



Fairlington UMC Leadership Priorities for 2026

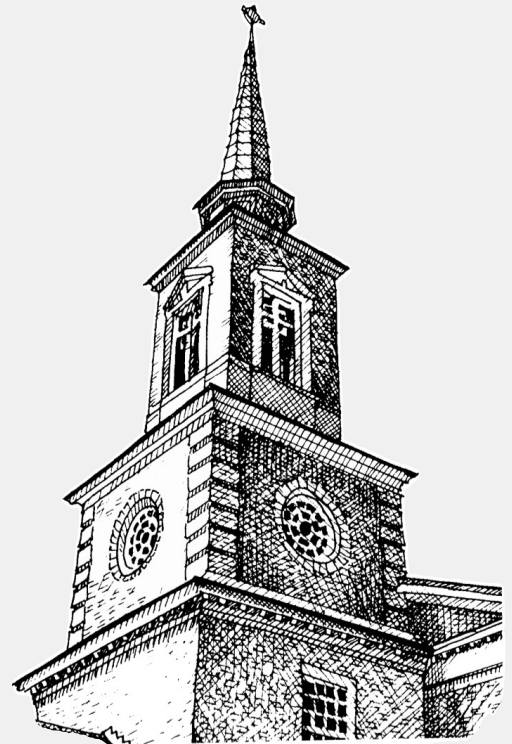
(as identified at September 2025 planning meeting)

Guiding Focus

- Caring for our campus and ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Transparent financial stewardship and accountability.
- Investing in people — staff, youth, and laity.
- Deepening communication and collaboration.
- Living boldly into our mission and values centered on justice, inclusion, and community partnerships.

1. Campus & Facilities Vision

- Major 2025 accomplishments: roof replacement, plumbing and restroom renovations, and office and sanctuary repairs.
- Ongoing/upcoming needs: downspouts, Sanctuary audio improvement (audio upgrades replaced lighting upgrades as priority), sidewalk repairs, stage curtain, bathroom remodels, HVAC access, parking lot security.
- Call for a long-term campus vision:
 - Position the church as a community anchor / “third place.”
 - Clarify use of the parking lot (restrictions, revenue, sustainability).
 - Resolve the Preschool arrangement.
 - Get kitchen certification to enable expanded community outreach.
 - Diversify revenue streams to fund campus operations and vision



2. Financial Stewardship & Governance

- Populate the new Endowment Committee.
- Educate congregation on preschool finances and relationship with the church.
- Examine allowable uses of rental income in the church budget.
- Develop long-range financial planning to support both maintenance and mission.
- Merge Finance Committee function into Leadership Team in accordance with governance structure

3. Staffing & Leadership Development

- Continuous evaluation of staffing levels, roles, and job descriptions.
- Invest in technology and equipment (e.g., copier) to strengthen staff capacity.
- Work with new Youth Coordinator on continued onboarding and vision for that ministry.

- Integrate and support new members of the Leadership Team.
- Support current staff while keeping operations lean, effective, and mission-focused.
- Develop strategies to equip laity for leadership and bring younger generations into roles.

4. Youth, Families & Congregational Engagement

- Build a vibrant Youth Fellowship as a foundation for future membership and family growth.
- Assess needs of families, young adults, singles, empty nesters, and seniors to shape programming.
- Strengthen small groups and intergenerational gatherings.
- Match spiritual gifts of church members to church needs and vision, capitalizing on new volunteer coordinator working with volunteer leaders.
- Expand participation in short-term missions and hands-on service opportunities.

5. Communication & Collaboration

- Improve internal communication among leadership (more frequent updates, cross-team sharing).
- Enhance external communication with congregation using multiple channels.
- Provide greater transparency on financial, staffing, and mission decisions.
- Encourage ecumenical and nonprofit partnerships to expand community impact.

6. Mission, Values & Social Witness

- Stay rooted in Reconciling Congregation identity and UMC's Four Areas of Focus (housing, food security, immigration, and creation care).
- Respond boldly to denominational changes enacted at General Conference (inclusion and welcome).
- Actively address social justice threats (immigrants, LGBTQ, marginalized groups).
- Consider new outreach efforts:
 - LGBTQ weddings and gatherings.
 - Advocacy (letters, public witness, local government involvement).
 - Partnerships with groups like Just Neighbors and DART.
 - Connect with Conference initiatives (Director of Belonging & Advocacy, Wesleyan Roots series, disaster relief response).
- Strive to "love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously."