

Aldersgate Church - Leadership Board Meeting

August 26, 2025

Leadership Board in attendance: Dave Yoder, Randy Campbell, Ryan Wilt, Kevin Huffman, Lydia Kelley, Nate Baum, Kent Springman, Jeff Payne, Bob Winters, Desirre Buck, Kristine Hackett, and David Pater. Absent: Nancy Mosella. No replacements for Mike Staley and England Reyes yet.

Congregants and Staff: Pastor Jeff Markey, Jennifer Rager, and Deana Fornoff.

1. Dave Yoder called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Pastor Jeff opened the meeting with a devotional, stating the church is in a position of strength since the disaffiliation and able to look with clear eyes towards possibly joining with another organization.

New Business:

1. Financial:

- As of the end of July 2025, the church has a deficit of \$9,758.03.
- July 2025 tithes were up \$13,000 compared to July 2024.
- August tithes broke even when compared to August 2024.
- When looking at the overall tithing for 2025, the church is up \$14,000.
- For 2025 budget, the church needs \$17,700 a week in tithings to meet church expenses, with the church currently averaging \$16,288 a week. For the 2026 budget, church needs \$18,030 a week in tithing to meet budget requirements.
- Final payment (\$20,000) to Wecker's Flooring Center LLC dispersed.
- Draft budget created with estimated 3% salary increase for core staff members. Salaries represented 52.4% of the budget. The goal is to have the budget approved no later than the October meeting.
- GMC is flexible if we accept affiliation with them to at least initially keep current health insurance and costs. Current health insurance costs are \$1,264 per month but would increase to \$1,958 a month under GMC (additional \$8,300 a year).

2. Jessica Herbst approved as Teacher's Assistant in the Afternoon 4s Class for the Amazing Adventures Preschool. Vote conducted via email on August 12, 2025.

3. The following are upcoming Aldersgate Church meetings:

- September 22nd at 6:30 pm - Town Hall Meeting
- October 8th at 6:30 pm - Open meeting with Rev. Steve Taylor (Conference Superintendent for the GMC Northeast Conference) and Bishop Leah Hidde-Gregory of GMC
- November 18th at 7:00 pm - Aldersgate Annual Church Conference

4. **Mission Committee:** Committee sends donations to preschool in Ghana and India Knit Kids. Now that the Mission's checking is handled along with other activities at Aldersgate, we are working to adopt the prior methods used to match the official Aldersgate Financial Policy.

Jennifer Rager, Randy Campbell, and Bob Winters are reviewing IRS policy regarding payments to overseas charities.

5. Recommendation from the Next Steps Committee on GMC: The Leadership Board reviewed the GMC Book of Doctrines and Disciplines, which Pastor Bob emailed last month. Pastor Jeff can change his ordination to GMC after taking a couple classes. Randy Campbell motioned to recommend to the Aldersgate Church affiliation with GMC. Bob Winters second the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

6. **Sexual Misconduct Insurance Policy:** The Aldersgate Church Youth Ministry Policy has been revised by Mark Denton to meet the requirements to maintain our coverage of \$1 million per claim/\$3 million total coverage. Without meeting these requirements, our coverage would decrease to \$500,00 per claim/\$1 million total coverage. The Leadership Board will discuss these updates at the September board meeting and vote on approval of the revised policy.

Old Business:

1. Building / Grounds:

- New carpet installation and painting of doorways completed. Jennifer Rager/Lisa Murr office painted for an additional \$950.
- An anonymous donation was received which covered the cost for the HVAC safety railing.
- We have continued to have off and on HVAC issues. Spangler and Boyer did not charge us for service calls. The cost for two new HVAC units was added to the 2026 budget in the event we need replacements.
- The tree in the Memorial Garden is being assessed due to the tree roots potentially affecting the church foundation.
- We are having some water issues with some eaves which are being looked at.
- Bathroom Renovations and Elevator Study: One donation of \$50 has been received for the elevator fund. No formal notification has been provided to the congregation regarding separate funds being available for donations for the elevator and bathroom renovations, but notifications will be shared via the bulletin and e-Blast. At the September Town Hall meeting, the Leadership Board will express our intention to focus on the bathroom renovations in 2026. Again, there are two endowment funds, the General Purpose Trust (\$78,653.15) and the Marian Bidelman Memorial Trust (\$49,264.91) for a total of \$127,918.07 that is available to use for this project. As previously stated, the baseline estimates for remodeling both the upper and lower men's and women's bathrooms would be approximately \$261,861 and the estimated cost for an elevator based on our current sketches/survey would be \$659,042.

Closing:

1. **State of the Church:** An outdoor church service is planned for September 7th at 10:00 with a church picnic. Both Pastor Jeff and Mark Denton were able to provide Sunday sermons this month during Pastor Bob's two-week vacation.

2. Ryan Wilt motioned to end Leadership Board meeting to transition to the Executive Staff meeting. Kent Springman second the motion. Motion unanimously approved. The Leadership Board Meeting ended at 8:19 pm to transition to Executive Staff meeting.

3. Returned to general session at 8:35 pm. Nate Baum motioned to extend Pastor Jeff Markey's contract from August 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 to enable his contract to be on the same cycle as the other staff members. David Pater second the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

4. Bob Winters motioned to close general session. Ryan Wilt second the motion. Motion unanimously approved. Leadership Board meeting ended at 8:39 pm.