

## **President's Report**

For the second time in as many years the current Covid 19 Pandemic stands between us and in-person gathering for our Annual Meeting. It does appear though that a more usual annual meeting can take place next year.

That said, the past year has been remarkable in some ways. Ways in which we can project with some confidence that not only have we survived, but we have done so with the gain of new skills and likely a greater appreciation for the connections we have enjoyed without total recognition.

Top of mind for me is that a most significant accomplishment has been that we have not lost any congregation members to the Covid-19 virus. This is, I think, especially positive when we consider the overall demographics and vulnerability of our membership.

With the aid of the Baja 4 congregations we have been able to have ongoing, though electronic, Sunday Services that are more supportive than any one of us might have been likely to achieve alone. This has the added value of enhancing the knowledge and connections among our congregations. The longer term value of this is open to further exploration.

Alongside of this we have had the chance to gain a much better perspective on the strengths and weaknesses of communications without direct face to face interaction. I refer here to the accomplishments and struggles of the Accompaniment Project. While communications of multiple forms happen, there is a lack of intimacy in each as well as the seeming abruptness of only having words without eye contact and body language connection to moderate understanding of the message being communicated.

As a personal aside, I suspect the I will long be remembered as the first, and hopefully only, President of the BUU Board to serve an entire year without attending a single Sunday Service in our Sanctuary.

Hugh Rhine  
President