

St. Louis Association
2019 President of the Association Council Report
September 28, 2019

2019 has been an important year in the St. Louis Association. Following the lead from the Missouri Mid-South Conference, your Association Council has begun discerning the future of our covenant in Memphis, Little Rock, and St. Louis. 2020 will be even more exciting, as we continue this discernment and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the St. Louis Association. In the Spring of 1970, the Missionary Federation of the United Church of Christ in Greater St. Louis merged with the St. Louis Association of the United Church of Christ to form what we now know as the St. Louis Association.

I began as president this summer after Heather Arcovich resigned. We have been truly blessed to have Heather's leadership these last few years, and I wish Heather the best of everything as she begins her new ministry. I would also like to thank Barb Black for her help over the last few years. Both Heather and Barb are concluding their terms of service on the Association Council.

Over the past year, we have had two gatherings of the Association. Last Fall, we gathered at the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being to explore our covenant lead by Jane Fisler Hoffman. In the Spring we came together at First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ for "BREAD Talks," our own take on NPR's Moth Radio Hour and TED Talks. Great stories of faith were shared that evening.

As we continue to discern our next steps, the St. Louis Association Council is asking for a vote to allow us to continue using our current bylaws. Hopefully we will bring forward ideas to you about possible changes to the bylaws at our Fall Annual Business meeting in 2020.

I'm very excited about the plans starting to bubble-up for us to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of the Association. If you would like to help with this celebration, please see any of the Association Council members or me. We will need a lot of help. 2020 also marks two other important anniversaries: the 55th Anniversary of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church officially joining together in St. Louis; and the 180th Anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Synod of North America.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered within the Association this year. We are truly blessed to have each other.

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