have taken on the responsibility of pastoral care as my hours have been reduced. There are the faithful people who have given over and above their pledges to pay down the kitchen loan. There are the new folks, the visitors, the community members, the preschool families who know themselves to be a part of something much bigger than they would be alone by being part of the Aldersgate community. Of course, there are always ways we could be more giving. There are always things beyond what we can take on. There is always discernment to be done about what is ours to do and what must be left for someone else.

As I think about my pastoral goals for the 18-19 program year, to focus on sacraments including baptisms and communion, to work with the relevance of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion in our context, and to grow as a preacher, I come back to my gratitude about getting to be here in ministry with you at this time. This is a place where I am called to be in ministry with you. It is a place where the gifts that God has given me and the gifts that God has given you are uniquely suited to the needs around us. It is for such a time as this that the Christ Child came and lived and suffered and died and rose again. It is for such a time as this that we have been placed here to live as Christ lived. So be it.

Laura

## Aldersgate Leadership Roster

(as of December 17, 2018)

### Leadership Team – Voting Slate

Core Leader Team Chairperson (¶251.3)	Joe Lee
Chairperson, elect	TBD
Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations (¶258.2)	Peter Narmita
Chair of Trustees (¶258.3 and ¶2524 to 2550)	Rich Detering, acting
Finance Committee Chairperson (¶258.4)	Jim Phillips
Lay Leader (¶251.1)	Steve Rummel
Lay Member of Annual Conference (¶251.2)	Jean Harris and Dorothy Beeman
Financial Secretary (¶258.4)	Wendi Brick
Church Treasurer (¶258.4)	Jill Swanson
Membership Secretary (¶234 and ¶235 to 242)	Betty Fredeen
Young Adult Representative	Sarah Fritze
Aldersgate Christian Preschool Director	Dorothy Beeman
ACP Board Representative	Linda Detering
Outreach Team Coordinator(s) (¶244)	Jean Harris
Communications Chair	Melinda Lilley
Recording Secretary (¶247.4)	Robbin Price

### Board of Trustees – Voting Slate

Open until filled	Chair
Open until filled	Secretary
Rich Detering	Term ends 2020, acting chair
Tom Breske	Term ends 2020
Dave Sanford	Term ends 2021, acting secretary
Dwain Zahn	Term ends 2021
Dave Carver	Term ends 2021
Eric Lilley	Term ends 2022

**Finance Team – Voting Slate**

Chair	Jim Phillips, term ends 2022
	Dave Sanford - Term ends 2020
	Brad Brewer - Term ends 2020
	Michelle Joyce - Term ends 2021
	Darrell Lowe - Term ends 2021
	Steve Rummel - Term ends 2021

**Nominations Team – Voting Slate**

Chair	Pastor Laura
Members	Eric Lilley Kathy Maybee

**Age Level Coordinators:**

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Coordinator (¶253 and ¶256.2 and ¶256.3)	Jen Hoerber
Young Adult “At the Crossroads” Coordinator (¶253 and ¶256.3d)	Katie Olleman
Adult Ministries Coordinator (¶253)	Rich Detering, Tom Breske

**Other Ministry Group Coordinators:**

Church Historian (¶247.5)	Betty Fredeen
Green Team Leader (¶254)	Laura Baumgartner
Prayer Chain Coordinator (¶254)	Dorothy Bennett
Stewardship Ministry Team Leader (¶254)	Melinda Lilley
Worship Ministry Team Leader (¶254)	Pastor Brad
Receptions	Lea Fox
Weddings	Norma Line
Memorials	Lea Fox, Garnet Ormsby
United Methodist Women	Jean Harris
Deborah Circle	Clarine Goodleaf
Mary Martha Circle	Kathy Maybee

**Building and Grounds**

Technology Team	Peter Narmita, Tom Blakney, Bill Ferguson
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Web Team	Andy Luedke, Adam Stuenkel, Jen Hoerber
Lawn Coordinator	Jim Roelker, Ted Snyder, Marta Brown
	Gary Swearingen - Term ends 2021
Treasurer	Jill Swanson
Pastor	Brad Beeman

### **Bookkeeping Team**

Financial Secretary	Wendi Brick
Counters	Dorothy Bennett Gayle Kreek Wilma Tucker Clarine Goodleaf

### **Stewardship**

Members	Melinda Lilley Steve Briggs Harold Prow
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### **Worship Team**

Senior Pastor	Rev. Brad Beeman
Associate Pastor	Rev. Laura Baumgartner
First Service Music Director	Roger Ingalls
Second Service Music Director	Allison Renn
Handbell Director	Pam Johnson
Organist/Accompanist	Jason Suchan
Video, Sound	Bill Ferguson
Worship Band	Patty Ferguson
Banners and Flowers	Norma Line
Contemplative Practices/Service	Sabrina McIntyre
Liturgists	Joe Lee
Communion Stewards	Malia Hampson, Karen Fleshman, Lois Ingram, Kristin Thorsness

### **Children's Sunday School Teachers**

Pre-school/Younger Elementary	Patrick Eames
Older Elementary	Kristin Thorsness
Youth	Griffey Edwards

**Aldersgate Christian Pre-School Board**

ACP Board Chair	Jen Hoerber
ACP Director	Dorothy Beeman
ACP Financial Manager	Jill Swanson
Church Representative	Linda Detering
Preschool Parent Representative	Molly Kleberg, Kristin McNamara
Preschool Teacher Representative	Carissa Person

**Pastoral Care Team**

Coordinator	Pam Johnson
Members	Lea Fox Ferrell Fox Kathy Maybee Clarine Goodleaf Jo Fritze Linda Detering Jean Harris Jon Tucker Wilma Tucker Doris Prestwood Marilyn Knapp Dorothy Bennett Kristie McLean Karen Yellman Kate Ingalls Sarah Fritze Flo Monkman Michelle Joyce

**Green Team**

Chair	Pastor Laura
Members	Rich Detering Linda Detering Geri Martinsen Betty Fredeen Jean Harris

**Library Resource Center Team**

Chair	Sabrina McIntyre
Members	Barbara Brackbill Jean Harris Nancy Phillips

**Outreach Team**

Chair	Jean Harris
Members	Ruth Carver Linda Detering Gwen Pazan Laureen Thomas Karen Yellman

