

Internet Technologies Group 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.

Our website gets over 1000 distinct visitors each month. The most visited pages on our site include "About Us", "Sermons and Forums", "Ministers and Staff", "Directions and Transportation", and "What UUs believe", indicating that many non-members access our site every week.

The 2016-17 year brought a few cosmetic changes to the web site to make the colors and other small aspects of the site look more like the UUA template used by many UU congregations. Some of the groups that updated and expanded their content included the Partner Church, Governance information from the Governance Task Force, Chalice Circles and some of the Social Justice ministries.

The web team also loosely oversees the UUA general Facebook page. That page now has 1260 “fans”. Each Facebook post reaches between 30 and 850 people. People viewing the pages are 70% female, mostly from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, but scattered all over the world: 12 from India, some from the Philippines, Pakistan, Germany, etc.

Future work:

- We are working with the office to plan a transition to a new web hosting service in the near future. Our current host servers have had too much down time. This is especially disruptive since email stops working for all uaaa.org addresses. Several times email has been down for over 24 hours.
- We are expecting requests for updates to make the web site in best possible shape for candidates as we head into our Search for a new Senior Minister. A video tour of the building, more photographs and other improvements may be needed.
- We need to recruit a few more people to help with improvements and bring fresh eyes to a group that has been stable for a long time.
- We need to work on our procedures for receiving news and content for the web site. This has not been working as well as it used to.

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