

Internet Technologies Group 2019 Annual Report

Submitted by Sandy Simon & Don Winsor

The volunteers from the Internet Technologies group are responsible for the operation and overall organization of the uaaa.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 office staff.

The uaaa.org web site needs an updated look, but this has not become a congregational priority yet. Barriers include: need for a graphic vision for the site; current volunteer staff is not adequate to do a platform transition if that is determined to be a need; we would also need a plan for getting more photographs, since newer web sites have many more photographs and videos.

Our website gets over 800 distinct visitors each month.

We continue to rely on monthly “webtech” volunteers to make updates to the site. This has been more difficult this year because very few UUAA leaders send in information, so that the webtech needs to actively look for news and events to post. Some improvements were made this year by using photos and information from last year’s “Search” web site. There were added sections for new UUAA activities.

The web team (Sandy Simon and Bob Hospadaruk) also loosely oversees the UUAA general Facebook page. This year we welcomed more postings by office staff and ministers. Our FB page now has over 1500 followers. This year’s Facebook posts sometimes reached 1500 people with a lot of interest shown in our sanctuary/asylum activities and Rev. Manish’s installation. People viewing the pages are 71% female, mostly from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, but scattered all over the world, including 6 from our partner church in Romania and 16 friends in the Khasi Hills.

It is worth noting that our social justice voice has expanded this year through Facebook postings about our asylum work and other projects. These postings have been “shared” with congregations throughout the UU world and to social justice organizations and included wonderful comments like “can our congregation do this also?”.

The web team has continued with a stable hard working core group of volunteers.

We anticipate that sometime in the next two years we will need to recruit new people to staff a “makeover” and also clarify communications needs/ processes with office staff and leadership.

The current core members of this group are Don Winsor (chair), Bob Hospadaruk (Facebook), Connie Lippert, Tricia Mooney, Sandy Simon and Brandy Sinco.