

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 17, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

THE ALDERSGATE MISSION: To make followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

THE ALDERSGATE VISION: To change lives by connecting, growing, and serving through Christ.

In attendance:

Stacey Lienemann

Steven Schafer

Larry Ruth

Pat Ruth

Gaylene Nutzman

Joseph Rafique

Carol Clymer

Kari Beckenhauer

Nelda Boswell

Nancy Taylor took the minutes

Larry Ruth was 5 minutes early to the meeting

Carol Clymer called the meeting to order via zoom.

A. Opening Devotion: Comments/Topics for Celebration.

Carol read the devotion submitted by Pat Ruth, and then said the prayer to start the meeting.

B. Review Agenda and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes and Executive Summary. (1/20/25)

Carol asked if there were corrections to the minutes. Kari Beckenhauer and Pastor Rafique requested spelling corrections. Kari Beckenhauer also noted that a vote was missed. The corrections will be made and corrected copies sent out.

Larry Ruth moved that they be approved as corrected. Gaylene Nutzman Seconded
Unanimously adopted as corrected

Celebrations:

Pat Ruth mentioned that she is grateful that the lasting legacy talks were recorded, as she has shared them with family who are appreciative of the talks.

C. Discussion Topics

1. Follow up-One Board ad hoc committee is requesting 2 additional members on the Nominations and Leadership development committee.

Ad Hoc is requesting two new members. A key point was that we were trying to bring this into a leadership development position for someone interested in developing their leadership skills, however no one has stepped forward. Carol will meet with Joseph to see if some people can be approached.

2. Report of meeting with mission team members on 2-2-25. Next steps in organization of mission teams.

A meeting with the ad hoc committee will be scheduled probably in March to discuss the organizational and meeting structure of the mission team. All are welcome to join the committee.

Carol feels that all mission teams should meet quarterly so that everyone can be aware of what is being worked on

3. Fundraiser planning and policy

Carol wanted to revisit this topic, as she was under the impression that all fundraisers needed to go through the finance committee before being presented to the congregation to avoid duplication and overlap. Carol asked for thoughts about whether the policy should stay in place.

Steve suggested that the Church Council would be the best way to coordinate fundraisers going forward.

Kari Beckenhauer mentioned that the trustees has a fundraiser without going through channels without any repercussions, and wondered if it was necessary to have committees go through Church Council for every fundraiser.

Steve felt that it is important for there to be approval

Carol pointed out the importance of everyone being on the same page and communicating. She asked if we need to make an official policy that all fundraisers should go through

Steve Schafer made the motion that groups doing fundraisers should go through the Church Council.

Nancy Taylor Seconded the motions

Larry Ruth commented that this is a timely discussion since there have been questions regarding the upcoming 80th birthday party be a fundraiser? Larry feels that it is a good idea to have a procedure. Larry feels that it's a good idea to have a standardized procedure to hold a fundraiser.

The 80th birthday party is being held at the end of June

The motion passed by a majority vote

4. 2025 Planning Calendar

Carol sent out information about the planning calendar. She said that the Mission Teams plan to meet quarterly so that information can be sent to Stacey and Nancy with enough time to get information out about upcoming events.

The calendar has been started but until we know exactly how the mission groups will work, that this is still a work in progress

5. New development planned east of 84th Street

Steve Schafer shared an article from the Journal Star about upcoming development coming to the east of 84th. Steve said that there is a need for a clear strategy in place for reaching out to this new growth. Steve isn't sure of the strategy, but we need to have some plans in place

Carol Clymer wonders if the District has any ideas/plans for new neighborhood outreach. In the past we have tried door hangers and mailings but didn't get any results.

Kari B. talked about the marketing group that there was a marketing group that got pushed aside when the One Board group formed as there wasn't time.

Carol asked if the marketing team should start meeting again.

Carol asked for input on the advisability of any group that we visit whether each team has stated goals.

Steve suggested that we write the goals as the situation arises. Much is already covered in the book of discipline.

Carol asked if anyone is interested in doing a first draft of the marketing team charter.

Steve Schafer volunteered to do that. The committee agreed to review the charter. Carol will review the draft, and then Nancy Taylor will review after.

Nancy Taylor mention the Lutheran Church model for growth: Build a school, bring in the kids and the parents will follow. Given the potential future growth, is this time to discuss a preschool/daycare.

Carol suggested we start with a marketing team, and work from there. Carol mentioned ways to welcomed newcomers.

Steve suggested we plan to put this topic on the agenda for future discussion.

Larry Ruth asked if there will be anything at the Laity summit to discuss how churches should run their committees?

Stacey L. said that the breakout sessions were in Around Aldersgate, but she doesn't recall if One Board Structure was one of the topics.

Carol Clymer referred to the agenda for the summit, and read off the five breakout sessions that will be offered at the summit

Larry asked if we should be considering mission vision and values of Aldersgate.

Larry pointed out that we don't have anyone in the new neighborhood that we are working with – there is no business district, it's a very wide open area. But he feels that it takes some creativity

An additional factor. Larry asked Joseph to review his new duties under the one board, and it gets into who has authority to come up with the church's vision/goals/etc, which Larry feels that comes under the auspices of the church council. Joseph has not had much time to give his input on the church mission/vision. Carol agrees that it is time to revisit those. Carol Asked if Joseph has his thoughts on the Mission/Vision. Joseph said that he can get it to Church council prior to the next meeting so that we can review prior and discuss next meeting.

Larry says that the first thing to do is look at the description of the One Board, at the duties of the Church Council, at the duties of the pastor, and if you look at that and build on what we already have in that description. He said that when he was on the board at Wesleyan that committees were asked every year or two that they rewrite their mission statement in their own words and present to the board.

Larry quoted Steve at a previous meeting that each group should write have a charter for their group.

Carol agreed that this was suggested in the One Board meetings and felt it would really help to have people have a clear mission.

Joseph felt that instead of the council writing the charter, that we also ask the group to write a charter – so that we aren't telling groups what to do, but to work together to form a charter.

Carol feels that this is an ideal time to do this with the work that is being done with One Board. Carol feels it's important to know how the mission teams are going to accomplish their goals and work together with other teams.

Carol asked that all members think about the mission, visitation and values; what is meaningful for the congregation and we will revisit this topic at next months meeting

6. Discuss how to achieve leadership development.

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

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

Pastor Update

Lay Leader

Earth Stewards

SPRC report from Larry: St Marks and St. Paul have had new pastors appointed now, and those congregations have been taken off the list of open congregations. The D.S. has met twice with the SPRC who has asked for patience so that the larger church's ministers are decided upon. And then the smaller church's will be decided at a later date. We don't know if there will be a personnel change at Aldersgate.

SPRC has indicated to the D.S. of the importance of the good work be maintained at the Legacy, as one of our main outreach. That is the main reason Cheri Fredericksen was added to the board so that the Legacy has a voice at Aldersgate. We have not been officially made an open congregation, but we need to be ready to market ourselves in case we are named open. Joseph has been with Aldersgate for 11 years.

One other issue in SPRC: although Jan Malone is sorely missed, Julie Clopper-Smith and Mary K are handling the interview process. We are currently interviewing Lynnette Boyce and one other applicant to fill the keyboardist/accompanying position previously filled by Jan Malone.

Larry also pointed out that having a second service might no longer be viable if there is a change in pastor.

Carol asked if there are any other items. There were none.

Joseph closed the meeting with a prayer.