

Aldersgate United Methodist Church Council Meeting
September 21, 2010

Council Members in Attendance: See Roster

Tom Cook, Lay Leader, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tom stated the primary purpose of the meeting was to approve the 2011 proposed budget. Greg Gandee presented the Finance Committee's proposed budget (see attached). The proposal shows a 2% increase in income, the expenses are as submitted by each council, and other than the large increase in apportionments there is no major increase in any area.

Some discussion followed. Paul Amos moved to approve the budget as presented and Bill Armstrong 2d the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

Passionate Worship: Bill Armstrong, Chair, presented the following report:

- Journey to Bethlehem will be coordinated by Cindy Amos and Bill Austin and will be 3 nights this year.
- Bill asked Jason Gottshall to update the council on what he is doing with the Adult choirs:
 - Jason explained that after the organ was installed and the choir loft eliminated, the role of the choir was limited.
 - An experimental and temporary choir loft has been constructed which allows the choir to sit together – even though it is not large enough.
 - The choral risers were set up behind the altar (which was moved forward) to allow the choir to better use the acoustics of the chancel area. The chancel area had been enhanced when the organ was installed to allow for better acoustics for the organ.
 - Jason is working closely with Andreas and the rest of the music team.
 - Feed-back is welcome
- The Passionate Worship team has asked the Trustees to move forward with a new lighting proposal for the Sanctuary. Funds have been donated and are in restricted accounts that will be used for any lighting improvements done. The improvements will provide more lighting over the congregation; redirect lighting in the chancel area, and up-lighting along the back wall to illuminate/enhance the stone wall with the cross as well as the organ pipes and cases.

Intentional Faith Development: Rev. Jason Micheli presented the following report:

- Fall Kick-off was Sep 12
- Children's Sunday school at 9:45 is filled; the 11:15 classes are small and still being evaluated.
- Youth Group has expanded its schedule to where the Jr. High meets for 1 hour, there is a shared dinner for 30 minutes, and then the Sr. High meet for 1 ½ hours.
- Confirmation opened with a lock-in this past weekend that went extremely well – there are 45 students in the class.

- Adult classes are going well; the Pastor's class has approximately 50 participants and a new Sunday evening class has approximately 25.

It was noted that the quality of classes being offered to all age groups is excellent.

Risk-Taking Mission and Service: Tom Devine, chair, presented the following:

- The summer missions were very successful – over 100 participants from Jr. High to adults.
- Mark and Jason did a visit to Cambodia and are working to find ways to increase our support there. It was noted that the support Aldersgate gives to Cambodia is greater than that of the Global Board of Missions.
- There will be a missions luncheon on Sunday, 9/26.
- A missionary from Cambodia will be here in October.
- We are working on setting up a domestic mission trip this summer to Ft. Apache in AZ.
- Bob Oelschlager is working to set up another multi-church trip to Guatemala.
- Andrew DiAntonio, Youth Director, is working to set up a domestic Sr. High mission trip in addition to an international trip.
- We had a great increase in our intern program this summer with sending Penelope Norton to Guatemala for 6 weeks. Looking at ways to enhance and improve the program for the coming year.

Missions (Global): Mark Gungoll reported the team continues to look at ways to expand our mission opportunities for youth, adults, and combination trips as well. They are looking at the possibility of setting up a 2-week mission trip to Cambodia in late spring. Jason and Mark may go to NY to help the Global Board lay out a multi-year plan of action for Cambodia.

Outreach report (Local): The Green Bag collection program is working really well. The school supply drives helped fill backpacks for 298 kids thru Rising Hope and many more thru UCM. We will be working with Sunday Suppers hopefully on a monthly basis to feed the homeless in DC. Looking at ways to institutionalize help with Rising Hope to better utilize the resources Aldersgate can provide.