**Considering Reconciling Congregations Team**

Chair	Pastor Brad
Members	Pastor Laura Kristin Thorsness Patty Ferguson Monica Luedke Andy Luedke Jean Harris Ann Young Richard Young Robbin Price Audra Bennett Caralynn Hampson Clarine Goodleaf David Maybee Geri Martinsen Jo Fritze Kate Ingalls Norma Line Sabrina McIntyre Wendi Brick Kathy Maybee Joe Lee

## Staff Liaisons in 2018

Liaison for Pastor Brad Beeman	Jack Morrison
Liaison for Pastor Laura Baumgartner	Nancy Phillips
Liaison for Wendi Brick	Melinda Lilley
Liaison for Jen Hoerber	Angela Kirkman
Liaison for Dorothy Beeman	Robbin Price
Liaison for Jason Suchan	Don Allyn
Liaison for Griffey Edwards	Eric Lilley
Liaison for Roger Ingalls	Jean Rummel
Liaison for Pam Johnson	Hope Barker
Liaison for Jill Swanson	Jean Rummel
Liaison for Allison Renn (new music director in 2 <sup>nd</sup> service)	TBD

## Special Projects

Christmas Gifts (Hopelink)	Dorothy Bennett
Congregations for the Homeless	Dave Maybee
Congregations for Kids	Malia Hampson
Crossroads Dinners	Dave Maybee
Food and Servers for Crossroads	Rachel Saw
Thanksgiving Dinner at CCC	Tom Breske
Gleaning Project	Ruth and Kelly Carver
Grace Boarding House	Kara Bennett, Wally and Audra Bennett
Habitat for Humanity Coordinators	Darrell Lowe, Dave Sanford
Hopelink Food Bank	Betty Fredeen, Christian and Malia Hampson
Rummage Sale	Linda Detering, Kristie McLean
Sophia Way	Jean Harris
Vision House	Melinda Lilley

**Membership Report 2018**  
Betty Fredeen, Membership Secretary

Membership – December 31, 2017	275
Received by Profession of Faith	0
Received by Profession of Faith (Confirmation Class)	5
Received from other United Methodist Churches	5
Received from all other denominations	2
Add to correct reporting errors	3
Total	290
Transferred to other United Methodist Churches	6
Transferred to other church denomination	2
Removed by Request	8
Removed by Charge Conference	2
Removed by death	4
Subtract to correct reporting errors	0
Total December 31, 2018	268
Participating Non-Members - Adults	56
Participating Non-Members - Children (not confirmed)	51
Number of Persons Baptized this year	5
Number of Persons in Confirmation Class this Year	6
Average Weekly Attendance	123

<b>Received by Faith</b>	<b>Removed by Request</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Michelle Eames	Thomas Butcher	<b>Received 2 letters 2017</b>
Sofie Fenstermacher	Catherine (Louw) Coe	<b>&amp; 2018 Remove by</b>
Hannah Fritze	Mae Coover	<b>Charge Conference**</b>
Harrison Prow	Dave Mickelson	Gloria (Backus)
Justin Yormark	Denise Mickelson	McKinley
	Adrienne Schultz	Marilee Gossard
	Steve Schultz	
	Leora Patterson-Schwitters	
<b>Transferred in from Other Methodist Church</b>	<b>Removed by Transfer to Other Methodist Church</b>	<b>First Reading</b>
Steve Briggs	Jenny Andrews	<b>Received 1 letter 2018</b>
Peter Coffee	Harris Atkins	Tom Allebrandi
Patrick Eames	Mary Atkins	Colleen Flower
Pam Johnson	David Lutz	Kristen Henningsgard
Carolyn Major	Betsy Petre	Michelle Henningsgard
	Ginny Truscott	Ben Lawry
<b>Transferred in from Other Church Denomination</b>	<b>Removed by Transferred to Other Church Denomination</b>	Catherine McLellan
Claude (Butch) Black	Bill Shaul	Sean McLellan
Sue Black	Carol Shaul	Mary Ann Morice
		George Muttart
<b>Baptized</b>		Jacob Muttart
Jared Daniel		Joshua Muttart
Michelle Eames	<b>Removed by Death</b>	Ginger Ryder
Harrison Prow	Bev Allebrandi	George Thompson
James Schroeder	Al Allott	Sybil Thompson
Sailor Stroble	Bev Allott	
	Doris Roelker	

\*\*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.

## **Accountability Questions**

Asked at each annual All-Church or Charge Conference:

Have churches financial activities been audited for 2017?	Yes
Are your corporate status and property tax exemptions current?	Yes
Is your insurance current and paid?	Yes
Does your church have a current and enforced “Safe Churches” policy?	Yes
Are you doing national background checks on volunteers and staff?	Yes
Is your church current on its apportionments?	Yes

## Ministry Team Conference Reports

### Core Leaders Team

Joe Lee, Chair

As we approach the end of 2018, we offer up prayers of thanksgiving for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and rejoice in the accomplishments of the past year that we celebrate in the actions of our boards, committees, teams and people below!

### 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 completed. All maintenance or safety issues been resolved. 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 offer their thanks and appreciation to Dave Carver, facilities coordinator, for his dedication and devotion to maintaining our church building and surrounding property this year and extend to him our good wishes in the continued success of his thriving business.

#### Projects Completed

- Replaced defective light switch and kitchen sink faucet.
- Removed big cottonwood tree growing beside the AA portable.
- Replaced the flooring in the AA portable.
- Researched and selected a replacement copy machine at a considerable cost savings.
- Reconfigured our IT system to a cloud-based system with attended improvements in security.
- Troubleshoot and repair long standing issues in the irrigation system.
- Contracted with a cleaning service for all church custodial services.

### Finance Team

Melinda Lilley, Chairman

In 2018, we spanned two fiscal years: the last six months of the 2017-18 budget year and the first six months of the 2018-19 budget year. The 2017-18 fiscal year ended in the red with a deficit of \$12,550.71. The pledges committed for the 2018-19 fiscal year were down by \$30,000 from the previous fiscal year. The Finance Team made some expense reductions in

the proposed budget but the CLT needed to make some tough staffing reductions to make a balanced budget. In August, the CLT approved a budget of \$463,613.21 for the July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. As of October 31, our income exceeds our expenditures for the fiscal year by \$66.31. An audit covering the 2017 calendar year as well as the July 2017 – June 2018 fiscal year is underway and is nearing completion.

The Finance Team reviewed actual income and expenses against the budget on a monthly basis. A list of all current fundraisers and dates was compiled. Electronic giving was encouraged, and many members have chosen this method of giving. The Capital Campaign for the Kitchen Remodel continued with an Italian Dinner and Pampered Chef fundraiser. Further fundraisers are in the planning stages to help complete this campaign.

