

St. Louis Association
2020 President of the Association Council Report
September 19, 2020

What can anyone say about 2020? Plans were made. Plans were changed. Plans were postponed. Plans were cancelled. I think that pretty much covers the year since mid-March.. But even with all of the changes and troubles, your Conference Council has been meeting and working hard in the midst of the pandemic.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the merging of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Conference with the Missionary Federation of the United Church of Christ of Greater St. Louis to form the current St. Louis Association. The Federation was instrumental in the development of our Evangelical missions in the St. Louis area. Fifty-five years ago the former Congregational Churches and the former Evangelical & Reformed Churches formed the Federation from the former Missionary Society and Missionary Federation. This year is the 180th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Church here in St. Louis, and the 400th Anniversary of our Congregational ancestors coming to North America. What a year to celebrate! Thanks to St. John's United Church of Christ, Mehlville, for their help in the planning of the celebration that we had planned in May. Hopefully we will be able to celebrate this May. We will be looking for volunteers and sending out more information once we see how the pandemic plays out this fall and winter.

One positive aspect this year was each week the presidents of the Eastern and Western Associations, the moderator of the Conference and I have met weekly for discussions and plans for the Conference during the pandemic. This is the first time in many years that the Conference and associations have had such an open dialogue. A new Sunday School program, developed by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, has been part of this discussion. Very soon it will be released electronically for churches to use during the fall, filmed mostly by people in our Conference. Through this work, we have also begun discussions on how to bring some smaller churches together to have Sunday School virtually with other churches. So a church in St. Louis Association with just a small group of kids, might be able to team with a church in our Association or Eastern or Western Association for Christian Education in ways that we never really considered prior to the pandemic.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to serve the Church in Little Rock, Memphis and St. Louis. This ministry is important. Consider volunteering for the Association in 2021. We are truly blessed by this amazing covenant.

Blessings to you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Remelius
St. Louis Association Council
Grace United Church of Christ