

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 17, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

In attendance:

Stacey Lienemann

Larry Ruth (22 seconds late)

Pat Ruth (Pat Ruth was 8 minutes late)

Gaylene Nutzman

Joseph Rafique

Carol Clymer

Kari Beckenhauer

Nelda Boswell

Kathy Dombrowski

Nancy Taylor took the minutes

A. Opening Devotion: Comments/Topics for Celebration.

Carol Clymer read the devotion submitted by Mary Coffee and led the opening prayer

**B. Review Agenda and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes and Executive Summary.
(2/17/25)**

Topics for celebration: Today Garylene, Maryann, and Nelda visited Jerry. He was in very good spirits.

Carol felt the potato bake was a good success. It brought in over \$1,000.00. Around 64 people attended.

The council wished Pat Ruth a happy birthday.

Pastor Joe celebrated his birthday last week.

C. Discussion Topics

Nelda moved that the minutes be accepted. Gaylene seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation was gifted a mausoleum crypt, the current value is \$10,000. It is being opened to the local Lincoln UMC's before offering to the public. Carol suggested that Stacey put it in Around Aldersgate and ask that anyone interested contact Stacey for more information.

1. **Follow up-One Board ad hoc committee** is requesting 2 additional members on the Nominations and Leadership development committee.
No names have been submitted. Kathy Dombrowski suggested tabling it for now, given the dearth of volunteers for other groups here. Carol suggested we table for the year, and reconsider next year.
2. **Marketing Team Charter:** A suggestion was made last month about reconvening the marketing team. Steve S. drafted a charter for the group, however, there were concerns brought forward regarding the marketing team as described in the draft charter. The previous marketing team was not successful in implementing their ideas. One board member felt that we need one person to take information from the various committees to draft up publicity/press releases to be disseminated by the correct people (be it for the web, facebook, in-house information, etc). The speaker felt we need to focus on development of programs/activities that we see ourselves doing for the community as a whole in terms of outreach. The speaker felt that the charter was too broad of a document. While marketing is important, speaker feels that until we formalize the one board model, we need to table this suggestion.

Kari identified the various ways we market: newspaper, social media, website, around Aldersgate, signage. Etc.

Kathy suggested that there needs to be one volunteer that coordinates marketing.

Kathy made a motion to not move forward on the draft marketing statement at this point.

Carol agreed, because we are in a transition right now, and so much unfinished business that it is difficult to market the church when so many of our existing committees and mission teams are un or understaffed.

Kathy suggested that before a group creates and markets an activity, that the board should be aware of and approve of the event.

Larry Ruth agreed that the draft be tabled as well. But felt Steve should have the opportunity to re-draft it into a briefer document. Larry suggested that a specific time frame should be set – and suggested tabling for one month.

First service special music was brought up again as an example of something that is important to many people. The issue of copyrights was discussed, and the difficulty of getting early morning singers, as most singers find it difficult to sing so early in the day.

It was decided to table this discussion to a future meeting.

Pastor Joe suggested that someone on the care team should be tasked with reaching out to people who haven't attended in a while.

3. . Next steps in organization of mission teams.

The Ad Hoc Committee met on Sunday, and will meet again on Friday.

4. Discuss how to achieve leadership development. There was no discussion on the topic at this meeting.

5 . Revisit Mission, Vision, and Values of Aldersgate. Is it time to update current Mission and Vision Statements?

There was no discussion on this topic at this meeting.

D. Comments on Updates (Reports emailed to council prior to meeting.)

Updates from Steve and Finance Committee were sent to the Council. Carol asked that we read for ourselves. Carol asked for input.

Kathy pointed out that there were three things that she was aware of – Marketing, which we have already discussed. Arraignments - which Jim Miller is spearheading the search for a new person. Kathy suggested that we ask for volunteers to do a season or month or two, and rather than asking for a long term commitment. It was felt that there might be more success in getting volunteers short term.

Additionally, no one has come forward to head up VBS. This will be discussed in Mission meeting later this week. Kathy asked for input on people that could be approached; and even asked if we want to do vbs this year.

Stacey mention that maybe it would be easier if we did just the adult or just the children's component. She pointed out that our two lecture series for adults have had great success.

Carol pointed out that most of the kids are aging out of the program. Stacey asked if there is a youth VBS? Many kids know that once they hit junior high they get to be a helper. Unfortunately; most of the kids participating are now in the helper position and there really aren't any young kids for VBS.

Pastor Joe wondered if we should change the format from VBS to some other format – perhaps a game night with prizes?

Kathy mentioned the possibility of a local Lincoln workshop for youth and family hosted by the conference. She was asked if there would be interest in Aldersgate potentially hosting a conference aimed at all Lincoln UMC's.

There is hope that the members of the family ministry group step forward to hosting events.

It was mentioned that so many families are over-scheduled due to sports now being held on Sunday mornings.

Another suggestion would be to have a Sunday evening service instead of Sunday morning to avoid the conflicts.

Kari reminded everyone that the next Earth Stewards talk will be next week: March 25, and this is an important topic presented by LES. She asked people to invite their frinds and neighbors to discuss this important topic. In addition, Lasting Legacy will be adding a 6/24

lecture. The Bassinger sisters will be doing a presentation about caring for parents at a distance. Caring for parents when they are ill, and dealing with parents who pass away unexpectedly.

Larry reminded the group that this is part of the Lasting Legacy team effort to bring more involvement to the church, teaming with UMF. Larry would like to improve the marketing of this, as he feels it's an important lecture and wants to capture people's interest.

A date has been set for the 80th Birthday party: June 21st (a Saturday).

Pastor Update

Lay Leader

Earth Stewards

Ministry Teams:

Care Ministry,

Fellowshipping,

Learning/Family

Ministry,

Spiritual Living,

Worship Planning,

Earth Stewards

Administrative Committees

Board of Trustees,

Financial Management Team,

Nominations and Leadership

Development,

SPRC,

Lasting Legacy.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 21, 2025

Carol reminded the council of the next meeting

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Pastor Joe led the closing prayer.