2017-2018 Finance Team Members:	2018-2019 Finance Team Members:
Melinda Lilley, Chair	Jim Phillips, Chair
Marie Vieth, Treasurer	Jill Swanson, Treasurer
Wendi Brick, Financial Secretary	Wendi Brick, Financial Secretary
Brad Brewer	Brad Brewer
Jim Phillips	Darrell Lowe
Darrell Lowe	Gary Swearingen
Gary Swearingen	Michelle Joyce
	Steve Rummel

### **Staff Parish Relations Team**

Peter Narmita, 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. 2018 saw the integration of the SPR into the Core Leadership Team.

### **STAFF RECRUITING**

We coordinated the filling of two open positions: a) the 2nd Service Choir Director and b) the Facilities Coordinator.

We are pleased to announce that Allison Renn has accepted the 2nd Service Choir Director position and will begin on Jan 2nd, 2019. A huge thanks to the selection team: Robbin Price, ,

Robbin Price, Carolyn Mahors, Clarine Goodleaf, Dorothy Beeman, and Pastor Laura. Please give Allison a warm welcome.

We are still looking for a Facilities Coordinator to coordinate and participate in the maintenance of our church facility. The job is a paid position and offers an opportunity to work with volunteers and professionals as needed to beautify the inside and outside of the church. If you are interested, please contact Peter Narmita or Joe Lee.

**PASTOR EVALUATIONS:** Joe Lee led the pastor evaluation effort by seeking input from representatives of the congregation. The evaluations are complete and will be sent to the District Superintendent in December.

### **Technology Team**

Peter Narmita

The Tech Team has expanded and now includes Peter Narmita and Dave Sanford in addition to Bill Ferguson (AV), Adam Stuenkel (public website), and John Saalwaechter (new church DB). Over the past couple of months, the team has accomplished the following. Thanks much to the Tech Team for their innovative ideas and renewed focus to leverage technology to foster communication among the church staff and the congregation.

### **NEW CHURCH PRINTER**

Worked with Wendi Brick to install a new, more functional office printer/copier/folder. All staff members and church computers can now print on the printer securely; a code is required.

### **AUMC LEADERSHIP WEBSITE AND NEW APPS**

To facilitate communication among the AUMC staff we completed an "AUMC Leadership" website intended to be a single place to securely access all applications, documents, and data used by the church staff. Note that this website is for use by the Pastors, church staff, and authorized personnel only. The site is different from the church's public website.

An application catalog of all the apps used by the staff was completed and added to the website for easier access.

Wendi Brick and John Saalwaechter worked together to select a new Church Administration Database which consolidates many functions. Work began to move the data from the various sources to this new cloud-based app.

## CHURCH INFORMATION SECURITY AND SHARING

Began work on ensuring the security of all AUMC information in digital and paper form, including private, financial, and other sensitive information.

Began work on storing private and sensitive paper documents currently stored in locked cabinets in an onsite fireproof safe. Some critical documents will be stored offsite in a bank safety deposit box if necessary.

Leveraged AUMC's existing cloud services to organize, consolidate and protect the church's documents currently stored on a server in the office. All documents on the church server have been securely backed up to the cloud.

Started a pilot test for sharing non-sensitive church documents using AUMC's existing cloud services without sending copies using email. For example, meeting minutes, status reports, pictures, slide presentations. The pilot test will be assessed in January.

Due to the holidays, work in this area is on hold and will restart in January.

**AUMC COMPUTER CLASSES:** Beginning in January 2019, the Tech Team will be offering computer classes on Sundays to help the congregation communicate with each other and to learn more about Christianity and God's plan for us using today's technology. There is a wealth of info out there. The classes will be focused on the specific needs of people of all ages in our congregation. Stay tuned for details.

## Worship Team

Pastor Brad P. Beeman

It's like a breath of fresh air...my feelings about Laura and what she's done for us in worship and worship planning. But the freshness isn't just Laura, it's the whole team. This is one of the most dedicated, upbeat, creative groups in the church. They are constantly examining the purpose of worship, the feelings within worship, the desire to involve multi-sensory options, all with a heart for what God may be calling us to do. From those that plan to those that implement, to those that play and sing, to those who create the atmosphere, this group creates experiences that transforms lives.

What you may not know is that we meet quarterly to examine the upcoming major season of the church. We meet in August and examine Advent and Christmas. We meet during Advent to plan for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We meet during Lent to plan the time that comes after Easter and in the spring we plan for the summer and fall. The dedication is unmatched,

the creativity around the table is a gift, and the spirit by which this team does this work is an example of how Christian community is supposed to work.

The work of the Worship Team isn't just about what happens between 9 and 10, or what happens between 11 and 12 each Sunday. It is about how people are greeted, how people find what they need, making sure the sanctuary is ready for Sunday mornings, rehearsing so as to provide the best possible God-focused music, practiced readings, sermons researched and written, prayers offered throughout the planning and preparing processes, seeking to be the best team possible, all for the glory of God and to facilitate transformation. And just so you are aware, there is a belief that transformation isn't simply about some overwhelming conversion event. Transformation can come in all kinds of ways. It can be the momentary warming of the heart when the choir sings, or the tears that come to our eyes with some solo. It can come with the passion of the praise team or somewhere in the midst of the message as an "aha moment" takes place. It can come with a warm greeting or a shared prayer. God utilizes all of those and more as the Spirit moves throughout the sanctuary and within each of us. God's Spirit is constantly moving, constantly available and constantly seeking us. That's what worship seeks to provide and that is the role of this team. And they do excellent work.

If you would like to become a part of this group there is always a place for you; whether with any of the music groups, with greeting, ushering, as a liturgist, or even prayer support. There is always a place for you. And there is but one requirement. It's simple. That each of us who are a part of this come with the heart of a servant. Thank you, worship team for all that you do!

