



# Fairlington UMC Leadership Team Update

## April 30, 2026

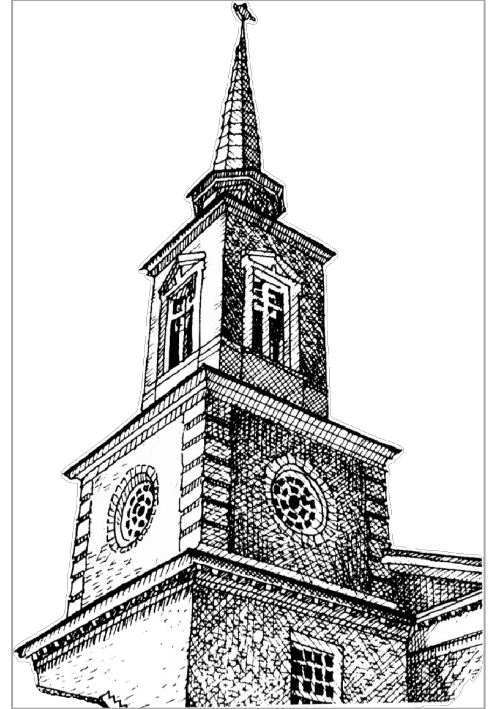
### Your Leadership Team

Thanks go to Andrew Hunter (Chair), Stephen Ng (Finance) and Erik Lundquist (UMM), who have rotated off, for their service the Team. Mark Elder has assumed the position of Chair, and we welcome Alyssa Glomb (our new Lay Leader) and Scott Riley (Finance Chair) who are joining for a 3-year term.

### Creation Care

The City of Alexandria imposes a stormwater management tax on everyone, including churches, but also provides a guide for obtaining tax reductions. Reports to the city are required every two years to sustain those savings. In 2019 through a grant opportunity, FUMC created the bio-retention area in the habitat (Wilderness) to reduce the tax. When that reduction expired, Doyle Cockram and Anne Wilson measured, dated, took photos, and catalogued more than 43 Native trees in the King Street and FUMC habitats. Along with our rain barrels, that work completed Alexandria's requirement for 2026-2028, resulting in a nearly 30% reduction to the FUMC stormwater utility tax. The catalog of native trees is stored in the church office if anyone is interested.

Doyle has identified less strenuous options to retain the reduced tax. Alexandria offers both an "Adopt a Block" and "Adopt a Stream" program, each involving quarterly trash pick-up. The Creation Care Team embraced these easy-to-renew options. The Leadership Team also approved these two initiatives, which are consistent with our core mission pillar of creation care. FUMC's quarterly street trash pick-up spans Menokin Drive to Braddock Road (approximately 5 blocks). Our quarterly stream trash pick-up will be along the Holmes Run stream, starting from Duke Street to halfway through Angel Park. Each "Adopt" effort requires at least 8 participants (including minors under age 17 assuming a 1 to 3 adult to child ratio). The City requires "Adopters" to log in 25 hours over a 2-year period for each program - "Block" and "Stream" - making the effort much more manageable. The first street trash pickup date will be May 2 from 10-11 am. Protective gloves and bright yellow vests will be provided.



### Volunteer Coordination

David Bissette and Jason Wood led a discernment process in 2024-2025 regarding how we could energize the volunteer experience at Fairlington UMC. Volunteering is a cornerstone of Christian discipleship, and better cultivating and equipping volunteers at FUMC can build community, sustain vital mission work, and spread the Gospel. In 2025 Sarah Cusenza was invited and accepted the call to serve as the church's volunteer

coordinator. Sarah describes her role as two-fold: 1) serving as a clearinghouse—connecting individuals and their unique gifts to those who lead various mission programs; and 2) fostering communication—educating members of the congregation about service opportunities and how they can get involved.

Since taking on this role Sarah arranged a luncheon event in November 2025—supported by the Forever Family young adult group—where leaders of several key volunteer areas were able to showcase and explain the work they do. **She has also organized a volunteer fair on May 3, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall where folks can visit various ministry tables and discern how they can fulfill their own calling to serve.** Sarah is happy to talk to anyone in the congregation who is curious about ways to serve. She can be reached at: [cusenzasarah@gmail.com](mailto:cusenzasarah@gmail.com).

