



SHEPHERDING FOR THE FUTURE

Comprehensive Campaign for 2023

The word “Aldersgate” comes from a place where, nearly 300 years ago, a priest named John Wesley first felt his heart on fire with love of God and love for his neighbor. This spiritual experience changed his life and led directly to the Methodist movement.

Today at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, we strive to inspire those whose lives we touch to feel their hearts on fire with that same love of God and the love of their neighbors, namely God’s Unconditional Love.

Jesus is our shepherd. He watches out for us, helps us, and teaches us.

The 23rd Psalm is one of the most beloved passages of scripture and is one that many Christians can recite by heart. As we say the familiar words of Psalm 23, “The Lord is my Shepherd . . .”, the beautiful literary piece captures our hearts and gives us comfort that God is with us always.

Likewise, the 19th century hymn “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” conveys our gratitude for Jesus who provides his “tender care.” “Thine we are” acknowledges our being a member of his flock. In singing the hymn, we ask Jesus to “Be the guardian of our way and Seek us when we go astray.”

The hymn continues:

*Early let us seek Thy favor
Early let us do Thy will
Blessed Lord and only Savior
With Thy love our bosoms fill
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Thou hast loved us, love us still
Blessed Jesus, oh blessed Jesus
Thou hast loved us, love us still*

As disciples of Christ, we are called to follow his lead and to display the same spirit as we “shepherd” those in our church, in our community, and beyond.

As John Wesley declared “The world is my parish.” Our responsibility does not stop at the church door, but we are called to “Offer Them Christ” everywhere just as John Wesley admonished Francis Asbury as Asbury set off for America in 1771.

We need to be like Jesus and embrace the role of the shepherd by putting the needs of others above our own.

“When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” Matthew 9:36

As “shepherds,” we are reminded that everything we have was a gift from God and when we support the church and its ministry and missions, we are giving back, out of love and gratitude for God and all that God has entrusted to us.

When God gives us a vision for helping others, we must follow through with action and step into the fields that are ready for harvest and be a shepherd for today. One important action is giving with generosity and gratitude.

ALDERSGATE AND ITS CALL TO SHEPHERD

Aldersgate UMC will live out our mission of courageously living God's unconditional love, serving others, and making disciples by:

- Engaging people for Christ
- Connecting people with Christ through our ministries and programs
- Equipping people to be disciples of Christ
- Sending people out as disciples to engage others

Within this structure, we will pursue strategies in line with the following principles:

FINANCIAL HEALTH / WISE STEWARDSHIP

God has provided many blessings to AUMC over which we are entrusted with stewardship. Among them are financial resources, real and personal property, the environment, and missions. Accordingly, **we will make elimination of debt a top priority because it acts as an anchor holding back all other missions and endeavors**; ensure our properties and systems are properly maintained; and seek to operate transparently and in an environmentally responsible manner.

INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES / FRESH EXPRESSIONS

AUMC will build ministries that meet people where they are, engaging with their interests in places they pursue them, and doing so in innovative and fresh ways. Innovation will inspire decision-making as we seek new avenues for ministry inside and outside the walls of AUMC.

MISSION OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

AUMC is committed to mission work that transforms for the better those people or causes we seek to serve locally, nationally, and internationally. Such work will start with listening to those we seek to serve as they describe their needs then engaging in meaningful mission directed at the root causes of those needs. In this missional outreach we will seek to break down barriers to become more inclusive and diverse.

DIGITAL MINISTRY

Digital access systems greatly expand AUMC's reach. We will do what is necessary, within wise stewardship principles, to maintain up-to-date computer,

video, and similar equipment; maximize our online presence; and expand digital access for those who do not already have it or know how to use it. This focus on digital ministry will help us navigate our increasingly digital world by connecting us with those inside and outside our community in new ways.

These strategies are in keeping with the mission of bringing the love of Jesus Christ to those in the community and beyond. We are focused on reaching those who don't attend church and bringing them the good news. We want to engage people for Christ, connect people with Christ, equip people to be disciples of Christ and send people out as disciples to engage others.

As we fulfill our mission of "Courageously Living God's Unconditional Love" and our vision to make disciples for Christ, we want to incorporate our Core Values:

JOYOUS

We embrace fully the joy of the Lord; it pours out from us and strengthens us as we live, serve, give, worship and praise in the name of Christ. (Nehemiah 8:10)

RISK-TAKING

We courageously step out in faith to pursue the vision that God has given us for Aldersgate and the community. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

WELCOMING

We show hospitality at all times to all people and welcome them with open arms as we serve God together. (Mark 9:37)

GENEROUS

We selflessly give our time, talents, money, and resources to bring about God's kingdom on earth with gratitude for all God has so generously given us. (2 Corinthians 9:11)

FAITHFUL

We are dedicated to the Great Commission to "go and make disciples" by growing our faith and our relationships as we love God and others. (Hebrews 10:23)

WHY DOES ALDRSGATE NEED MY FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

To fulfill the mission and vision of Aldersgate United Methodist Church requires the financial resources to support the work that Jesus has called us to do. Financial resources fund the programs of a vibrant congregation, help us to serve the broader community, and aid us in community outreach to share the good news of Jesus Christ and His love with others.

Aldersgate currently has some financial challenges in large part because of outstanding debt for the Shepherd Hall project, which was approved in 2002, with the building of Shepherd Hall being completed in 2004. The Capital Campaign, “Growing Lives” is currently providing \$12,896 per month for the payment of the mortgage. As we know, paying a mortgage includes principal and interest. In the beginning of loan repayment, you pay more interest than you pay principal. While our payments have been reduced by obtaining a lower interest rate of 3.999%, we are still paying more interest than principal. The current loan ends on February 14, 2025. Refinancing will be necessary before that date.

As you will note in Aldersgate’s strategies above: . . . **we will make elimination of debt a top priority because it acts as an anchor holding back all other missions and endeavors.**

Paying off this debt will help the church have more financial resources for the core mission to “Courageously Live God’s Unconditional Love” both inside and outside its walls. Through a successful campaign and your generous support, the debt can be reduced.