## **Children and Family Ministry**

Jen Hoerber, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Children and Family Ministries has been tweaking and building on our current programs this year to reach a level of sustainability. Sunday programming includes kid's club, music time and Sunday school. Sunday School is in it's 2nd year of the Dig In curriculum, and while it is user friendly and fun, new curriculum will be used next school year. The music program ran by Robbin Price allows the kids to learn and perform songs on both Mother's Day and in the annual Christmas program. Kid's Club has not been well supported by the congregation through volunteers and may need to be altered in 2019. Community outreach programs such as Eggstravaganza, the flashlight Easter egg hunt, Vacation Bible School, Fall Festival and Christmas Bash were all well attended by the church families, preschool families and the community. The Eggstravaganza outgrew Smith Hall will have to move in 2019, the Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt had over 70 kids in attendance, and Vacation Bible School registrations were limited. Our volunteer numbers were down with most of these however, so the church will need to decide if we want to continue to reach to

the community in these ways. The family events such as Bingo night, Mariner Game outing and the New Years Eve Party were a success in building our community. The parenting forum in October was not as well attended as hoped, however it provided a deeply meaningful time for parents in the community to come together, learn and grow. The plan is to continue hosting parenting events like this in the future with Bellevue First United Methodist Church. The mini mission trip to Lazy F was another huge success this past year with many first timers in attendance. Overall, this year has been successful in solidifying and strengthening Aldersgate's children and family ministries.

### **Youth Ministry**

Jen Hoerber, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

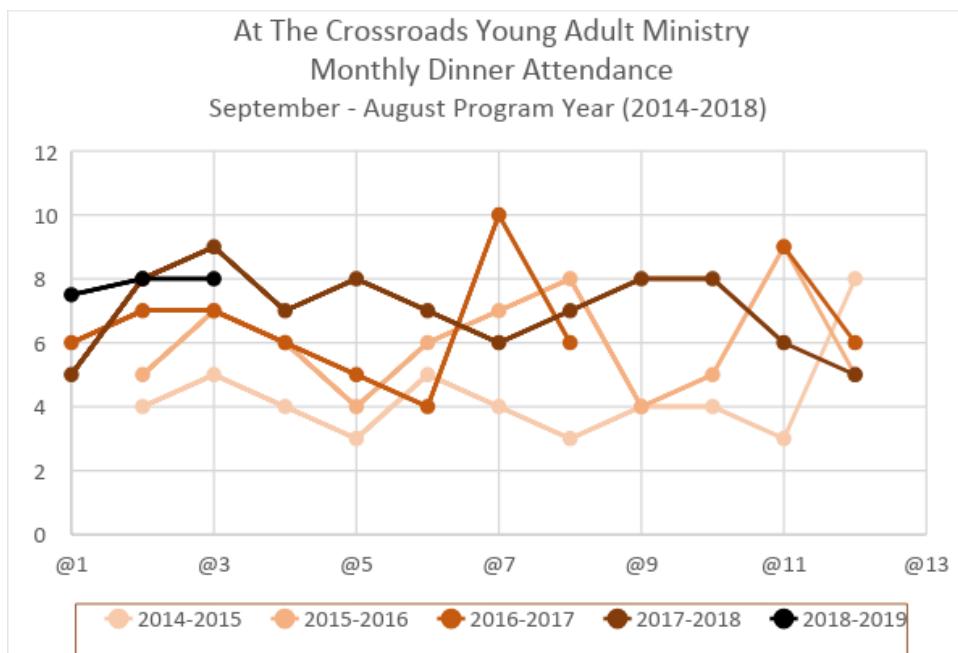
2018 has been a year of growth for Aldersgate's youth ministries. The average number of youth attending on Sunday night youth group has increased. The average of youth per week is 18, but there have been several weeks when there has been over 20 youth present. This growth has come not only through our church families but through the youth inviting their friends and by reaching out to our neighbors. With the hiring of Griffey Edwards, Aldersgate's youth assistant, in February, the staff has also grown. This has allowed for safe church policies to be followed more easily and added another energy force into the program. Support from parents has been key to the continued success of this program. The food they prepare for the monthly Sunday night dinners as well as their aid in programming, fundraising, and chaperoning allows for the youth and the staff to grow in community, outreach and faith. This year we carried out Aldersgate's tradition of outreach to our college students with the valentine cookies, the love of camp with participation in the Memorial Day Mini Mission trip, Camp Sunday Taco Bar and Summer Camp participation. A group of 12 went on a week-long mission trip to Idaho and served the community in a variety of ways. The youth also organized a pet food drive for the humane society this year. Confirmation was held this year with 6 youth participating; 5 whom became members of the church. Youth Sunday school meets weekly in between services where they are working through the Claim the Name curriculum. Youth group meetings are a mix of fun games, team building activities and conversations. It is the goal of the youth ministry team to provide a safe environment where youth can come and be themselves and be supported through our community.

### **Young Adult Ministry**

Katie Olleman, Coordinator

This year, Aldersgate UMC's At the Crossroads Young Adult Ministry celebrates four full years of programing. During the 2017-2018 program year, the young adults gathered 12 times for laughter and conversation over dinner at Crossroads Mall. For the program's 4 quarterly events

the young adults hiked the Twin Falls Trail, had a Christmas Special viewing Party, enjoyed a Breakfast for Dinner Board Game Night at Aldersgate UMC, and threw the 2018 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 2018 PNW Conference Young Adult Retreat at Twinlow. As we enter the 2018-2019 programing year – the 5<sup>th</sup> year of At the Crossroads – the young adults have already celebrated Friendsgiving, volunteered at Fall Festival 2018, and enjoyed dinner at Aldersgate's Fall Feast in addition to their monthly dinners at Crossroads Mall. The program has matured over the last four years and continues to innovate, attract new members, and create a community where young adults can experience the love demonstrated for all by Jesus Christ.

Monthly Dinner Attendance Statistics	2017	2018	% Increase	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Increase
Total Events	12	12	0	12	12	0
Avg Attendance	6.90	7.14	3	6.60	7.00	6
Max Attendance	10	8	-20	10	9	-10
Min Attendance	4	5	25	4	5	25
Mode Attendance	5	8	60	6	8	33
Total Attendances*	82.80	85.64	3	79.20	84.00	6

\*Factored to account for missing data

For more information please contact Katie Ollerman, 2018-2019 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 170 students with 11 spots available. This reflects a 4% decrease in enrollment since the 2017-2018 school year.

This past summer we completed the second of three renovations to update the classrooms and restrooms in the Education Wing and Smith Memorial Hall. New vinyl flooring was added to all classrooms as well as the two restrooms in the Ed Wing. Room C was painted and the existing cabinet was rebuilt. All classrooms have new mini blinds. The restrooms in Smith Hall were also painted and new flooring installed. During the winter break, Smith Hall will be painted and new vinyl flooring installed. The final renovation will be the playground and is scheduled to be completed next spring.

October 2018 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Aldersgate Christian Preschool. A 50th Celebration Bash will be held on June 1, 2019 to celebrate ACP's service to the community. All former directors, staff, family and friends will be invited to join in the event.

