

## **Report of the Fox Valley Association to the Illinois Conference Council**

October 12, 2024

The council of the Fox Valley Association has been diligently continuing its work, while not all of our goals were met, many were met, as we are still reconnecting and rebuilding post-Covid and in the midst of transitions in the Illinois Conference.

The Association council has largely been meeting monthly since the September Fall Meeting.

We held an in-person Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the Christ Tamil Church in Downer's Grove. This was a program meeting that began with Rev. Jagan Samuvelraj and members of his church leading us in worship. This was followed by the lay leadership explaining the history of Christ Tamil and the particular issues facing Tamil immigrants and immigration, including a huge (multi-year) backlog of visas. Visas for Indian clergy is even worse, and many face having to return to India even though the families are firmly and gainfully living in the US. The program was rounded out with workshops on Stewardship, Exodus World Service, and Social Media and the Church. Lunch featured Indian dishes prepared by members of the church.

The Fox Valley Association met on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Congregational Church of Batavia in Batavia. The meeting began with worship led by the pastor, Rev. Paige Wolfanger and her music team. This was followed by three presentations and Q&A:

- Illinois Conference status and vision — Rev. Terrill Murff
- Camp Forward — Rev. Rudra Dundzilla
- Governance Task Force — Kathy Hummel

Among the regular business of the meeting was the elections of FVA Council. They are:

Moderator: Rev. Paige Wolfanger

Vice-moderator:

Secretary: Kathy Hummel

Treasurer: Frank Zavaski

Member-at-large: Robin Thomas

Member-at-large: Michelle McNamara

We also elected the full slates General Synod Delegates nominees (to be voted on at the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration, and Committee on Ministry members.

The Committee on Ministry is:

Chairperson: Rev. Liz Patz clergy woman

Members:

Bret Johnson lay man

Rev. Ruth Farrell clergy woman

Ellen Marschall lay woman

Rev. Jeanne Murawski clergy woman

Rev. Michael Smith clergy man

Rev. Seth Carey clergy man

Rev. Catherine Erwin clergy woman

Rev. Erin Weima clergy woman

Gail Paul lay woman

Rev. Alex Molozaïy was elected as chair of the Nominating Committee.

Following the meeting a taco lunch was provided by Fernando's Street Kitchen in Batavia, and desserts and beverages were provided by church members.

Submitted by,

Rev. Selena L. Blackwell, OCC

Moderator, Fox Valley Association.