Shepherd Hall Loan Facts:

- Loan started September 2002
- Initial loan cost \$3.6 million
- Current loan refinanced at Atlantic Union Bank in March 2020. Loan \$2.4 million with an interest rate of 3.999% and ends March 2025
- Current loan has a balloon payment at the conclusion of the term
- Current Loan Balance is \$2.1 million (10/1/2022)

To achieve financial well-being, we are asking you to take three steps in this comprehensive campaign.

#1 First, make an annual commitment to support the operating budget of the church. The total operating budget for 2023 for Aldersgate is projected to be \$1.6 million. Our goal for pledged commitments from you and your fellow members for annual support is \$1 million.

#2 Second, make a sacrificial three-year commitment to support the capital campaign to reduce the debt on the construction of Shepherd Hall. This gift needs to be a sacrificial gift above and beyond your annual commitment. Our goal for the debt reduction campaign is \$1.1 million over three years or a total of \$366,667 per year.

- If you currently have a commitment to the “*Growing Lives*” campaign for Shepherd Hall which ends in March 2023, we ask you to continue and to consider increasing your previous pledge to begin in April 2023.
- If you currently do not have a commitment, please consider being generous with a three-year commitment at the highest level that is achievable for you and your family.

#3 Third, consider making a provision for Aldersgate in your estate plan. You may include Aldersgate United Methodist Church in your will or name Aldersgate as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, your donor-advised fund, or an insurance policy. In this way, you are providing for the long-term future of Aldersgate. Our goal for this part of the campaign is 5 or more new intents.

COURAGEOUSLY LIVING GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE THROUGH PROGRAMS

Worship: The passion of our worship team is to lead our community into the presence of God during every worship experience.

Whether it is through traditional choirs, contemporary praise songs, or compelling, creative teaching, the heart of our worship is to celebrate God’s faithfulness and our gratitude for the work of Christ in our lives.

Music: Not only do we believe that music is a primary way we experience God, but we also think leading others musically is itself a way we grow in our faith.

Aldersgate has three musical ensembles:

- Journeys Worship Band: Vocalists and rhythm combo that supports the Contemporary Worship Service on Sunday mornings
- Wesley Choir: The Wesley Choir provides music for the Traditional Worship Service on Sunday mornings
- Handbell Ensemble: The adult handbell choir, consisting of adults and high schoolers, performs monthly and on special occasions.

Intercessory Prayer Group: Aldersgate has an Intercessory Prayer Group serving you and your loved ones quietly behind the scenes. Though discreet and low-key, it has a powerful and essential mandate. Our group is dedicated to praying for others within our congregation and worldwide who have spiritual, medical, and relationship needs. Accident victims, deployed military, persons caught up in natural disasters, hunger, domestic and community violence, homelessness or human trafficking are on our lists, as are a multitude of other circumstances. All our discussions are confidential, and every prayer request is honored. We are apolitical and do not judge need by class, color, sexual or political orientation, geography, or any other factor.

Children's Ministry: We have a heart for children. Our Children's Ministry strives to engage kids, and empower families by providing age-appropriate worship, Bible stories, and activities during our weekend worship experiences.

Sunday school is available for ages 3 years old to 5th grade on Sunday mornings during the school year and children are encouraged to accompany their parents in worship during the summer.

Day School: Aldersgate Day School is a weekday three- to six-hour ministry for children 12 months old to kindergarten. The talented team of teachers at Aldersgate Day School are dedicated to guiding children in building their minds, friendships, and character. Currently, 155 students representing 132 families, are enrolled in the Aldersgate Day School with a total of 32 staff.

Student Ministries: The Aldersgate Student Ministry Program welcomes and embraces the youth (Students in Grades 6th – 12th) of the Aldersgate UMC family and its community.

The Student Ministries at Aldersgate UMC include Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) (grades 7-12) and the Confirmation Program (grades 6+). Both programs provide an opportunity for our youth to have fun, build new relationships, perform service in

the community and beyond, and grow in their faith in a supportive and encouraging environment.

1. **Boy Scouts:** Troop 996 is an active Scouts BSA Troop with over 40 Scouts. Troop 996 was established in 1961 with the support of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church and has been providing boys with opportunities to learn and grow for over 60 years.
2. **Cub Scouts:** Cub Scout Pack 888 is active pack of nearly 80 families run by some excellent parent volunteers. The group was founded in 1947 and most of the scouts in the pack attend schools in the Fort Hunt community (including Stratford Landing, Hollin Meadows, Belle View, Waynewood, Fort Hunt, Hybla Valley, Groveton, St. Louis, St. Mary's, and Aquinas Montessori). The pack consists of boys and girls in kindergarten through 5th grade (ages 5 -11 years old). In Cub Scouts, young people are shown friendship, citizenship, character development, and personal fitness. The pack is sponsored by Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia and meets regularly at the Church.
3. **Girl Scouts:** Girl Scouts of America Service Unit 53-3 oversees more than 40 troops in the Fort Hunt area, that together total more than 550 girls from kindergarten through 12th grade. Girl Scouts focus on leadership and community service, as well as outdoor skills and STEM activities. Several local Girl Scout troops as well as the Service Unit's adult volunteers meet at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Adult Groups and Classes: Adult groups and classes are how we build community at Aldersgate Church. Being a part of a group is the best way to help a big church feel smaller. Whether it's a class, a small group, or bible study, you'll connect with people in a similar stage of life, or with similar interests. Together, you'll build community and foster spiritual growth.

We offer small group bible studies, fellowship groups, women's and men's groups, prayer groups, topical classes, and mission/service groups. United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women also provide a place to plug-in for fellowship, outreach, and prayer. We also offer various yoga and wellness classes.

- **Adult Sunday School:** Three adult Sunday School classes meet on Sunday mornings: Potpourri Class, BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) Class, Searchers Class

- **Small Groups:** Monday Morning Book Study, Christian Meditation Group, Intercessory Prayer Group; Wednesday Women, Wesley Bible Study Group, Empty Nesters
- **United Methodist Men:** United Methodist Men (UMM) is the official organization for men in The United Methodist Church at the local church, Annual Conference, and denominational levels.

