

Operations

“It is not right that we should neglect the word of God . . . Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven [people] of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” [Acts 6:2b-4] We must continue to organize the church community to do work, providing the foundation and resources to deliver ministry results.

- We must gather enough volunteers and financial commitments every Fall through effective stewardship appeals leading up to our Commitment Sunday.
- We must provide outstanding training in January of each year for volunteers.
- The Nominating Committee will focus on the selection of the key leadership positions for the church, while ministry teams are self-selected by members of the congregation based upon their calling and spiritual gifts.
- We will strive to be debt-free, and take steps to put into place a debt reduction strategy.

Staffing Recommendations

Aldersgate is a large church. For a large church to grow, flourish and meet the needs of its congregation, it is crucial that we hire and retain outstanding staff members. The staff needs to be well trained and capable of creating partnerships with church lay members to form effective, self-directed teams.

- A primary staff responsibility will be to take the lead to create partnerships with the congregation. Staff efforts will focus on training and equipping the laity to actually carry out the ministry efforts of the church.
- Our Staff Parish Relations Committee will evaluate both our continuing and emerging requirements, and develop a plan to ensure that new staff members are recruited, as necessary, to meet the needs of our expanding ministries and facilities.
- We must ensure that our professional staff is fairly compensated, offered excellent training opportunities and is long tenured, so they may better help to lead the achievement of our vision.

Facilities Recommendations

1. We should maximize and optimize the capabilities of our current church facilities so that they can provide multi-purpose uses that allow flexibility to grow and expand our worship, mission and ministry activities. Facilities should be geared to accommodate activities for people of all ages and be fully accessible to those with special needs. Efforts that need to be evaluated and acted upon by appropriate teams/committees include:

- Making Wesley Hall capable of serving as a contemporary worship location.
- Making Founders Hall a multi-purpose facility.
- Creating an enclosed atrium from the existing courtyards near Founders Hall that could be used as an additional gathering space for the church.
- Installing multi-media capabilities throughout the church, including improved sound systems, large monitors for worship services, information kiosks, wireless access, digital recording capabilities and improved access for visually and hearing impaired people.
- Improved signage, both outside and inside the church.
- Expanded nursery facilities.
- Additional landscaping and creation of a multi-use garden area on the Collingwood side of the property.

2. Aldersgate must strive to be debt-free, and take steps to put into place a debt reduction strategy.

3. The Council of Operations will lead the development of a 20-Year Facilities Plan that focuses on:

- Improvement of existing facilities.
- Acquisition of additional property.
- Expansion of facilities.

The Report of the 2006 Aldersgate Joel Committee

Introduction

Over the last several years, we at Aldersgate United Methodist Church have made a concerted effort as a congregation to reinvigorate and realign our approach to ministry by replacing traditional committee structures with highly effective, well-trained and empowered ministry teams. During that time, we also conducted an extensive survey into the demographics, values and concerns of the members of our congregation and gave a great deal of thought to long range planning. Our education and small group activities continue to expand, and church-wide book studies with integrated worship services have helped to align us as a faith community. The time has now come to build on all of these past efforts as we create a vision for an even brighter future for our great church.

Joel Committee

The 2006 Joel Committee, chartered by our Church Council, was formed to create a shared vision for the future efforts of the Aldersgate Church community.

“Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” Joel 12:28

The purpose of the Joel Committee is to prayerfully consider and discern God’s will and word for our church, and how this word can be put into action by our church community over the next 10 years.

Joel Committee Membership

The membership of the 2006 Aldersgate Joel Committee was approved by the Church Council, and included:

Tree Andre	Mike Crane	Libby Meares	Laina Schneider
Bill Armstrong	Juanita Csontos	Jason Micheli	Mitch Sproul
Duane Ashton	Julia Denman	Patti Millett	Diane Tollefson
Andreas Barrett	Sherry Edelkamp	Bob Oelschlager	David Wennergren
Gary Bradshaw	Robin Gilmore	Leslie O’Shaughnessy	Nigel Willis
Bob Carr	Leah Gunter	Dennis Perry	Dana Woods
Tom Cook	Nicole Howe	Mary Porter	Dalton Yancey
Donna Crandall	Sue McConville	Charlotte Rexroad	

The 31 members of the Joel Committee, drawn from both laity and staff of the church, worked together as a short-term task force that met five times during April and May of this year. During that time, members faithfully prayed for discernment, agreed to attend meetings, reviewed long range planning efforts, studied area demographics, analyzed survey results, visited other churches, conducted research and used an “appreciative inquiry” process to create this Joel Committee Report which has been approved by the Church Council and is now presented to the congregation to guide and align the activities of our church for the years ahead.

Acknowledgements

We, the members of the 2006 Aldersgate Joel Committee are humbled by the dedication, faith, energy and commitment of the saints that have come before us — creating this great church, nurturing and sustaining it for 50 years. We are encouraged by the outpouring of energy and Christian love that abounds here and continues to grow with the addition of each new member of our congregation. We reflect on and celebrate the accomplishments of our first 50 years as a church, and we are excited and energized about the possibilities and opportunities to serve that await us in the years ahead. All that has already been accomplished here serves as the firm foundation for all that is yet to come as we work together to continue to grow our church and expand its positive impact in both the local community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission and Guiding Values

Our Mission and Guiding Values galvanize us as a congregation, align our efforts, celebrate our strengths and strengthen our commitment to serve our Lord.

