

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

### Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2020

Present 29 (26 Members)

President Lew Thomasino opened the meeting at 10:51 AM after church service. Minutes from the January 20, 2019 Congregational meeting were accepted as printed. Motion made by Ginny Ganschinietz and seconded by Mary Lou Baum. Motion passed unanimously.

Ginny Ganschinietz presented the financial report. An audit of the books by Jim Eisenhower and Ruth Ogles has found the records to be in accurate good order. The 2020 Budget was presented. Sue Williams moved to accept the budget and Tom Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Lew Thomasino noted the following projects were successfully completed this year: drainage problem at back door corrected, parking lot patched and sealed, LED lighting installed, motion detector lighting in restrooms, new remote-control thermostats, and restroom signage changed to unisex to allow handicap access. Tom Miller expressed a thank you to all who helped with the projects.

The chimney is in need of tuckpointing at a cost of \$9,000.

Sue Williams and Judy Hartmann agreed to serve on Council. Ginny Ganschinietz moved that Sue Williams and Judy Hartmann be elected by acclamation. Anne Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Judy Schmitt moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25. Judy Hartmann seconded. Motion passed. Sue Ganschinietz, Secretary

### **PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 2020**

With the help of God, I have had the great privilege to be your pastor and teacher during this very strange year of 2020. Around March 15, on orders from the Illinois Department of Health, our Conference Minister asked all churches in the Illinois South Conference to cease in-person worship services due to the Covid pandemic. Because we have almost two dozen church members who do not have computers or internet capabilities, I began to write church bulletins including scripture texts and sermons, and mail it to those people. I emailed the rest of the congregation the bulletin usually on Fridays.

On July 5 we were able to resume in-person services with only 25 in attendance. We followed public health guidelines such as masks being required, taking temperatures on all in attendance and keeping track in case tracing would be necessary, and seating people in every third pew. We did not sing and we kept the services under 45 minutes. I am very proud of the Church Council for making all the arrangements to keep all of us safe. During this time, I continued to send bulletins with sermons to the home bound.

In mid-November we were once again asked to cease in-person worship service and we continue that practice as of the end of January 2021. We continue to follow the guidance of the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, and the Illinois Department of Health.

Once the pandemic began, pastors were no longer able to visit church members in the nursing homes and at the hospitals, so in-person pastoral care was impeded. During the first month, I tried to

make phone calls to parishioners to be sure they had what they needed to stay safe at home. I put together some small Christmas boxes for members in O'Fallon, Belleville, and Fairview Heights just so they knew they were not forgotten during the holiday. With the help of Nancy Eisenhower, Sharon Banjavcic, Sue Williams, and Lew Thomasino, we video recorded a brief Christmas Eve service for all to watch.

During 2020 I officiated one private wedding service and four funerals. In April we began a Zoom Bible Study on Tuesday evenings which I have enjoyed immensely, as we all learn together.

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor. Peace and blessings to all,

Pastor Rosemary Captain

### **President's Annual Report – 2020**

All of us will agree that 2020 was not what we expected. Worship in the church was suspended from March 15 until July 5 and again on November 15 through the end of the year due to the pandemic. We followed CDC guidelines when we returned to in-service worship. Everyone attending worship had a temperature check before entering the sanctuary, masks were worn, and social distancing was maintained.

Some of the projects that were completed before March 15 included:

- Energy efficient thermostats were installed so the temperature can be regulated when no one is in the building. A rebate check from Ameren was received after the installation of the new thermostats.
- A switch to Spectrum for Internet service was made in February to reduce costs.
- Bathrooms were changed to uni-sex. One of the bathrooms received a new coat of paint.
- The work on the chimney and tuck pointing was complete.

During the suspension of worship in the sanctuary, Pastor Rosemary emailed or sent via U.S. mail the weekly bulletin and sermon.

A Bible Study group was formed in March. The group meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings.

A Food Drive was held on June 6 to collect food and money for the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.

The church treasurer, Ginny Ganschinetz, applied for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. The church was given a Paycheck Protection Program loan. This money was used to pay salaries during the first few months of the pandemic. We anticipate the PPP loan will be fully forgiven since Ginny was very careful in following their guidelines.

The Church Council has met each month via Zoom.

Our Christmas Eve service was recorded and published to the St. John Facebook website and YouTube channel because no in-person worship service could be held.

St. John continues to serve its members and the community. Thank you for all your support.

## **11/11/2020 Proposed Additions and Changes to By-Laws**

### **ARTICLE X. CHURCH MEETINGS**

#### **(Proposed change to By-Laws)**

**(Old)** 1. The meetings of this church shall consist of three meetings per year: January, April, and September. The January meeting is considered the annual meeting. Prior to this meeting, the Council, the officers of the church, the Pastor(s), and ... The April and September meetings are to consist of financial reports and the status of the church.

**(Change)** 1. The church shall have an annual meeting, mid-year meeting, and other meetings as deemed necessary. Prior to the annual meeting, the Council, the officers of the church, the Pastor(s), and ... The mid-year meeting will be conducted to discuss financial reports and the status of the church.

#### **(Additions to By-Laws)**

3. If necessary and properly communicated to the Congregation of St. John UCC in Fairview Heights, all Congregational Business meetings may be conducted remotely by one (1) or more means of communication through which all voting Congregational members may participate and vote in the meeting if the number participating constitutes a quorum (10%).

### **ARTICLE VII. COUNCIL**

#### **(Proposed addition to By-Laws)**

11. Any meeting of a Council approved Committee may be conducted by one (1) or more means of remote communication through which all voting committee members may participate and vote.

12. Any meeting of the Church Council may be conducted by one (1) or more means of remote communication through which all voting Church Council members may participate and vote in the meeting if the number participating constitutes a quorum (4 members).

### **EVENING CIRCLE**

The Evening Circle meets at 7:00pm on the third Monday of each month from September to April.

Sub Sandwiches and Turtles were made in January. We also signed Valentines to be sent to local veterans and of course we sent birthday cards to church members.

Unfortunately due to Covid we were not able to hold meetings in March or April. The ladies met in July to distribute the proceeds from our fundraisers. The proceeds were given to the parking lot fund , KinderCottage, Hoyleton and Camp Dubois. Even though we were not able to meet we did have a mask fundraiser in the fall. Thanks to Nancy Eisenhower 83 masks were made and the congregation was very generous with their donations.

We met again in September for election of officers. Eileen made packets for everyone for October, November and December. She included a box for our monthly donation and activities for each month.

In December though we were unable to hold our usual Christmas Party we did sponsor a child at KinderCottage for Christmas and our special offering will be given to the Fairview Heights Food Pantry. The ladies signed Christmas cards to be delivered to veterans.

Hopefully in 2021 we will be able to meet. Again. All ladies of the church are welcome to join us. We would love to see you there!

## **MEMBERSHIP**

After losing 2 of our members, Barbara Moran and Betty Hayes, our membership is at 91.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

There will be four Council members starting new terms again this year - **Tom Miller** and **Ginny Ganschietz** have agreed to take an additional term. **Chuck Kistler** and **Becky Riess** have been asked to join the Council. There will also be an opportunity for nominations from the congregation at the meeting.

## **FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS AREA FOOD PANTRY SUMMARY**

In spite of the restrictions due to COVID19, the St. John UCC continued to support the pantry with food items and monetary donations. St. John's congregation contributed over 1,750 food items and \$2,500 in cash. Some members drove through the church drive-by food drive, some mailed checks to the church and pantry, and others brought donations directly to the pantry. For those reasons statistics I present here are an incomplete listing of how we at St. John continue to help the pantry provide food for Fairview Heights residents who are food insecure.

Although the pantry was closed down April and May due to the COVID 19 lockdown, they served 88 families which adds up to providing food for 2,839 people in 2020. There were 85 new families who sought food help at the pantry in 2020.

Because of St. John's , other Fairview Heights churches, organizations, businesses and individuals GENEROUS GIVING, the pantry was able to increase amounts of food given to those in need.

Thank you all for helping meet the needs of our neighbors.

Sue Ganschinietz

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Congregational Annual Meeting for all members will be held Sunday, January 31 at 10:15 via Zoom If you do not have the internet, you can still attend the meeting by way of your telephone.

**Topic:** *Annual Congregational Meeting 2021*

**Time:** *Jan 31, 2021 10:15 AM Central Time (US and Canada)*