The mission of UMM is to support spiritual growth among men, helping men to mature as disciples as they encourage spiritual formation in others, all the while “helping men grow in Christ, so others can know Christ.”

Aldersgate’s UMM gather bi-monthly for fellowship and learning. The UMM also host four church dinners each year.

UMM’s major fundraiser is an annual family and friends golf outing. This event raises funds to support UMM’s mission outreach - UMM has given approximately \$87,000 to local, regional, and international mission projects through the golf outings since 2007.

- **United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith:** Any women who wants to engage in mission work, have personal and spiritual growth with Christian women, and who wants to become involved in social action to better women, children, and families may join.

We are faith, hope, and love in action

FAITH

Women who participate in monthly circle meetings and support mission projects to grow spiritually and become more deeply rooted in Christ by putting faith into action. (The Aldersgate UMW Circles include Elizabeth Circle, Esther Circle, Friendship Circle, Lydia Circle, Ruth Circle, Sewing Circle.)

HOPE

Our national mission institutions empower women, care for children, educate and equip youth, care for the neglected, advocate for social justice issues, create economic opportunities and strengthen neighborhoods.

LOVE

Our members give out of their love for the world and provide financial support for local and national mission institutions, supporting 121 programs taking place in 110 countries.

ACTION

UMW members' voices are heard around the world as they call for justice on issues such as immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence, health care, and the environment.

- **Wellness Program:** Aldersgate offers wellness program opportunities to the congregation and to our community. Regular weekly classes include gentle yoga and senior strength and stretch.
- **Grief Support Care:** A monthly grief support group meet monthly for those who have experienced a loss. The group is open to members of the community.
- **Divorce Support Care:** Aldersgate is holding a weekly evening support group for anyone who is going through or has gone through divorce. This group fosters healing from separation or divorce. Video and a workbook are discussed in meetings. The Divorce Care videos cover topics essential to recovering from the hurt of separation or divorce.
- **Caring for Aging Family Members:** In 1 out of 3 households, someone is a caregiver. It is often a full-time job and can be very stressful. This monthly caregiver support group is ongoing and open to the community.

ACCT (Aldersgate Church Community Theater): The theater presents classic plays and musicals that are comfortable and fun for families to enjoy together. The productions are held in Wesley Hall at Aldersgate. ACCT is a vital part of the Mount Vernon cultural community. We believe community theater provides residents of our area with the ability to experience quality theater at affordable prices.

Outreach: At Aldersgate we work in partnership with non-profit organizations locally, nationally, and globally to feed the hungry, fight homelessness, and empower children and women to break the cycle of dependency and transform their lives for themselves.

We are committed to leading new generations into a greater life of generosity and service in Jesus's name.

Together, our church serves thousands of hours per year for our outreach partners in Alexandria and the surrounding area.

Several times a year, Aldersgate sends volunteer teams to the Highlands of Guatemala and to the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona. We hope to have a trip to Honduras in spring 2023.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we also operate an endowment to help those in crisis and get families out of homelessness, called “Not Too Far From Here.”

When you give to Aldersgate Church, a tithe of your giving goes directly to support outreach efforts locally, nationally, and globally.

- **Social Justice:** The Social Justice team works towards living into our Strategic Priority of Missional Outreach and Social Justice. To help educate, disciple, and model ways to transform for the better those people and causes we seek to serve locally, nationally, and internationally.

Currently we partner with Woodlawn Faith UMC in worship and missional exchanges. We also participate in Woodlawn Faith’s food distribution on Fordson Road each Friday and help the church with its Community Garden at the Gristmill. We also assist as well as with other opportunities that arise. We have a Social Justice section in our church library where you can check out books. We are offering tips for Creation Care in our weekly newsletter. Overall, we are seeking ways to focus on how to be more inclusive and diverse as a faith community.



- **Rising Hope:** Aldersgate supports the Food Pantry mission at Rising Hope Mission Church, which provides much-needed food to individuals and families in need in the community each week. The Rising Hope Mission Church is a community of faith helping individuals rise above homelessness and poverty along the Route 1 corridor. Rising Hope Mission Church is a safe place where individuals and families can gain spiritual and physical sustenance. The church assists these individuals and families through its Food Pantry, Rising Hope kitchen, Hope Closet, Hypothermia Shelter, and countless other need-based services.

Aldersgate also provides Sunday Suppers (Lunches) for Rising Hope on the second Sunday of each month.

- **Phoenix Rising:** Meal packing for Phoenix Rising happens once each month. And meal delivery also occurs monthly. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are made and taken to many homeless individuals and families at various motels and group homes on Route 1 between Fort Belvoir and the Beltway.
- **Mondloch House:** Individuals at Aldersgate volunteer to purchase and deliver fresh produce for the local homeless shelters and transitional housing tenants through the Mondloch House program.

Many important community groups meet at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. These groups include:

- **Men's Emmaus Group:** The Walk to Emmaus is held worldwide. Church members are identified by existing Emmaus members who show potential to further grow spiritually, intellectually, and in service for the purposes of furthering God's mission at their local church. In the three days spent on The Walk to Emmaus (usually held at a local retreat site), the congregant will participate in a course on what it means to live daily as a Christian – giving one's heart, mind, hands, and feet to God all while under God's abundant grace. Sessions on living the Christian life are taught by laity who share their personal stories of struggle and victory. Additionally, sessions on the many forms of God's grace are taught by local clergy who present an ecumenical view with respect to all Christian traditions. Furthermore, at each local United Method Church, existing Emmaus men or women meet in small groups to share our own daily struggles and victories. Emmaus focuses on equipping church members to live the Christian life more fully in support of their local church.

- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous):** Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who come together to solve their drinking problem. It doesn't cost anything to attend A.A. meetings. There are no age or education requirements to participate. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem. A.A.'s primary purpose is to help alcoholics to achieve sobriety.
- **Other community groups include, but are not limited to the following:**
 - Garden Club
 - Arts of the Horizon camps
 - West Potomac Dance Team
 - Alexandria Nutcracker rehearsals

ALDERSGATE: THEN AND NOW

Aldersgate United Methodist Church held its first worship service on August 12, 1956, at Hollin Hall Elementary School. Aldersgate received its official charter on October 21, 1956, with 37 members. The first building construction began in December 1958 with the groundbreaking for Founders' Hall. The first service in Founders Hall was on October 4, 1958, with 300 persons in attendance. The sanctuary was built in 1963 with services beginning in the new sanctuary in December 1964. Expansion of Wesley Hall and classrooms occurred in 1980s. Groundbreaking for Shepherd Hall was in 2004 with the building being consecrated in 2006.

