

Aldersgate Vision

The following is the Vision Plan for Aldersgate adopted at the Church Council meeting on January 26th. This document is not an ironclad plan, but a flexible roadmap to help guide the church in intentional ministry for the next several years.



We exist for the glory of God and the good of the city.

Contemporary Worship

<input type="checkbox"/>	Soft Launch Easter 2020	Contemporary Worship Service – Soft Launch - 11:15 am / Hire a band, begin building community, begin building a launch team.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hard Launch Back-to- School	Contemporary Worship Service – Hard Launch – Wide public launch & recruitment

Notes: A contemporary worship service is recommended for the following reasons:

1. AUMC's membership is majority senior citizen. Out of 189 members, 57 are 80+ years of age, and 73 are in the 60 to 79 age range. Our senior citizens are deeply committed to the life of the church in terms of attendance, service, leadership, and giving. At this moment in the life of the church we have the financial and people resources to add an additional worship service. Should we wait too long for attrition to occur, will we have this opportunity?
2. A common statistic for church growth states that when a church is perceived to be 80% full, visitors commonly feel there is not space for them to comfortably belong in the congregation. In other words, once a worship service and supporting infrastructure is at 80% capacity, a church does not grow. We are pushing into that 80% rule in the sanctuary, and we have far exceeded it in terms of parking.
3. Many visitors to our worship service express interest in our mission and community ministries, but express disappointment that we don't offer other styles of worship. Many of these individuals do not return to Aldersgate.
4. AUMC has proven we have the ability to offer contemporary worship. Our sanctuary is equipped with an appropriate sound system, projection, lights, and stage space.

Suggestion:

1. Move our traditional service to 9:00 am without any other changes. Offer Sunday School from 10:15 to 11 am. Offer a contemporary worship service at 11:15. Request that New Life offer their service at 1:00 pm
2. Offer a contemporary service that is 'friendly' to those who are not familiar with creeds, worship responses, or traditional liturgy. Music and style should be casual. Provide childcare and nursery at both services.

Children's Ministries

<input type="checkbox"/>	June 7 to 12	Asbury Hills Summer Camp
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 15 to 19	Vacation Bible School

<input type="checkbox"/>	TBD - Summer	Children Present in Church on Summer Camp
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recurring	Increased children's participation in Sunday services Increased periods of parent / guardian / volunteer / staff planning and reflection Develop a calendar of annually occurring events / build expectation

Notes:

Youth Ministries

	TBD – Fall?	Explore a parent / youth (child / family?) camping retreat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recurring	Increased youth participation in Sunday services Increased periods of parent / guardian / volunteer / staff planning and reflection Develop a calendar of annually occurring events / build expectation

Notes:

Summer Day Camp

<input type="checkbox"/>	January 22	Begin advertising and launch registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	April 2020	Hire staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 15 to 19	Summer Camp Week 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 3 to 7	Summer Camp Week 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 15	Summer Camp Reflection with staff and church leadership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall 2020	Plan for Full Summer Day Camp for 2021

Notes:

1. Our "PlayMaker Day Camp" will be an experiment during 2020 to determine how well we can offer a program of this kind. If all goes well, our plan will be to offer a full summer program in summer of 2021.
2. Our goals for this program are the following:
 - a. Offer a Christian program that teaches the gospel to children
 - b. Provide affordable and competitively priced summer childcare
 - c. Connect our church to local families and follow-up at the conclusion of the summer
 - d. Be financially sustainable.
 - e. Offer a limited number of scholarship to families in need.
3. If managed properly, summer day camps can achieve these goals and net a profit.

Mother's Morning Out or Other Children's Day Care Program

<input type="checkbox"/>	TBD - April 1?	Research and compare various program options Make a decision about implementation
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBD - June 1?	Advertise and begin accepting registrations

<input type="checkbox"/>	Back-to-school 2021	Launch children's program
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Notes:

1. At this point we are only exploring possible program options, including what's offered in the area, multiple models, and talk to other churches who offer similar programs.
2. Joey Gorman of Soccer Shots has commented that their program partners with Mother's Morning Out programs throughout the region. His suggestion is that we offer an 'enrichment' based model where we provide a different skill or experience each morning. For example, soccer on Mondays, dance on Tuesdays, painting on Wednesdays, etc. He has a list of reputable programs in the area we could partner with.
3. Possibly offer a program in the mornings (either all week or just a few mornings a week) with an enrichment, Bible lesson, etc.
4. Delegate this exploratory task to a small team of 2 to 3 people to research and present back to church leadership.

Men's Ministry

<input type="checkbox"/>	Winter 2020	Develop Lead Team for Men's Fellowship – Target men who are fully engaged in existing ministries or responsibilities at the church
<input type="checkbox"/>	March 6 to 8	Men's Camping Retreat
<input type="checkbox"/>	March 28	Men's Ministry supports "Mission in Our Own Backyard"
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recurring	Develop ongoing ministry plan and vision Identify and equip leaders Possible projects include bike repair, intergenerational fishing trips, men take younger men / boys to do home repair projects for our members

Notes:

1. Our church needs a strong Men's Ministry. Too many of our men are unengaged in the life of the church beyond worship attendance. This new program will develop slowly and will include activities to appeal to a wide-range of ages, life-stages, and faith formation. One key goal will be helping grow godly men as leaders in their homes, work, and church.

Facilities Needs

<input type="checkbox"/>	April 1	Finish Nursery Remodel (finalize décor / furnishings / curtains) – Invite children's staff, and 1 parent to finalize purchases
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 1	Install privacy fence for trash cans –
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 1	Repair fencing around property / possibly install privacy fence along hoarder property
<input type="checkbox"/>	2020 thru 2021	Bathroom upgrades - tile floors, new stall dividers, new vanity
<input type="checkbox"/>	2020 thru 2021	Playground upgrades – designate a small exploratory team
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 to 5 year goal	Explore options for an outreach building – either building an additional facility or purchasing an existing property – Trustees designate a 2 to 3 person team to explore possibilities and report back to Trustees, then Council at the appropriate time

Notes:

1. There are supposedly two areas of a church that a mother will assess when determining if the church is suitable for her family: the nursery and the bathrooms. Final touches need to be made on our nursery, while

our bathrooms still require significant renovation. These should be viewed as priorities as we seek to retain visitors through a new service and additional children's programming.

2. Our backyard will need various safety and aesthetic improvements in order to expand children's programs.
3. An additional facility will be one of our most ambitious projects. This is needed for multiple reasons:
 - a. Our current building is at maximum capacity and many of our ministries are overlapping for space. As we anticipate further growth through a new service, additional children's programs, as well as our growing youth, young adult, and men's and women's ministries, we need to begin planning for the future now.
 - b. Aldersgate is clearly called to do poverty ministries. We're also called to create safe spaces for our children and families. We can do both ministries well, but they need to be in separate spaces in order to maintain a safe environment for all involved. A missions building across the street, within eyesight of the church, provides distinct spaces but maintains a continuity of church identity.
4. This step in our vision plan would authorize the Trustees to begin exploring possibilities of an additional missions space.