Jen Hoerber, the Director of Children, Youth & 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, Christmas Eve and other worship services and the ever popular Easter Egg Hunts. In October Jen and Laura Baumgartner collaborated with Bellevue First UMC to present a Parenting Forum which was attended by parents from Bellevue, Issaquah, Renton and Redmond.

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 team meets once a quarter in February, May, August and November on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00. If any business arises in between, it is usually handled by e-mail.

The members are Ruth Carver, Linda Detering, Jean Harris, Gwen Pazan, Laureen Thomas, Karen Yellman. We would welcome additional members.

In 2018, we made the following disbursements: Katherine Parker (our missionary in Nepal), Days for Girls International, Pastors Discretionary Fund, Backpacks for Kids (Weekend meals), Jamaa Letu (Congo Orphanage & School), Vision House, Congregations for Kids (School supplies), Youth Mission to Twinlow, Sophia Way, and Restorative House.

We also paid part of our mission apportionments to the Conference as well as support to the Crossroads Thanksgiving meal and the monthly Crossroads feeding program. We supported Mission Sunday by providing requested funds to the various projects.

If anyone has a particular project or mission that requires our support, we request that you attend a meeting and present it to the team.

If something requires immediate support, please contact Jean Harris (jean7439@comcast.net) and I will notify the team either by email or call a special meeting.

## **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 and the bake and craft sale in December. The money raised supports many local charities as well as the District and Conference. This year we made disbursements as follows:

Grace Boarding House in Nepal, Griffin Home, Sophia Way, Congregations for Kids, Days for Girls, Pacific NW UMW, Hopelink, Church Council of Greater Seattle for Immigrant support, Pastors Discretionary Fund, Kitchen & General Fund.

Members attended Mission U., Spiritual Day Apart and UMW District and Annual Conferences as well as participating in the national UMW reading program.

For more information, please contact Jean Harris (jean7439@comcast.net).

## **Considering Reconciling Committee**

The Considering Reconciling Committee this year has undergone significant transformation and also made significant progress toward designing a process that is helping the congregation get to the point of making a decision about whether to join the Reconciling Ministries Network. The transformation occurred over the summer with Pastor Brad taking on more leadership within the committee. While previous leaders had been helpful in forming the group and helping many people feel that they could contribute, the progress for the congregation was less obvious. Since Pastor Brad has taken on leadership, the group has developed monthly events for the congregation to coordinate with the sermon series, "Belonging" that extended from September through November.

In September, one Sunday morning the sermon time was used for the Table Talk protocol so that congregation members could hear from each other about why it is important that we learn to talk about sensitive topics like sexuality and what some of our fears are about becoming more inclusive. Congregation members and visitors participated in the Table Talks during both services as part of the worship experience. The feedback that we received was that the time was holy and very unusual in our experience.

In October, we hosted an evening information session about the Commission for the Way Forward in the United Methodist global church. The Commission was appointed by the Council of Bishops and developed three plans for moving forward as one global church. The global denomination is moving toward a General Conference in February of 2019 to decide between the three plans. The three plans were described at our event and questions were addressed.

In November, Pastor Brad facilitated a panel discussion of members from Everett UMC and Fairwood UMC, with one previous member of Haller Lake UMC, who now is a member of Fairwood. In preparation for the panel, Pastor Brad interviewed eight other people from other churches, all of whom had been through the process of deciding whether to become part of the Reconciling Ministries Network or not. Pastor Brad asked questions of the panelists and

then we took a break and he allowed audience members to pose their questions after the break. Again, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive from this event for those who attended.

In December, we are sponsoring a collection drive for Friends of Youth, an organization working with youth in Bellevue. One of the issues that Friends of Youth addresses is homelessness and their assessment is that 20% of homeless youth in Bellevue is homeless because they have been estranged from their family and home due to their sexual orientation. The drive began on December 2 and will continue until January 6.

On January 6, between services, we are hosting a speaker from the YMCA program that also serves homeless youth in our area to try to find foster homes. Also in January we will be creating a survey of congregation members to find out more about where we are and what other steps would be helpful as we make our way toward a decision about whether to join the Reconciling Network.

Our plans for next year will be informed and shaped by the survey in January. We will not be making any decision about whether to join or not join the Reconciling Ministries Network as a committee. The congregation will make the decision and the survey will help to inform when the congregation will be ready to make that decision. We don't want to rush into it and we also don't want to wait too long.

### **Hiring Report: New Second Service Music Director**

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Allison Renn as our new Second Service Music Director. In September, we organized an Ad Hoc committee, made up of choir members Dorothy Beeman, Clarine Goodleaf, Carolyn Major, and Robbin Price, several of whom had experience with interviewing potential music directors. Pastor Laura Baumgartner also participated in an advisory capacity. Peter Narmita posted the position in early October, and we were delighted to have several viable candidates by the end of that month. After phone interviews conducted by Peter, whose expertise in HR work was very helpful, a group interview was conducted by an Ad Hoc Committee for candidates that were still interested in the position and seemed like good possibilities. Dorothy checked references, and then two candidates were invited to visit a choir rehearsal and work on two pieces of music with the choir, one that they were familiar with, and one that was new. The choir then gave its recommendation, and with the approval of Pastor Brad, Allison was offered the position.

Allison comes from a strong musical background and has many years of experience directing church choirs. She has a husband and three small children and looks forward to bringing her family to our church. She will be starting with us in January.

This report would not be complete without sincere thanks to Jason Suchan, our remarkable accompanist, who has directed us through the fall. He has done an exceptional job, and we feel blessed to have his tremendous talents in our church. By Robbin Price, Ad Hoc Hiring Committee member.

### **Crossroads Monthly Dinner Mission**

One of Aldersgate's longest running community services is the monthly fried chicken dinner served to those in need on the fourth Tuesday of the month. This is a great outreach program of our church and we can be proud of our participation.

**SUMMARY:** A chicken dinner is provided for those in need or hungry as a part of the Salvation Army's feeding program. The meals are fed to all attending on a no questions asked basis. We currently feed about 50 to 60 people. Included are singles, both male and female, families large and small including children, and the handicapped. Salvation Army personnel have stated that approximately 40% are homeless.

**LOCATION:** Currently East of Crossroads Mall at the Overlake Presbyterian Church, 1836 156th Ave SE, Bellevue Wash, 98006. In the fall the dinners will return to the Salvation Army new facility on 164th Ave SE.