In recent years, the membership of Aldersgate has remained steady. In the past four years, membership has been 2347, 2346, 2361, and 2356. The latest membership figure of 2356 is for 2021. The church welcomes about 40 new members each year.

SHEPHERDING THROUGH THE YEARS

Aldersgate United Methodist Church has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people in its almost sixty years of service to its members and to the community and beyond. Several outstanding programs and activities stand out as significant.

- Aldersgate Day School: Educating since 1962, Aldersgate Day School is a weekday, three- to six-hour ministry for children 12 months old to kindergarten.

At Aldersgate Day School, children are at the center of our mission. We focus on providing a safe, loving Christian environment for your children.

Jesus said, “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.” The staff at Aldersgate Day School is committed not only to preparing children for their primary school years but helping them grow in their love for Christ.

Aldersgate Day School began in 1962 with just two classes and an enrollment of 38 children. By 1973, the Day School had grown to 102 students and had four classes of three-year-olds, three classes of four-year-olds and one Kindergarten class. Today, the Day School has an enrollment of nearly 200 students in 14 classes: 2 Toddler I classes, 2 Toddler II classes, 2 Pre-threes classes, 4 three-year-old classes, 3 four-year-old classes, and 1 Kindergarten class.

We are so proud of our rich history and the opportunities we have been given to be agents of God's love through the educational process to so many children and their families within and outside our community!

Aldersgate Day School is fully licensed by the state of Virginia (without religious exemption) and is regularly inspected by State representatives to ensure compliance with all state regulations.



- Aldersgate Music Program: Aldersgate has a broad music program that is an important component of the worship experience at the church. The program includes:
 - Journeys Worship Band: Vocalists and rhythm combo that supports the Contemporary Worship Service on Sunday mornings

- Wesley Choir: The Wesley Choir provides music for the Traditional Worship Service on Sunday mornings
- Handbell Ensemble: The adult handbell choir, consisting of adults and high schoolers, performs monthly and on special occasions.

The music program provides special music, such as anthems and solos, on a regular basis highlighting the spiritual gifts of many of the choir members. In addition, the Wesley Choir sings along with the choir from Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church in worship services occasionally.

During the summer months, a fun, social sing happens on the last Sunday of the month. Anyone interested in singing can go to the music room on Sunday morning for a short warmup and rehearsal prior to singing the anthem during the 11:00 am worship service.

- Confirmation Program: The Confirmation Program at Aldersgate is an opportunity for students to respond to the workings of God's grace in their lives. The goal of the Confirmation Program is for students to begin to understand for themselves what it means to be a Christian and a member of God's Church.

Throughout the year, students will discover what it takes to follow Christ and to model Christ's love and mercy to the world by participating in interactive class sessions, service projects, field trips, worship, and class retreats. Students will also be paired with a mentor from the Aldersgate church family who will help the students learn and grow in their faith.

The Confirmation Program is open to all students who are easing 6th grader and older. The group meets weekly on Sunday mornings for the duration of the school year, beginning in September and culminating in May on Pentecost Sunday.

A total of seventeen students were confirmed in 2022.

The Confirmation Program at Aldersgate is extraordinary and other churches frequently ask about the program and its success.



- Rising Hope Mission Church: Hands-on service is one of the hallmarks of Aldersgate UMC. The Rising Hope Mission Church is a community of faith helping individuals rise above homelessness and poverty along the Route 1 corridor. Aldersgate UMC is proud to support the Food Pantry mission at Rising Hope Mission Church. Members of Aldersgate and others drop food off at the church and Aldersgate delivers the food to the Rising Hope Food Pantry once a week. The Rising Hope Food Pantry provides much-needed food to individuals and families in need in the community.

Rising Hope Mission Church is a safe place where individuals and families can gain spiritual and physical sustenance. The church assists these individuals and families through its Food Pantry, Rising Hope kitchen, Hope Closet, Hypothermia Shelter, and countless other need-based services.

Aldersgate also provides Sunday Suppers (Lunches) for Rising Hope on the second Sunday of each month.



- Wellness Programs: Aldersgate United Methodist Church offers gentle yoga and senior strength and stretch classes to the congregation and to the community. While these classes are open to people of all ages, they specifically address the needs of healthy seniors, a group that is often overlooked by the church.

FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR SHEPHERDING FOR THE FUTURE

#1 – Stewardship – Operating Budget – GOAL: \$1 million for 2023

The priority or first component for giving is your support of the annual expenses – the operating budget – of the church. The operating budget is the cost of the church's programs every day of the year.

Included in the budget are the apportionments, which is the main way that we support the ministries of the larger United Methodist Church. Apportionments is a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches. For example, the apportionments dollars that Aldersgate gives toward Global Missions and other organizations within the United Methodist Church help those in need in Ukraine.

Other items in the budget are organized by our discipleship pathway:

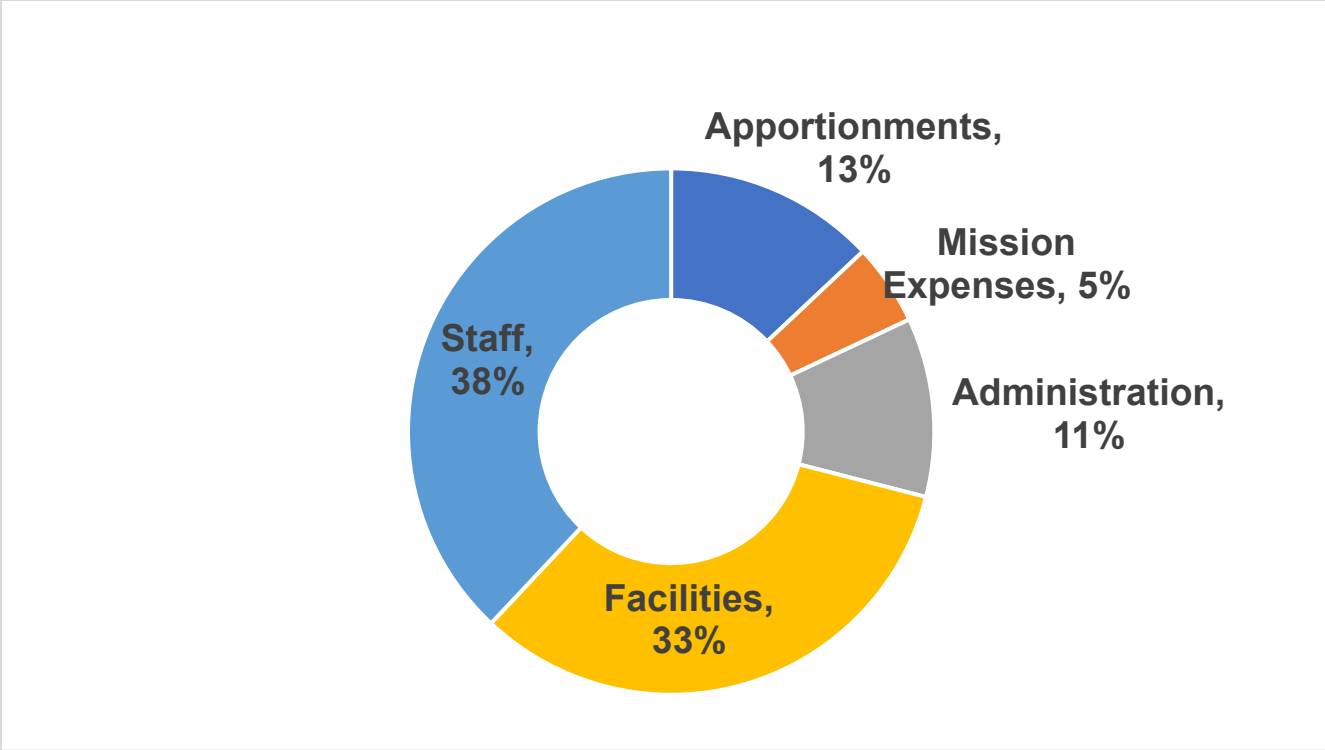
Engaging people for Christ

Connecting people with Christ through our ministries and programs

Equipping people to be disciples of Christ

Sending people out as disciples to engage others

The operating budget includes apportionments, staff, administration, missions, and the cost of maintaining the church properties.



NOTE: Dollars for mission work exceeds 5% - United Methodist Men’s and United Women in Faith’s support of missions is not included in the annual budget, apportionments support missions, several restricted funds are designated for missions, and many members of the church support missions directly.

The operating budget does not include the mortgage payments for the construction of Shepherd Hall. Those payments come from gifts to previous campaigns.

Aldersgate receives \$450,000 in non-pledge contributions annually and has other revenue of \$150,000. The remaining \$1 million needs to come from pledged donations.

You are asked each fall to make a commitment through the “Stewardship” Campaign for the following year. You are asked to renew your current commitment to support the annual operating budget and to consider increasing your pledge by 10% for 2023. If you do not have a current commitment, please consider making one.

The amount that you give is a personal matter but when deciding on how much to give, remember that the scriptures indicate that tithing is the standard and that

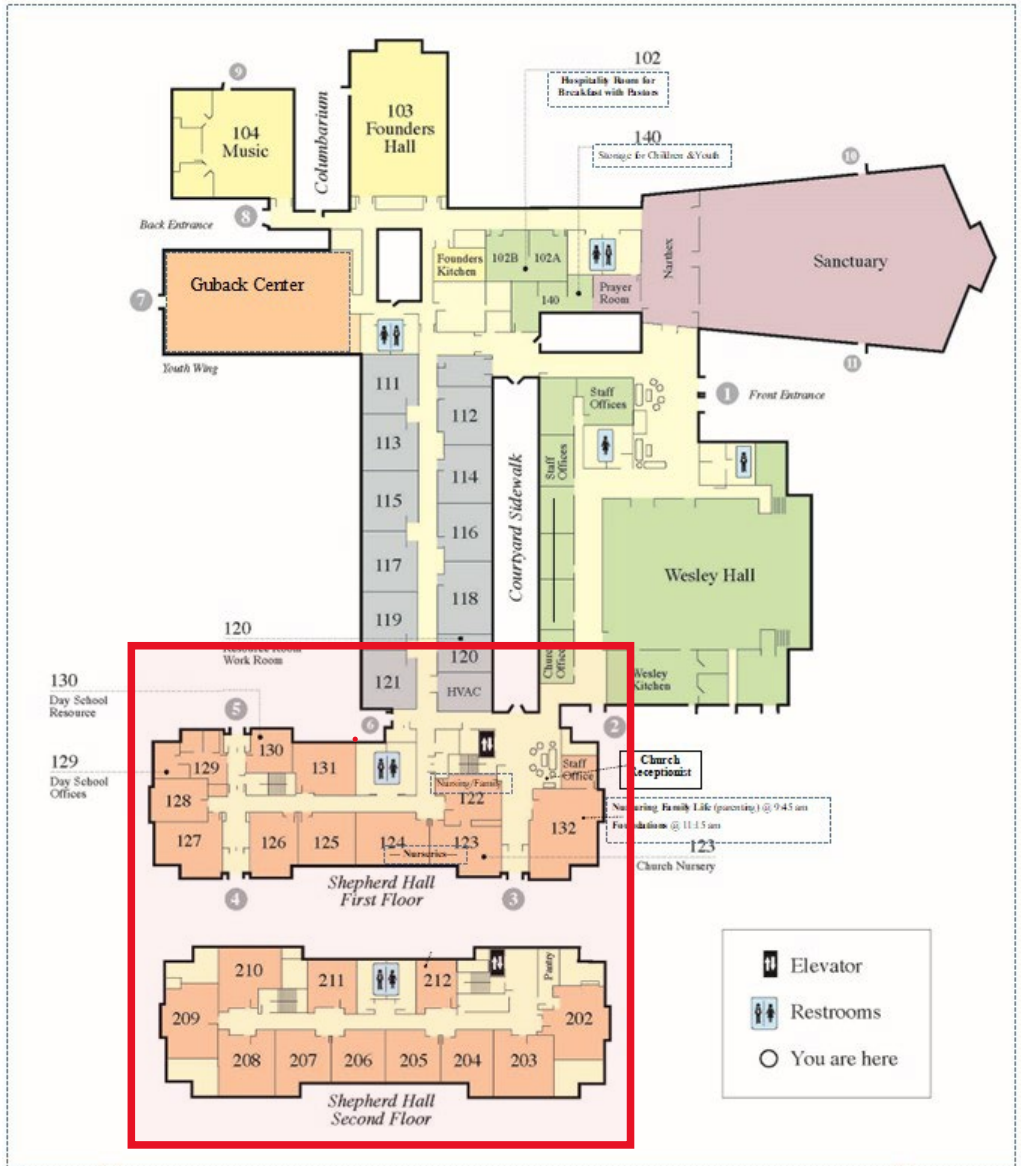
giving one-tenth of our income to the church is the norm. Tithing is a spiritual goal for many Christians and for members of the Jewish faith as well.

#2 – Capital Campaign – Shepherd Hall – GOAL: \$1.1 million for 2023 – 2025

After making your commitment to the annual operating expenses of Aldersgate, please consider making an additional sacrificial gift to help reduce the debt for the building of Shepherd Hall.

The Shepherd Hall project included building Shepherd Hall, renovating existing classrooms, installation of new and higher capacity boilers and air conditioning for the entire complex, and environmental site requirements including the parking lot expansion and the installation of a drainage sand filler. Total costs were approximately \$4.6 million.

The need for Shepherd Hall came because of an increase in the number of families in the community. Space was needed for the growing Sunday School attendance and the expansion of the Day School. The primary purpose was to support Christian Education. Another use for the new building was storage. At that time, the church was overflowing with materials and equipment to support church activities. The third floor of Shepherd Hall was designed to provide sufficient storage.



The map of the church (above) shows the first two floors of Shepherd Hall at the bottom in orange. The third floor, which is not shown, is used for storage.

Shepherd Hall is a three-story addition to the church building that includes approximately 15,000 square feet of meeting and storage space. The addition is about 30% of the overall church building's space. Included in Shepherd Hall are the church library, where books on a variety of topics are available and where meetings of many church and community groups are frequently held, and Sunday School classrooms for children, youth, and adult classes.

While the church community has been very generous and has given through several campaigns to support Shepherd Hall, the remaining debt is \$2.1 million.

From 2010-2016, a total of \$3,055,142 was given toward the Shepherd Hall project and the recent campaigns, the Building Lives Campaign in 2016 – 2019 and the Growing Lives for the Future Campaign in 2021 – 2023 have brought in \$1,156,561. In addition, \$61,909 was contributed in “Mortgage May” in May 2022 against a goal of \$10,000.

The total paid from these campaigns of \$4,273,612 reflects the significant amount of interest that has been paid over the lifetime of the loan. During that time the principal has been reduced by a far smaller amount. We still have a long way to go.

We have seen significant progress since March 2020 when the loan was refinanced with the lower interest rate of 3.99%. Since that time, we have paid \$283,000 in loan principal with the help of “Mortgage May” 2022 and other designated gifts and have paid \$237,000 in interest. With the efforts being made, we have seen a more even distribution of principal and interest being paid.

Currently, \$12,826 is being paid each month toward the remaining mortgage for the building. This amount has been reduced substantially by refinancing, but that amount will likely increase if we do not complete payment of the loan by February 14, 2025. By reducing the debt for the Shepherd Hall project, funds previously used to make mortgage payments can be made available to fulfill the mission and vision of Aldersgate.

If the goal of \$1.1 million is achieved or exceeded, the principal owed on the mortgage would be reduced by approximately \$800,000, leaving a balance of approximately \$1.3 million on December 31, 2025.

Among other things, the church will have the funds needed for routine as well as for unexpected maintenance costs. These expenses include upkeep and repair of the air-conditioning system, which average \$20,000 per year.

In addition, with less funding needed for mortgage payments, **Aldersgate will be able to create new programs for children and families, will be able to have a full-time music director and a full-time youth director rather than part-time staff for those positions, and will be able to do more mission work.**

#3 – Planned Gifts – GOAL: 5 new gift intents in 2023

After you have made your commitments for the annual operating budget for 2023 and have made your pledge for the three-year capital campaign, please consider making a Legacy Gift for the long-term future of Aldersgate by including the church in your estate plan.

An estate or planned gift could be including Aldersgate United Methodist Church in your will or naming the church as a beneficiary of all or a portion of your retirement assets, your donor-advised fund, or a life insurance policy. You may also want to consider gifts that provide income for you for the rest of your life that will ultimately support the ministry of the church. Your financial advisor can tell you about income-producing gifts for Aldersgate.

While you may restrict an estate gift, you are encouraged to make your gift unrestricted so that the church can use your gift where it is most needed at the time it is received.

Or you may choose to designate your gift for unrestricted endowment in which case, only the interest will be expended in the future and that interest may be used wherever the need is greatest at the time as determined by the trustees.

Donating assets from an IRA to a charitable organization like Aldersgate United Methodist Church is advantageous in that retirement funds designated for your heirs may be subject to income tax if the funds were not taxed previously. In that case, the entire asset would go to Aldersgate United Methodist Church while only a portion of the asset would go to your heirs.

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DOES NOT PROVIDE FINANCIAL OR TAX ADVICE. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR PERSONAL ADVISOR BEFORE MAKING ANY GIFT OF THIS TYPE.

Informing the Endowment Committee, the Trustees, or one of the pastors of such a Legacy Gift intent would be appreciated so that you can be thanked during your lifetime and so that any restrictions or questions about your gift may be addressed to make sure your gift will be used as you intended it.