Radical Hospitality: Julie Pfister, chair, presented the following:

- The team has a large number of energetic volunteers.
- There are a number of new ideas that are being worked out in addition to activities started last year. Some that are running well are the 1st Time Visitor home visits which are being well received and a Newcomers corner that has been set up during coffee hour to help folks find out more about Aldersgate.
- The team supported the kick-off on Sep. 12 with additional greeters, materials and overall help for folks finding their way around.
- Helped kick-off Wed. night dinners with a Luau and it was extremely well received. A firm reservation deadline will be publicized. The next reception will be October 20 with an Oktoberfest theme.

- Room 102 will be redecorated to make it a more inviting room.
- Thanks to the Gifts & Memorials team, new high chairs are being purchased for Wesley Hall.
- New member are welcomed on the 2nd Sunday of every month.
- Working on setting up a New Member Support Team that will assist families in plugging into Aldersgate.
- Another Young Families event is being planned for October.
- The Volunteer book will be published in the spring to coincide with the Lenten study of the 5 Practices. Deadline for updates to the book is December 1, 2010.
- Judy Stevens is the new coordinator for coffee hour and is looking for help and suggestions on how to improve coffee hour.

Some discussion was held on multiple items.

Extravagant Generosity: Multiple reports

- Stuart Travis, Trustees Chair
 - Guback Center is open and big thanks to Libby and Terry Williams for their time and effort.
 - The Baptism Memorial Garden is under construction – hedges removed and planting to be done over the next few months.
 - The Columbarium team is putting a sprinkler system in the columbarium garden area that will be funded from columbarium funds.
- Tom Cook reported for Roger Amole on Endowments
 - \$9000 in scholarships was awarded to college and seminary students.
 - The Not To Far From Here (NTFFH) fund has designated over \$13,000 to those who qualify. The endowment team is asking for help in streamlining the process and asked volunteers willing to assist.
- Gifts and Memorials – Meghan Lau reported for Kim Engle
 - The team will take requests at any time. There is money to be used.

Additional Reports:

- Deborah Chusmir, UMW
 - 10/2 – Hosting the Alexandria UMW District Day.
 - 10/17 – UMW New Member dinner
 - 11/13 – Annual Christmas Market and Silent Auction
- Ed Little, UMM
 - 9/26 – UMM Missions Luncheon with the Youth.
- Don Thackery, IT
 - Looking into streamlining the voice and data capabilities at the church to speed up access.

- Rev. Dennis Perry – Joel Committee update
 - Anticipated setting up the team this fall after the completion of the campaign.
 - Many of the folks who will be on the Joel Committee are working on the fall campaign and I didn't want to over burden them.
 - We are moving the Joel Committee to the spring to work in conjunction with the 5 practices.

- Tom Cook – Capital Campaign
 - Enjoying leading the campaign and working with the team members
 - As of Monday, Sep 20, we had raised \$2.2 million dollars. This number is 63% of our goal and represents 150 pledges.
 - The team decided we could not complete contacting all of our members in the time we had allotted, so we have extended the campaign with Klote for an additional 6 weeks at a cost of \$7,000 per week.

Update from Rev. Dennis Perry

- Thank you to everyone for all of the work you did to coordinate the Sep 12 kick-off. It was fantastic.
- Thank you to Libby and all the others who worked to make the Guback center a reality.
- We have moved the children's choirs back to Wed. nights and the numbers have increased from 30 to 80.
- Thank you to Doug Spitnale for refinishing the front doors.

Rev. Dennis Perry asked for help and advice from the council:

About a month ago, we received a request from a non-profit group to use our facility. Due to construction, a Muslim group asked if they could hold their Friday afternoon prayers in our facility. There are some members for our congregation who are upset about having Muslims meeting in our facility. Dennis then asked for the thoughts of the council members present.

Some discussion followed. The consensus of the council was that the Muslim group meeting in the facility was fine, and we needed to address the concerns brought to us with the congregation at large.

Additional Business: The nominating team presented an additional name for the Finance Committee – Craig Kucera. Through a unanimous vote, he will serve a 3 year term.

Tom Cook reminded the team that our next meeting will be Feb 15, 2011 and the Annual Charge Conference will be at 3pm, November 14, 2010, at Sydenstricker UMC.

Rev. Perry thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Phillips
Recorder