**TIME AND DATE:** 4th Tuesday of the month. Volunteers should arrive at 5:30 to help prepare the green salad, pour drinks and setup. Serving starts at 6:00 and we are usually done by 7:00 PM.

**OUR MEAL:** Fried chicken, choice of green, potato, or Jell-O/fruit salad, dinner rolls, a desert (usually cookies or brownies), and a choice of milk or juice. The church buys the fried chicken and volunteers provide the remainder of the dinner.

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Servers:** Coordinated by Melinda Lilley at [emc2lilley@me.com](mailto:emc2lilley@me.com) **Food Donations:** also coordinated by Melinda Lilley

**Monetary Donations:** Crossroads Dinner Fund Questions or comments: Dave Maybee at 425 747 3668

## **Monday Women's Study**

Members meet every Monday at 1:30 for sharing, meditation and study.

Currently we are studying the book "Is Your God Big Enough, Close Enough, You Enough" by Paul R. Smith.

Currently the members are: Barbara Brackbill, Ruth Carver, Linda Detering, Jean Harris, Marilyn Knapp, Renee Kroese, Livonia Lowe, Kathy Maybee, Nancy Phillips, Doris Prestwood, Sabrina MacIntyre, Beth Snyder, Ann Young.

We would love to have any woman join us. Either just show up on a Monday afternoon or speak to any of the members if you need more information.

## **Green Team Report**

Green Team has had three priorities this year. First, we have continued to work on the kitchen and dining areas of the church, advocating for less waste, more composting and recycling, and better choices for sustainable use of resources in our events involving food. We have successfully had multiple events that have had almost "zero waste," meaning that none of the packaging or products used for the events had to be sent to the landfill, and 100% could be reused or either recycled or composted. We have been working with the preschool to increase the composting that is happening from the bathrooms and classrooms during the week as well. We continue to support Fair Trade coffee producers in our coffee hour coffee consumption. In the coming year, we hope to reduce the number of waste receptacles in Friendship Hall and the Narthex and more clearly label the ones that are left. We hope that this will make the process of sorting waste easier and more streamlined. Continuing to recycle and compost more and landfill less may result in cost savings for the church if we can reduce the size of the dumpster that we require. We have every reason to believe that this is possible in 2019.

Our second major effort this year was Mission Sunday. Since Earth Day coincided with Mission Sunday in 2018, we took on the leadership of that event. We had teams working throughout the church and the community during the morning and then we had lunch together back at the church. Lunch was primarily plant-based to reduce our impact on the Earth. With each Mission project, we worked to reduce waste and increase use of reusable, rather than disposable, supplies. We hope to continue our leadership of Mission Sunday in 2019. However since Easter coincides with Earth Day this year, we also hope to find ways we can help with the Eggstravaganza and bring more Earth Day-themed craft and game ideas to this event as well.

Third, we began an initiative to introduce the congregation to ways that our Christian faith is related to care for God's Creation. We sponsored an event where we brought in a speaker from Earth Ministry to educate us about Initiative 1631 and the support from the statewide faith community for reducing fossil fuel use while the initiative was still in the signature-gathering phase. We sponsored another event where the League of Women Voters explained both sides of all the initiatives in the month leading up to the election so that anyone who needed more information to vote would have the opportunity to get it. We also offered the Children's Time in worship around environmental themes once a month starting in September. The need for people of faith to act on behalf of all of Creation continues and Green Team remains committed to providing opportunities at Aldersgate for community and congregation members to do just that.

Green Team members are Carolyn Major, Jean Harris, Betty Fredeen, Rich Detering, Linda Detering, and Geri Martinson

### **The Sophia Way**

This is a mission supported by Aldersgate members to provide meal and pantry items once a month to the Sophia Place single women's shelter. They are also the benefit of leftover clothing items from the church rummage sale consisting of coats and other warm clothing. Household items for women moving to permanent housing have been provided by many Aldersgate members. UMW members have also provided a meal to the women's emergency shelter in this last year. We are represented on the Sophia Way Support Network and Advocacy Committee. We have participated in many fundraising and support events throughout the year.

Sophia Way is celebrating their 10-year anniversary this December. Aldersgate provided significant seed money to start the program and has provided faithful support in many ways for the entire time.

For more information, please contact Jean Harris ([jean7439@comcast.net](mailto:jean7439@comcast.net))

### **Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council**

Aldersgate is represented on this Council which is a conduit for social action on the eastside. Members attend a monthly meeting where various faith groups and charitable organizations network to determine the needs and support requirement in our various communities. In addition, there is a special presentation on an emergent need or a progress report on a current project. For more information, please contact Jean Harris ([jean7439@comcast.net](mailto:jean7439@comcast.net))

## **Harvest Dinner**

The atmosphere was lively as Aldersgate gathered for our 23<sup>rd</sup> Harvest dinner. It was a great family reunion as about 150 people took a place at the table. This event was started in 1994 as a way for families without extended family in the area to have Thanksgiving dinner with their church family. It was a lot of fun to have some people who have moved away join us.

We have many traditions at Aldersgate that bring us together and this is a very special ongoing one that crosses a lot of barriers to unite us as one family. The event requires a lot of help and people step up to the many different roles from selling tickets, prepping on Saturday through cleanup on Sunday night. One of the special things for me is seeing a lot of different generations working together for a common cause. As things of the world try to tear us apart it is a good thing to bring us together to develop and grow the relationships that can bring about change.. And help us to remember why we are here and the great family we can be when we come together. I like to think of it as a time to put aside all the differences and celebrate the things we have in common. A great way to focus us for the year ahead. A special thank you to all who stepped up to do their part as one of the Aldersgate family

## **Gleaning Ministry**

Our gleaning mission has shifted away from Starbucks to the Factoria Panera Bread. We began gleaning from Panera Bread on August 16, 2017. Through November 6, 2018, we have delivered \$21,026 worth of food to people in need, ill or families with infants.

On Wednesday nights church members help with pickups. Kelly Carver, Ruth Carver, Norma and Dick Line, Bruce and Betty Fredeen, Fallon Fleshman, Vince and Karen Fratello, Angela Kirkman, Allison Kirkman, Emily Carver, Mackenzie Carver all take turns with after-hours pickups.

