

Internet Technologies Team 2019-20 Annual Report

Submitted by Sandy Simon & Don Winsor

The volunteers from the Internet Technologies group (or web team) are responsible for the operation and overall organization of the uuaa.org web site. The group also addresses technical issues, interfaces with our Internet service provider (currently UUism.net) and helps answer technology related questions. Content updates are submitted to “webtech@uuaa.org” by program leaders and UUA staff.

In addition to the website, the team loosely manages the main UUA Facebook page, which currently has 1644 followers.

The closing of the building and social distancing required to prevent COVID-19 spread led to many changes in our Facebook and Web presence.

- All UUA web information, Facebook information and Google business information had to be updated to reflect the lack of building hours, Zoom reservations (instead of Room reservations), online services, no SGD program, and more.
- We have become primarily an online community. Facebook postings and website postings have been increasingly important to our communications.
- To address the isolation of the COVID-19 “shelter at home” rules, Rev. Cassandra Hartley started a private community Facebook group, which she administers. That group has 287 members and seems to be very helpful to members struggling with the pandemic anxiety.
- Sermons are online and the webtechs now have additional duties- on Sundays set new links to Youtube services and Zoom social hour and on Wednesdays to Rev Manish’s Zoom meditation.
- There is a new video sermon archive page with links to the video services and to music and story segments of services
- A daily centering thought was added to the front page.
- For non-Facebook users, some links to music, poems, photos that appeared in the Community Facebook Group were also posted on the website, to help with coping.

Some of these changes will need rethinking and sustainable solutions once there is a “next normal”. The confusion caused during the pandemic has highlighted awareness of our lack of coordinated communications—ie: inconsistencies in information provided to the web, FB, bulletin & newsletter; lack of a staff person or lay group making decisions about communications.

A positive development this year-- Two lay volunteers are now keeping specific areas of the website dynamic and current – Larry Works is managing the Challenging Racism and UU the Vote pages and keeping lots of current news and actions updated, and Sy Ali is going to be keeping the Womyn’s Community news updated.

The web team has continued with a stable hard working core group of volunteers for some years now. The current members are Don Winsor (chair), Bob Hospadaruk (Facebook), Connie Lippert, Tricia Mooney, Sandy Simon and Brandy Sinco.