You may choose to be anonymous, or you may decide to allow Aldersgate United Methodist Church to list you as a member of the Legacy Circle. By acknowledging your intent to give, you may be encouraging others to follow your example and make a provision for Aldersgate in their wills or estate plans.

YOU CAN BE A SHEPHERD FOR THE FUTURE

Give Now! Give Generously!

Remember that contributions to Aldersgate United Methodist Church are tax-deductible.

You can support these three initiatives in the following ways.

- Make a commitment and set up payments online to be deducted from a credit card or checking account on a regular schedule. Every week, every two weeks, every month, twice a month, and every three months (quarterly) are options.

Online giving provides Aldersgate with a more consistent revenue stream for Shepherding for the Future and is helpful for planning. During the summer when families are taking vacations, revenue can drop significantly, and online giving helps to offset that decline.

- You can make your pledges online both for the 2023 Operating Budget and for the mortgage reduction campaign. You may also indicate online if you have included Aldersgate in your estate planning.

PLEASE NOTE: The Aldersgate website has two places on the website for giving. The "GIVE NOW" box at the top of the page is for online giving. The menu item "GIVE" along the top row also allows you to give online, but it also has information on making a Qualified Charitable Deduction from your IRA and on making gifts of publicly traded stock. You will also find in this section a form for indicating you are making a Legacy Gift to Aldersgate.

In addition, the minutes of the monthly leadership meetings and the monthly financial statement are available on the Aldersgate website.

- Complete a pledge form and make payments by check or online as indicated on your pledge form.
- Designate a direct gift from your retirement IRA to the church.

** A Tax-Saving Way to Help Aldersgate United Methodist Church*

- If you are 70½ years old or older, you can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified

charity, such as Aldersgate United Methodist Church without having to pay income taxes on the money.

- This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.
 - Your gift will be used today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
 - Beginning in the year you turn 72, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).
 - You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
 - Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.
 - You will receive a Form 1099R from the IRA fund, but the taxable amount will say "\$0.00" and at the bottom of the form they'll list who the recipient was. This form is used when your tax advisor prepares your tax return.
 - Donating assets from an IRA to a charitable organization like Aldersgate United Methodist Church is advantageous in that retirement funds designated for your heirs may be subject to income tax if the funds were not taxed previously. In that case, the entire asset would go to Aldersgate United Methodist Church while only a portion of the asset would go to your heirs.
- Donate stock.

**A Tax-Saving Way to Help Aldersgate United Methodist Church*

When you donate securities to Aldersgate, you receive the same income tax savings that you would if you wrote us a check, but with the added benefit of eliminating capital gains taxes on the transfer, which can be as high as 20 percent. Highly appreciated securities can be donated, and you will receive a tax deduction for the current value of the stock without any payment of capital gains tax.

Recognition for Support of the Comprehensive Campaign

When you complete your pledge form, we invite you to allow us to use your name as a contributor. (No dollar amounts will be shared.) We would list the names of those who have given to encourage others to give to the comprehensive campaign. You can help advance the campaign in that way as well. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we totally understand and will honor that request.

The amount of your giving is highly confidential, and the finance staff recognizes that and maintains the confidentiality of all financial information. Those volunteers who help with the campaign will know if you have given in the past, but will have no information about your gift amounts.

WHY NOW?

Remember that God has made a commitment to us and has given us all that we have. Everything we have ultimately belongs, not to us, but to God. We consider it a privilege to give back to God what has been graciously given to us.

As John Wesley said about stewardship, **“Having, first, gained all you can, and, secondly saved all you can, then give all you can”**.

We are committed to generosity because we know first-hand the change God can bring through our sacrificial giving. We can give back through this campaign.

You can be a Shepherd for the Future and give the church the means to live out our mission of courageously living God's unconditional love, serving others, and making disciples for Christ.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a comprehensive campaign?

A comprehensive campaign is a fundraising effort that addresses more than one campaign. In this case, the comprehensive campaign for Aldersgate combines the Stewardship Campaign, the Capital Campaign and Legacy Giving.

2. Why are we combining the Stewardship and Capital Campaigns this year?

- The Stewardship Campaign supports the operating budget for 2023.
- The Capital Campaign supports the reduction of debt for the construction of Shepherd Hall.
- The current Capital Campaign for Shepherd Hall ends in March 2023. The new campaign will span the period from April 2023 to March 2026.
- Since both campaigns will begin close together in 2023, combining the campaigns is more efficient than running two campaigns within months of each other. This decision was based on the following:
 - We are asking for both gifts at one time rather than asking twice.
 - Understanding the differences in the campaign purposes is made clearer to the congregation.
 - The number of personal visits and personal contacts required for the asking is reduced.

3. What is the difference between the normal annual stewardship campaign and a Capital campaign?

- The annual Stewardship Campaign is the fundraising effort to secure unrestricted gifts that can be used to fund Aldersgate annual operating budget.
- A Capital Campaign is a fundraising effort for a specific project, usually a building project or one to make major capital improvements to an existing building. In this case, the Capital Campaign is specifically to pay down the mortgage that was incurred in borrowing money for the building of Shepherd Hall.

4. What is Legacy Giving?

Legacy Giving is making a gift now that will not come to Aldersgate at a later date. We sometimes say it is like planting a tree under which you will never sit. It is making a gift for the future ministry of Aldersgate UMC.

You can make a Legacy Gift by making Aldersgate the beneficiary of all or part of a retirement plan, a life insurance policy, or a donor-advised fund. Or by including Aldersgate as a beneficiary in your will or living trust.

Some gifts may be made that will pay you income for life with the actual gift coming to Aldersgate when you pass away. An estate attorney or financial advisor can assist you with these life income gifts.

You can find information about Legacy Giving on the Aldersgate website. Just click on "GIVE" on the horizontal menu at the top of the home page.

5. Why should I make a pledge?

Pledges give the church a baseline of information needed for future planning of expenditures both in terms of the annual budget and in paying down the loan for Shepherd Hall. Without this basic information, budget preparation and execution are only a best guess. God made a commitment to us, and we can respond to what God has given us by making a commitment to the church.