We glean then distribute to people in need food that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

Currently we make deliveries of breads and pastries to: Sophia Way, Griffin Home, and the day center of the Congregation for the Homeless. Laureen Thomas, Clarine Goodleaf, Norma and Dick Line, Betty and Bruce Fredeen, Lea and Ferrel Fox, Kelly Carver and Ruth Carver all take turns with deliveries. Elton Belts delivers to Seattle homeless through the Union Gospel Mission "Love Wagon."

## **Connections Counseling**

It is with mixed feelings that I share the news with you that Connections Counseling will be closing its “doors” at the end of January, 2019. For 5 years this small non-profit has been assisting low-income people to access spiritually informed counseling. Many Pastors, churches, counselors, volunteers, and donors have offered space, grace, prayers, and love to sustain this effort over the years. For this I will always be deeply grateful. With changes in life circumstances, I’ve had to take a step back from the organization. In the absence of new leadership, Connections Counseling will dissolve.

It has been my privilege and deep pleasure to be involved in developing and sustaining this small non-profit so nurtured by the Aldersgate community. I am grateful for all those who breathed life into it, and into me—including Pastor Brad, Shannon Hamrick, Marie Veith, and the counselors—Peter Jabin, Katie Stickney, Jenn Peterson, Gretchen Champoux, and Mary Stanton-Nurse—as well as the Pastors and churches, especially Redmond UMC, Lake Washington UMC, Ronald UMC, and University Temple UMC.

I know that together we have touched many lives, lifted people out of despair, and helped heal soul and body through the Grace of God.

I wish you all peace and joy, and, always, love – Laura Wall

## Minutes of the last All Church Conference on November 6, 2017

### Core Leadership Meeting, November 6, 2017, 6pm

**In attendance:** Holy Spirit, Brad Beeman, Dorothy Beeman, Jean Harris, Joe Lee, Katie Ollerman, Jen Hoerber, Robbin Price, David Lutz, Patty Ferguson, Melinda Lilley, Linda Detering, Rich Detering, Steve Rummel, Laura Baumgartner, Christian Hampson

Robbin was a tiny bit late, so we'll just pretend nothing happened until she arrived, okay?

Brad went over the outline for the Common Table/Charge Conference, which followed immediately after the Core Leadership meeting at 6:30pm. He reminded us that Charge Conference activities that require a vote of the congregation will happen on December 13, when we'll have a joint Charge Conference with the other Bellevue Methodist churches, and the District Superintendent.

Jen briefly described the edits she has made to our safe church policy, which has not been updated in some years. Some changes were small ones, while others were more significant. All were made primarily to make sure that our policy matches our current procedures. We are still trying to fill the safe church supervisory position, but in the event that we can't, or that it is empty for a period of time, Jen clarified in our policy who would be responsible for various activities. She also covered how we're doing background checks and made a few other changes, most based on wording the conference uses. She reminded us that the policy is a living document that we can change whenever we need to, but that it must be voted on at the cluster charge conference in December. Because of that, she will be sending the amended document out to Core Leaders this week. She asked that everyone respond about whether it looks acceptable or needs corrections by December 7, so that she can have it ready for the December 13 meeting.

**Action Item:** *When you receive the safe church policy with Jen's changes, please take a close look at it as soon as possible and send your approval or suggested changes to Jen before December 7.*

This ended the Core Leadership Meeting, and we moved on to the Common Table.

### Common Table, November 6, 2017, 6:30pm

**In attendance:** The Holy Spirit, and about 35 members of the congregation and staff.

After a delicious meal of soup, bread, and cheesecake (also Millie White's famous pumpkin bars, complements of Patty), Joe Lee welcomed us all, Roger led us in singing "Be Thou My Vision", and Laura opened the meeting in prayer.

We started by moving that Robbin take the minutes. The motion passed unanimously with a multitude of “ayes” and one “ack!” (mine). Then we got down to business.

#### Membership Report -Betty Fredeen

Betty presented the membership report, which is in the All Church Conference Report. We have a current membership total of 275, with an average weekly church attendance of 133. She explained that we send a letter to any members who haven't attended or contributed in the past two years. We then wait to see if we receive a response regarding a change in membership. We then send a second letter in the next year. If we receive no response to either letter, we remove the names at the next all church conference. Right now we've sent a first letter to four people, listed in the All Church Conference Report. If you know how to reach any of those folks, please let Betty know, because we would rather contact someone and see what their wishes are before we strike them from the rolls.

#### Ministerial Candidates Report -David Lutz

David Lutz reported that we haven't yet heard from the ministerial candidates whom we've supported with our prayers and encouragement, but we hope to hear from them before our Cluster Church Conference on December 13 (more about this below). He is not sure about the status of Jen Petersen and Laura Wall, who might still be on sabbatical from their ministerial path. We also don't know about Rachel Shannon's current plans. Dirk Robinson is commissioned at a new location, and is still pursuing ministry, as is Carrie Bland. We should know more in December.

#### Election of New Officers -Christian Hampson

Christian reported that Adam Stuenkel will be joining the Staff Parish Relations Team. The current roster of officers and team members is in the All Church Conference Report.

#### Pastor's Report -Brad Beeman

Brad pointed out that when he counts active people in the church, the number is 247. Many families don't attend weekly, but even though they may come less often, they are still active members of the church. He explained that change is happening rapidly, in our community and in our conference. He announced that the conference has been redistricted, and we will be part of the Seatac Missional District as of July 1 of next year. The district covers Seattle and Bellevue, and reaches from Seatac to Shoreline.

He described some of the creative developments happening in our conference. He mentioned Ravenna Methodist church, which is reaching out to the artistic community around it. He also pointed out elements of resurrection; in the midst of church closures there are new church starts and fresh kinds of outreach.

Brad has started having discussions with Jacob, a pastor of the Mandarin Speaking Chinese Church in Bellevue. Jacob's church meets at the Boys and Girls Club near

Lake Hills Library, but they are outgrowing the space and looking for ways to partner with us. They'll be using classrooms at Aldersgate to provide English language classes, and we will be looking at other possible ways we can collaborate.

Brad also expressed appreciation for Laura, our new assistant pastor, who had done quite a bit in her first four months and continues to bless Aldersgate with her talents and enthusiasm.

#### Finance Team Report -Melinda Lilley

Melinda started by thanking everyone for their continued support through their time, talents, and financial contributions. She also thanked the staff for their efforts at keeping costs down. She reminded everyone that we will do our stewardship campaign in the spring, but that pledges can be made anytime, and that she is happy to help anyone sign up for electronic giving.

She was pleased that we were able to fund the assistant pastor position that Laura filled, and she announced that we are a third of the way toward funding a youth ministries assistant. We have \$5000 in pledges, and are aiming for \$15,000.

