

## UUG Annual Report

### Church Year 2022-2023

At our spring business meeting, I mentioned that our by-laws call for an annual report to be delivered at that meeting. I told those present that, in order to save time, I would submit a written report instead of delivering it on that afternoon. This is the report I promised.

When the church board and leadership team met for the first time in July 2022, I invited attendees to identify things that needed to be done to “rebuild” the congregation in the aftermath of our reduced activity due to Covid. We ended with a list of 25 action items. I’m not going to go into all 25, because I want this report to be succinct enough that some of you will actually read it.

One of them involved the church organ. The question of whether to keep our organ had come up years before, and there were strong feelings on both sides. The issue now had new urgency because the large television that has become part of our worship experience was occupying space where the organ once sat, leaving us with the problem of where to put this large instrument in our small sanctuary. The board wanted congregational opinion on this matter, so we put it before the congregation at our fall planning meeting.

I am highlighting this issue not because it was the most important thing we had to deal with, but because of the way it worked out. At the meeting, people expressed their opinions, and they didn’t all agree, but everyone expressed themselves in a respectful way, and listened to others’ views. A decision was made to see if we could find an instrument that would provide much the same sound without taking up so much floor space. A committee was formed on the spot, and they ultimately found a keyboard which provides the sound of an organ, but with a much smaller footprint.

It seems to me that this is a wonderful example of how a loving community can deal positively with disagreement. Thanks to everyone who played a part.

As to the other items on our list, that we decided against, or that were postponed for later. What follows are highlights of items that have been completed, or are now in progress.

--Potluck Sunday has been resumed.

--We clarified what parking spaces are available to us on Sundays, and on evenings and weekdays.

--We have a new, and greatly improved website. If you haven’t visited the site, please take a look.

--We now have a current master calendar of events at the church which is being maintained regularly, and which is easily accessed from our website.

--The board and church leaders have received training on the UU Clerical Drive, which is a repository for significant church documents, many of which had gone missing in prior years.

--A workgroup has formed and begun to work on the issue of Religious Exploration for children.

--Live music, including piano, organ, and the choir, has returned to our worship.

--Preliminary work has begun on remodeling our kitchen to provide more storage, and to improve its appearance and functionality.

--As part of our lease negotiation, I am working with Trinity on getting front doors that are more secure and energy-efficient.

I think this is the place to end this report. You will notice that I have not tried to speak for the church's various standing committees, and I have avoided identifying individuals whose efforts have contributed to our progress. I know that if I tried, I would omit some important accomplishment or leave out some key person, so I hope you will forgive me for simply saying thank you to all of you who have generously given your time and talents to our little congregation. You are the best.

Gratefully submitted,

Don Zigler, Board President