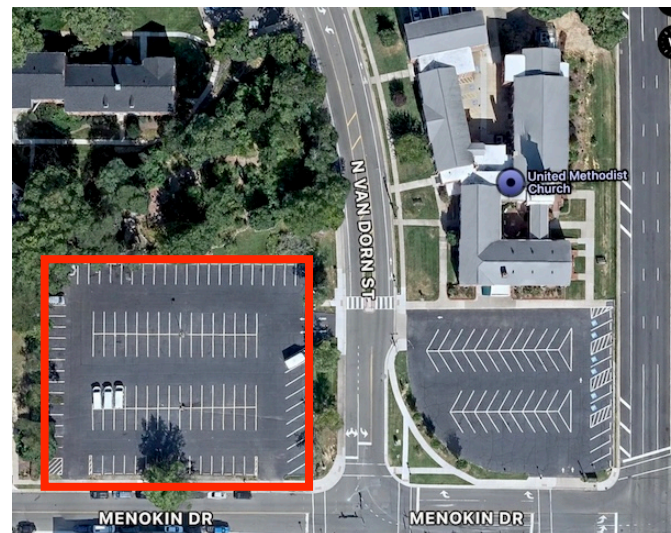


## Solar Panels

Church Trustee Chuck Raasch has been researching the possibility of installing solar panels on our church roof. There is an urgency to this research and the church making a decision—an existing 30 percent federal tax break associated with solar panel installations expires on July 4 of this year. The primary motivator for FUMC would be the environmental impact, not a revenue stream, though the church would incur cost efficiencies. Chuck has been in touch with Interfaith Power and Light, which has helped bring solar to dozens of congregations in our area, and contacted numerous churches in the area that have acquired solar panels. These efforts have led to a connection with Lumina Solar, a mid-Atlantic solar panel company in business for 15 years with expertise in installing and maintaining solar panels. We estimate that solar panels on our roof could save as much as 75% of the cost of our annual electricity bill (\$144K in the last year). In the next few weeks the Trustees and Leadership Team will need to make final decisions on whether to move forward with this project and resolve various issues related to inspection, insurance, financial arrangements, and installation timing. Leadership will provide an update to the congregation once final decisions are made.

## Upper Parking Lot

The Leadership Team has studied options for the use of the upper church parking lot for several years. The lot was most recently appraised in September 2022 at \$8 million. Options that have been considered are wide-ranging: a community center, affordable housing, weekday commuter or bus rentals, EV charging stations, as well as selling and reinvesting in main campus upgrades. To date we just have not found the best fit for the lot that aligns with the mission and values of FUMC. Most recently, momentum on a long-term plan was stalled for two reasons. First, from August 2022 to early 2025, the church contracted with Gilbane construction, which used the lot for its workers while they renovated the Minnie Howard High School campus. The church received over \$100K in revenue during this period. Second, church leadership has been mindful of the ongoing impact of building Waypoint affordable housing on the Presbyterian campus across the street, which has created parking and traffic issues for local neighbors and our lot as well. A small working group continues to explore options, and most recently has been in conversation with Bonaventure, a local developer that owns some of the apartment buildings near the



church. In the meantime, to generate revenue for the church Andrew Hunter has arranged single space rentals with a few parties. You may have noticed various work and personal vehicles using the lot consistently. This is not random! These are vehicles under contract with the church. Currently, we are renting out 18 spaces, earning about \$2K per month in church revenue. If you have ideas for or feedback about the upper parking lot, please talk to a member of the Leadership Team.

## Stewardship

- **2025:** Fairlington UMC ended 2025 with a net surplus of about \$60K. However, this comes with two important caveats. In November of last year, likely driven by the impact of federal downsizing on the local economy, church income was lagging. We transferred \$75K in interest from our Enduring Gifts (endowment) fund to cover expenses. Income for the year was ultimately better than anticipated, but without that transfer the church would have run a deficit. The church also tracks depreciation expenses on capital assets, which were at an all-time high of \$104K in 2025, largely reflecting the replacement value for our new air conditioner and kitchen equipment.
- **2026:** The Church adopted a 2026 operating budget of approximately \$1 million for the current year. Through March 2026 we are currently running a surplus of \$50K. Thanks for your faithful giving and support!
- **Mission Giving:** Fairlington is a very generous church. In 2025 congregants gave over **\$275K** toward mission and ministry in a combination of operating budget and second mile giving. Of this total roughly 65% came from second mile giving and 35% through the annual operating budget. Major giving areas included: rent deposit assistance (\$52K); music ministry (\$39K); youth ministry (\$33K); the Venezuela family fund (\$28K); ALIVE (\$7K); Just Neighbors (\$7K); Creation Care (\$7K); UMCOR disaster relief (\$5K); and much more! We thank the congregation for its extraordinary generosity and hope you feel both fulfilled and proud of the impact this church has both locally and around the world.
- **Capital Expenses:** Over the last 5 years (2021-2025) FUMC has spent nearly **\$2 million** on major capital expenses including: the air conditioner, kitchen remodel, chapel remodel, church and parsonage roof replacements; steeple repair; and new transom doors in the narthex. Much of this was deferred maintenance that hit us all at once at the worst possible time as we were coming out of COVID. These were necessary expenses to sustain vital mission and ministry that occurs in the building. Roughly 30% of them were covered by special gifts and bequeaths. About 45% was covered by an \$800,000 loan the church took out—the first in decades—to help pay for the kitchen and air conditioner. The loan was secured through the Virginia United Methodist Development Company, which works with many UMC churches and offers reasonable rates. This is a balloon loan wherein we started paying \$4,542 per month in July 2024, with the outstanding balance due December 1, 2028—but with an option to refinance.



### 2026 FUMC Leadership Team

Mark Elder - Chair

David Bissette - Secretary

Alyssa Glomb - Lay Leader

Nana Amoateng - Lay Member to Annual  
Conference

Ken Chadwick - Staff/Pastor Parish Relations  
Chair

Lana Hurdle - Trustee Chair

Scott Riley - Finance Chair

Elizabeth Mitchell - UWF President

Janine Howard - Staff

Christian White - Staff (Non-voting Member)

Louise Wilson - Staff (Non-voting Member)

Holly Sapp - Staff (Non-voting Member)