Prayer – Conversation – Service

We are called. Christ calls the church to lead the world – to love God and neighbor, and to share in glorifying and celebrating God. We answer this call by gathering people into large and small Christian communities that involve three key disciplines:

- **Artful Prayer:** Worship and prayer activities that develop the spiritual life of the community and allow us to continue to develop and mature our praying ability.
- **Informed Conversation:** Teaching people the Christian language and understanding how God is working in our lives.
- **Loving Service:** We are motivated by our love to serve people, both those within and outside of our community.

Prayer, conversation and service are essentials of Christian living, and must be an integral part of every community, small group and team at Aldersgate church. These three disciplines and the need to administer the church and its operations form the basis for all of our activities.

Aldersgate Church: Your Gateway to Christian Practice

We are a Christian Community moving one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). We are a:

- Worshipping Community – Touching the Face of God
- Learning Community – Hearing the Voice of God
- Serving Community – Extending the Reach of God
- Resourcing Community – Resting in the Hand of God

Our Mission Statement and Guiding Values provide a focus for our efforts that plays on our strengths and makes it clear to those around us what it is that we believe in and what we are striving to accomplish. The four Guiding Values focus all of our ministry work, serve to align our efforts as a faith community, and reflect our organization into four councils:

- Worship Council – Helps to form the Worshipping Community
- Education Council – Helps to form the Learning Community
- Compassion Council – Helps to form the Serving Community
- Operations Council – Helps to form the Resourcing Community

The four councils provide the framework for the efforts of the many teams that serve God through their volunteer work as part of the Aldersgate community.

Our Vision for the Future

We envision Aldersgate Church as a gateway to Christian practice; a vibrant faith community that welcomes everyone and truly is a destination place for people throughout Northern Virginia to pray, learn and serve. We will strive to be a warm and welcoming church, whose deep commitment to serve the Lord is evident in all of our activities. Our Sunday worship attendance will grow by 10% per year for the next 10 years, so that we have reached an average weekend attendance at worship services of 1,500 people by the year 2016. Christian education attendance will have also grown to 750 people per week. Every member of our congregation will truly feel a part of an active church community and virtually all members will be involved in some form of volunteer service – supporting one another and being a beacon of hope to the world through our prayers, our attendance, our gifts and our service. Aldersgate Church will be a hub of daily activity for people of all ages.

Joel Committee Recommendations

The 2006 Joel Committee makes the following recommendations that build on our mission and guiding values to help us achieve our vision for the future. These recommendations provide the foundation from which the inspirational and innovative efforts of empowered teams, shepherded by outstanding staff and the four Council leaders, will make this vision for the future a reality.

Ministry Recommendations

The heart and soul of our great church is reflected in the ministry efforts of every member of our congregation. Our greatest strength is the committed participation of all of our members in worship, education, small group and ministry efforts. By increasing the percentage of our congregation actively involved in ministry opportunities, we will dramatically increase our ability to touch lives and help those in need. Opportunities abound to expand existing ministry efforts and offer new ministries, both locally and globally. Our ministry efforts must be carried out by empowered teams – a coordinated network of trained and equipped groups that are aligned to the mission and vision of the church, but who are then free to go carry out God’s work and deliver results. Exceptional ministry is delivered through dedicated, equipped and passionate teams. Teams pray, learn and serve together. Leaders and volunteers are committed to annual learning and training.

Education

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” [Matthew 11:29] Rigorous education opportunities must be made available for people of all ages.

- Church members must be able to progress through ascending levels of education as they deepen their understanding, awareness and discipleship.
- There must be a depth and breadth to the educational programs of the church that shape the people that are already here as well as providing a destination place for people looking for what a church has to offer.
- Educational opportunities must be offered that provoke insightful and informed conversations.
- The Education Council will pursue a summer “Scholar in Residence” or similar program to provide learning and worshipping opportunities for the Aldersgate church family.

Compassion

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” [Acts 2:44-45] Motivated by love, we must continue to look for and expand our opportunities to serve God by serving others, both locally and globally.

- Aldersgate must make our Cambodian mission efforts a cornerstone of our outreach, striving to be unparalleled in our commitment to bringing Christ to the people of Cambodia.
- Building on this centerpiece of our mission efforts, we need to evaluate additional mission opportunities, as well as outreach efforts to the local community, including prayer and counseling.
- We will identify key outreach efforts where we can have a significant positive impact, and consolidate our efforts to those projects where we can make the biggest difference.
- We must focus on creating opportunities for people to have “hands-on” experiences in addition to providing financial support to the Church’s ministry efforts.
- The Compassion Council must encourage and support the creation of new ministry opportunities, and offer opportunities for all as we grow to 1,500 people in worship each week.

Worship

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.” [Acts 2:46] We must ensure that we are firmly rooted in the soil of Christian tradition by ensuring that our rituals are informed by the practices of the early church.

- We must strive to be adept at traditional Christian practices that have been passed down through the ages – loving God through ancient worship practices.
- We must strengthen and expand our worship experiences and opportunities, adding a fourth worship service.
- We must be a spiritual resource for people’s prayer lives and expand the number and types of prayer groups.