



A letter from Jenny Andrews, Chair of the Aldersgate Core Leadership Team

Dear Aldersgate Family,

Over the last several years, Pastor Brad has spent quite a bit of time "taking the temperature" of our church. He has had discussions with committee members, Sunday volunteers, congregation members and others who have a vested interest in what happens in our church. Through that process, it became clear that Aldersgate would benefit from a more transparent, open, and inclusive leadership style. It was a huge honor when Brad asked me to partner with him to help flesh out the idea of creating a broader leadership model for our church. We experimented with a number of models before things began to gel and we are grateful for your patience as we tried these ideas out on the congregation. Now I'd like to share with you what we believe will be a more transparent, inclusive and expeditious leadership model.

With God as its foundation and guided by the teachings of Jesus, the Core Leadership Team is the ultimate decision making body for the church. It serves the same role as the Aldersgate Leadership Council (ALC) did in the past but with notable changes in style. The Core Leadership Team is comprised of people representing all aspects of church life. It meets monthly, on the second Tuesday of the month, and those meetings are open to all, with prior notification to me, as chair of the Core Leadership Team. All of the committees (now called teams) that have traditionally served Aldersgate are still in place, however some names will change to more effectively represent the work the teams do. Team leaders are currently seeking energized, enthusiastic, positive people to serve the church. In addition, we have a number of short term teams that will be working on specific projects such as replacing signage, writing grants, etc.

The most exciting addition is the Aldersgate Common Table. The Common Table is a three-time-per-year gathering of anyone and everyone who wants to have a voice in the life of the church. It is the place where people can bring proposals for the Core Leadership Team to consider, and in many cases receive immediate decisions. It is a place to raise new ideas for the church, to hear what is happening on other teams, and to receive quick feedback from the Core Leadership Team to ensure that great ideas no longer die of inertia. We've created a written description of the Common Table which is included below. Common Table meetings will include a soup supper and child care will be provided so that everyone who wishes to may attend. I strongly encourage you to mark your calendars now for May 13th and October 14th and plan to attend. The informal, come-as-you-can dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will run from approximately 6:30 - 8:00.

We've created guidelines for any individual or team who would like to bring a proposal before the Core Leadership Team at a Common Table meeting. Our goal is to make this process as efficient and effective as possible. Provided the information presented is complete and the presenting party has a plan to fund the project, the Core Leadership Team hopes to be able to make a go-no go decision within a one week period for many requests.

Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns about our church leadership model. Our goal is: Aldersgate UNITED Methodist Church!

Yours in faith, love, health and service,

Jenny Andrews, Chair
Aldersgate Core Leadership Team

Aldersgate Common Table (ACT) **Approved 3/11/14**

Purpose

- To provide a common venue for receiving, gathering, listening, advising and sharing of proposals and information relevant to the business of the Church across the different teams, missions, and any other group or individual affected by the decisions and actions of Aldersgate UMC.
- To streamline and expedite the decision making process.
- To increase the participation by more people in the leadership of Aldersgate.

Participants

Participation in ACT is open to all but the following groups will be there to respond to questions.

- Core Leadership Team
- Church Employees
- Representatives from all of the current Action Teams

Participants also include:

- Any interested Aldersgate UMC attendees, whether they are a member or not.
- Outside groups or individuals from the community that have an interest in the decisions and actions of Aldersgate.

Dates

ACT shall be held the second Tuesday of February, May, and October of each year, replacing the normal Core Leadership Meeting for that month.

General Evening Schedule

5:30pm – Light dinner available. Attendees eat as they arrive.

6:15pm – Visioning and Centering presentations may be given concurrent with dinner.

6:30pm – Primary program.

8pm – Program close.

Dinner

A light dinner will be provided to allow attendees to come directly from work, allowing Common Table to start earlier. It should be something that does not require a lot of preparation, such as soup, salad, and bread.

Child Care

Child care will be provided for grade school age children and younger, to allow young parents to participate in the mission of Aldersgate.

Common Table Program

The Common Table program will be determined by the Chair of the Core Leadership team. It may start with centering and devotional time, which may include communion. All program items must be presented to the Chair of Core Leadership prior to the date of the gathering, who will determine the order and priority of the program items. Every attempt will be made to get all program items in the schedule, but the 8pm closing should be kept, to respect the needs of young parents to get their children to bed at a reasonable time. Program items may not be

brought up the night of the gathering unless all regularly scheduled business is completed prior to 8pm, at which time the floor may be opened up for general input.

Suggested program items should contain as much supporting detail as possible so that a decision can be made. If insufficient information exists, teams may be requested to obtain that information before Core Leadership will decide on the issue. Useful information includes the who, what, when, how much, and why (how does it fit our mission?).

Moderator

Common Table will be moderated by someone outside of the Core Leadership team to assure that all program items are handled completely impartially. All presentations and discussions will be kept brief and must add constructive information relevant to the program item. For this reason, the moderator may have to intervene when discussion goes outside these parameters. The ideal moderator would be someone outside of Aldersgate with experience moderating meetings, and a sensitivity to the mission of the Church.

Decision Making Authority

Any decisions or consensus reached by the Aldersgate Common Table participants will not be official until ratified by the Core Leadership team, which is the official decision making authority for Aldersgate UMC. Core leadership can either have a short meeting immediately following ACT, or confer via email over the next day or two to make final decisions on program items as needed.