Melinda also let us know that even with the change in our fiscal year (to July through June), we will all be receiving an end-of-year statement of our giving for use in our taxes.

#### Youth and Family Ministries Report -Jen Hoerber

Jen announced that Vacation Bible School attendance went from 80 in 2016 to 125 in 2017, an astonishing increase that could have been overwhelming if we hadn't also had a huge increase in volunteers. When you have 60 volunteers, 125 is much more doable! We also had volunteers come over from Bellevue First to help, and Jen is continuing to look for ways to collaborate with our sister church.

We had a wonderful Fall Festival, with many church families, as well as lots of families from the preschool and the neighborhood, coming to join the fun. And we have lots of great programs in the works, including the ABC Blessings project for November, and the Christmas Bash and Christmas program. Jen encouraged everyone to look for new families on Sunday morning and take the opportunity to welcome them and get to know them.

We also had an Aldersgate only youth retreat at Sambica in Bellevue this year. The youth came up with several ideas they want to pursue, including the following:

- a Humane Society mission project
- a mission project in Idaho
- a mission project in Costa Rica, potentially in 2020
- a pajama Christmas party
- a BAF (Bring a Friend) night at youth group

Confirmation will be happening again this spring. Jen pointed out that we have many children in the church; they just don't always come at the same time. Her rough estimate was

- 8 preschoolers
- 7 in grades K-2
- 10 in grades 3-5
- 37 middle school and high school youth (give or take)

We have 4 youth serving on the SUMYT team, the conference group that organizes a retreat for church youth every March. This is giving our kids a great opportunity to connect to the larger church beyond our doors. We also saw an increase in children attending church camp this summer.

We are up to four Sunday school classes (preschool, gr. K-2, gr. 3-5 and youth), thanks to our dedicated and brilliant Sunday school teachers.

And now you know why we're looking for that youth ministries assistant. Jen is doing an awesome job, a job that keeps growing with our growing group of children!

#### Preschool Report -Dorothy Beeman

Dorothy reported that Aldersgate Christian Preschool is full to capacity. Trends are changing, and more parents want their children in school for more days. Because of this, one of the age 2-3 classes has expanded to three days (M-W-F). ACP has also added an enrichment program two days a month where church members can volunteer to lead an activity. Last month, Jake and Malia Hampson did a wonderful interactive story activity, and next month Pastor Laura is bringing a science activity. Dorothy encouraged anyone who is interested to come and share something. It is a brief commitment, two short sessions on two days.

Dorothy also mentioned that there are 13 first languages spoken in the preschool. English is still the first language of 68% of the children, but Chinese, Korean, several Indian languages, and Spanish are also represented. Research suggests that the staff of a preschool should reflect the makeup of the classes, and at ACP, 70% of the staff is from this country while 30% comes from other countries, which comes close to mirroring the makeup of classes. Classes are in English, which the parents prefer, but there are staff members who can comfort many of the children in their first language if they are upset, which has great value.

The preschool is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and Dorothy thanked the church for its support. We have 181 slots for students, and 111 families are served by the preschool. 61% of the families have their children in more than one class so that they can come to school more days of the week. The preschool plays a

tremendous role in helping students prepare for kindergarten, and many children are building their English language skills as well.

Finally, she told the story of a family where the father was quite skeptical of sending his children to a Christian preschool. He was afraid that they would have doctrine shoved down their throats. He is now one of the schools biggest fans, and he might even start going to church. His wife is delighted.

#### Considering Reconciling Ministries –Robbin Price

Robbin presented for the Considering Reconciling Ministries team. She explained that the group is meeting to discern whether at this time Aldersgate UMC will become a Reconciling Congregation. The team is open to all. New members and drop in attendees are welcome. Also, anyone is invited to share their views, questions, and concerns with any team member. We don't have a set time frame for making this decision, but we are estimating that it will take 1-2 years. The team is working on an approximate timeline that includes study and small group meetings as well as a schedule of invited speakers. We have also renamed the group CRC (Considering Reconciling Congregation), because becoming a reconciling congregation is not a foregone conclusion.

There has been a clear call for a Bible study on the issue of whether homosexuality is compatible with Christian teaching. Pastor Brad and Pastor Laura will facilitate that study and are working on scheduling it.

Finally, the team acknowledges that currently the United Methodist Church globally is also discussing the issue of full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) individuals as well as their allies. Our process is happening now, not to preempt the global conversation led by the bishops, but because the core leadership team heard that the issue was important to our congregation in the context of the global discussion. The Reconciling Network of Congregations exists for congregations who find that because of their strong commitment to justice for all people, they must take a stand against the language that is used in the Book of Discipline to exclude one group of people and no other. We are deciding whether we are called to take such a stand.

Robbin also shared a short statement of her own, which is included with these minutes.

#### Ideas from the Assistant Pastor –Laura Baumgartner (“brought to you by the letter D”)

Pastor Laura shared some ideas she has for moving Aldersgate forward in positive ways. She suggested that we would benefit from the following:

Dialogue—Unlike debate, dialogue is a conversation between people that opens them both up in a safe space. It requires listening without commenting, and allowing

all ideas to have a comfortable place to be expressed. Everyone is wonderfully and beautifully made, Laura reminded us, and everyone has a story to tell.

Discipleship—Local churches have the job of creating disciples who can go out and change the world. Laura wants us to look more intentionally at how we build discipleship.

Discernment—We need for everything we do to be based on what the Holy Spirit is leading us to do. We need to be listening and paying attention, through prayer and study, to the “tug” of the spirit.

Divine—Laura asked us to think about how we are being led to the divine.

Laura then led us in an alphabet prayer, where we gave thanks for our many church blessings alphabetically.

#### Why Two Charge Conferences?—Brad Beeman

Brad took a few moments to explain why we're having two All Church Conferences, this one, and one on December 13. He explained that we have a new bishop, which means some changes in how things are structured. The meeting in December, which will be with the other Bellevue Methodist churches and the superintendent, will include voting on things such as pastoral salary for the coming year. It will also be a chance to share information and support our sister churches. By contrast, the current meeting was to check in with the church and be transparent about our activities. He also mentioned that two churches near us are dealing with very difficult issues. One pastor is battling stage four breast cancer, and another is struggling with brain cancer. We should keep them and their churches in our prayers.

Brad closed us in prayer.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price. All omissions or errors are mine, and corrections are, as always, cheerfully welcomed.