6. Why should I make my gifts online?

- Pledging online allows you to select the amount you wish to give and the timing of your gift (weekly/monthly/quarterly/annually).
- The church can plan better if the timing of expected revenue is known.
- Online giving provides the church with a more consistent revenue stream. Giving continues online even though you are on vacation or are not attending church due to illness or other reasons. If pledges are not paid online, a decline in income will be experienced especially in the summer months when people are on vacation.

7. Do I need to contribute to both the stewardship and capital campaign pieces of the comprehensive campaign, or can I just make one overall pledge and the church can decide where the funds are most needed?

- We are asking you to contribute to both pieces of the campaign.

- If you make an unrestricted gift, or an “overall” pledge, it would be used for the Stewardship Campaign.
 - To support the Capital Campaign and the debt reduction of the Shepherd Hall mortgage, you must designate your gift for that purpose by giving it to the Capital Campaign portion of the effort.
8. How do I sign up for online giving?
The church website (www.aldersgate.net) provides instructions on how to give online. The website has two giving portals. The GIVE NOW at the top of the page takes you directly to the online giving page. On the horizontal menu at the top of the page, you will find the GIVE portal where you can make an online gift and can also find information on making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA if you are 70 ½ or older, on making a gift of stocks that are publicly traded, and making a Legacy gift through your estate plan.
9. How can I track the status of my giving?
The church provides a quarterly statement of your giving history, and at any time, you can access your giving history by accessing the church website and going to your Realm account and clicking on “Giving.”
10. I currently have a campaign pledge that goes through March 2023. Will I be asked to start paying a new pledge before I finish my current pledge?
No, you will be able to start paying your new pledge the month following the final payment of your current pledge. On your pledge form, indicate that you want your capital campaign pledge for 2023 – 2026 to begin in April 2023.
11. When does my Stewardship Pledge begin?
January 1, 2023
12. What is the current membership and how many are currently giving?
Membership is approximately 1250 Active Family Units and the total number giving for annual support (Stewardship Campaign) and/or for the Capital Campaign is 450. The percentage of giving is about 36%.

13. I am not a member of this church – are you asking me to contribute, too?

We are inviting anyone with an interest in Aldersgate United Methodist Church to consider participating in the comprehensive campaign. Giving is an act of commitment to the ministry of Aldersgate to make disciples for Christ. Giving to the church is sharing what God has given you with others. Giving helps all of us to “courageously live God’s unconditional love.”

14. I would like to contribute funds for a very specific thing (e.g., carpet replacement) – Can I specify that in my pledge/giving?

- We encourage you to make unrestricted gifts so that the church has the flexibility to use your gift wherever needed. The annual budget goes through a process to determine the greatest needs for the year ahead and to allocate dollars accordingly. Therefore, by supporting the Stewardship Campaign, you are giving to keep the church functioning and to fund those needs identified through the budget process.
- A restricted gift takes money away from the overall budget for a purpose which may not be deemed of highest need.
- If you give to the Capital Campaign portion of the Comprehensive Campaign, you are supporting the debt relief effort for the Shepherd Hall mortgage.

15. What are the key expenditure categories in the operating budget, which is supported through the Stewardship Campaign?

- Apportionments 13%
- Mission Expenses 5%
- Administration 11%
- Facilities 33%
- Staff 38%

(Based on current 2022 budget of \$1.5M)

NOTE: The amount for missions is low because most of the mission work is done by members of the congregation and groups within the church.

16. What are apportionments?

Apportionments is the main way that we support the ministries of the larger United Methodist Church. Apportionments is a method of giving that

proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches. For example, the apportionments dollars that Aldersgate gives toward Global Missions and other organizations within the United Methodist Church help those in need in Ukraine. Apportionments are often viewed as “dues” we pay to the United Methodist Church that supports the work and administration of the denomination at the district, conference, national and global levels.

17. Does Aldersgate receive funding from the District, the Conference, or the United Methodist Church, i.e., the broader denomination?

No, Aldersgate does not receive any funding from the United Methodist Church. In fact, the opposite is true. We pay “apportionments” to support the United Methodist Church at the district, conference, national and global levels. We receive services from these entities and the broader church is involved in broad missions, such as helping the people of Ukraine. However, Aldersgate pays for these services and for the missions conducted by the broader denomination. Apportionments are 13% of the 2022 Operating Budget.

18. Is the Capital Campaign portion of the Comprehensive Campaign only to pay off the Shepherd Hall mortgage?

Yes, the only use of the funds donated through the capital campaign portion of the Comprehensive Campaign is to pay down the mortgage for Shepherd Hall, which is currently \$2.2 million.

19. What is the status of the Shepherd Hall Loan?

- Original loan was granted by BB&T in September 2002.
- Loan value was \$3,420,128. Interest rate was 5.99% Monthly payments were \$22,188.
- Sanctuary HVAC renovation was needed in 2005. Cost was \$226,675.
- HVAC costs were assimilated into the BB&T loan. Loan value increased to approximately \$3.6 M.
- Loan was refinanced in March 2020 with AUB. Loan value was \$2,418,000.
- Current Interest rate is 3.99%. Monthly payments are \$12,826.
- AUB loan ends in February 2025. Loan has balloon payment requirements. Thus, final payment is due at that time.

- Current loan balance as of July 1, 2022 is \$2,146,216. Mortgage May reduced the principal by \$61K.

20. Why did Aldersgate get a loan from a bank rather than get a loan through the Virginia United Methodist Foundation?

- When the loan was refinanced, consideration was given to getting the loan through the Virginia United Methodist Foundation. However, the interest rate being offered by the Foundation was higher than the rate being offered by AUB.

21. What is the plan for refinancing the Shepherd Hall loan by February 2025?

- We will maintain the current loan with AUB through February 2025 unless we can secure a loan with a better interest rate than the current one which is 3.999%.
- We will start to review alternatives for refinancing commencing in February 2023 when requirements for prepayment penalties are lifted with the current AUB loan.
- The Virginia United Methodist Foundation will be considered along with other options when the current loan is refinanced.

22. What about my commitment of time and talent to Aldersgate?

- Your commitment of time and talent is important.
- To keep the multi-faceted giving process this year as simple as possible, we will be waiting until January to get your commitment of time and talent for 2023.