



Sunday morning with Pastor Tom

Dayspring and Aldersgate: A Timeline of Revitalization

The idea of Dayspring United Methodist Church (UMC) helping a struggling congregation began at a Covenant Council retreat in 2016 and gained momentum when District Superintendent Rev. Susan Brims approached Pastor Jeff Procter-Murphy about assisting Aldersgate UMC in Phoenix. Aldersgate averaged about 30 on Sundays and its part-time pastor, Rev. Tom Kiracofe, was retiring (again).

Early 2018 – Initial Discussions

Pastors Jeff and Joel Bullock, Rev. Kiracofe, and conference leaders met to discuss possibilities. Aldersgate members expressed a desire to leave a lasting legacy rather than close. Dayspring leaders, joined by SPRC Chair David Barnhouse and community organizer Josh Sprunger, visited Aldersgate, learned its history, and explored options for collaboration.



Ed Johnson leading the 2016 Covenant Council Planning Retreat

Mid-2018 – Developing the Vision

A shared dream emerged: to create Dayspring Arcadia, an extension of Dayspring's ministry of radical hospitality, inspired



The Elijah Team meeting in 2018

services, and justice work. Sprunger was hired as Director of Leadership Development and Community Outreach to assess community needs. Pastor Joel would serve part-time as campus pastor while Aldersgate's traditional 11 a.m. service continued.

2019 – Implementation and Approval

The partnership followed the Multi-Site Expansion Strategy, keeping Aldersgate under Dayspring's umbrella while developing its own ministry teams. Throughout early 2019, the congregations shared celebrations and held joint "Elijah Team" meetings to refine the vision. On April 14, 2019, Dayspring and Aldersgate held Charge Conferences approving the creation of

Dayspring Arcadia. Conference funding of \$50,000 annually for three years was secured, and Amy Notbohm was hired as site coordinator to lead community outreach.

2020–2022 – Integration and Merger

Despite COVID-19 disruptions, the two congregations continued to unify their ministries. On June 6, 2022, a special Church Conference finalized the merger: Aldersgate's assets and foundation were transferred to Dayspring, effective July 1, 2022, officially creating one church with two campuses.



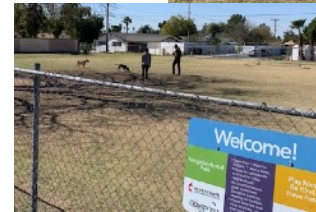
The Elijah Team of Aldersgate and Dayspring members in 2019

2023–2024 – Rethinking the Mission

Different approaches were tried over four years. The Sacred Space service evolved from a service Amy created at Dayspring Arcadia. While Sunday attendance remained small, community engagement flourished through initiatives like Borderlands Produce Rescue and the beloved Arcadia dog park, which became a neighborhood hub. After some time, it became apparent that growing a new and vibrant faith community was unlikely, Dayspring's Covenant Council formed the Dayspring Arcadia Vision Team to discern the best use for the property.



Amy Notbohm at Borderlands



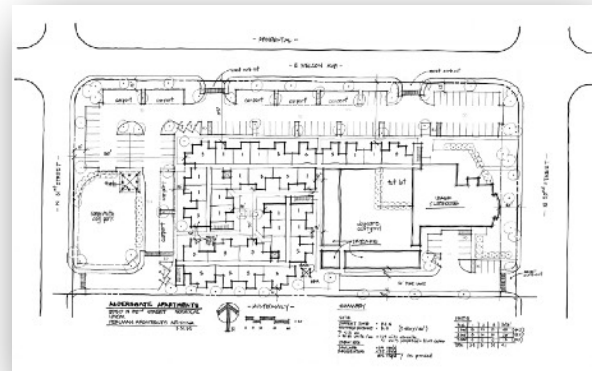
As housing costs in Maricopa County soared and gentrification reshaped the Arcadia area, the team identified

workforce housing as a pressing need—teachers, firefighters, police officers, and others could no longer afford to live where they served. Dayspring began working with Gorman & Co., a national leader in affordable housing, and later with UMOM, to develop plans that would preserve the preschool, the popular dog park, and the sanctuary—repurposed with an added level for offices, events, and community use.

For nearly three years, Gorman and UMOM attempted to make the project financially viable, but changes in Arizona's low-income tax credit policies ultimately made affordable housing infeasible. Meanwhile, Pastor Michael Long continued to conduct monthly services and the building became host to a variety of community programs, while additional development options were explored.



Pastors Michael and Jeff, with Amy and Rev. Rachel Gilmore, Director of New & Vital Faith for the Desert Southwest Conference.



2025 – Discernment and Next Steps

After extensive exploration, Dayspring's Board of Trustees concluded that the ongoing demands of property maintenance—along with the complexity of pursuing potential partnerships with for-profit developers—would divert too much time, energy, and resources from the core mission of the church. Accordingly, Dayspring is now proposing to sell the property and is seeking pre-

authorization from the Charge Conference and the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Trustees for a sale of no less than \$5 million without entitlements and no less than \$7 million with entitlements.

Under the proposal, proceeds from the sale would be shared with the Desert Southwest Conference. Dayspring UMC's portion would be placed into a Permanent Endowment Fund—renamed the *Aldersgate Permanent Endowment Fund*—with the principal preserved and the earnings dedicated to sustaining Dayspring's mission and ministries for generations to come. This ensures that the commitment of Aldersgate's members continues to bear fruit and that their legacy endures far into the future.