



Annual Report 2019-2020





Our Mission

Sister Parish exists to foster mutual understanding and commitment to peace and justice among people in the United States and Central America. This objective is pursued through intentional linking between churches and Christian communities in the United States and in Central America. Delegation travel to the North and South with home stays is an essential aspect in enhancing awareness and understanding, and in nurturing closer relationships.

Our Vision

We believe the Kingdom of God is already present but not complete, and the liberating Gospel calls us to work together to build this Kingdom through: consciousness-raising, solidarity, reconciliation, and ecumenism.

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www.sisterparish.org



“In this time of division and suspicion of other cultures and peoples of the world..
what could be more important than welcome and invitation into someone else’s life?
It dispels fear, creates bonds of trust and gives us a shared humanity.
I believe this is what the gospels call us to be. “ — *Ana Vagle*

2020 Letter from Board Secretary Cathy Burrell



The Sister Parish, Inc. Board and staff began January excited about the new year. Most of the Board participated in the Open Delegation in November 2019 and were energized by visiting the communities in El Salvador and Guatemala. Several 2020 delegations were being planned between our linkages in Central America and the United States. In February, Wallingford United Methodist Church visited Guarjila.

Then the world learned about COVID-19, a contagious respiratory illness quickly spreading across the world. The symptoms were similar to the flu but complications could cause more serious illnesses and even death. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic in March. Around the world, businesses shut down and people quarantined in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. Travel was restricted and delegation travel was cancelled.

Sister Parish, Inc. could no longer operate in its usual way. Many people in El Salvador and Guatemala could no longer work due to quarantines and lockdowns. The pandemic left communities already living in poverty at risk of more hunger and illness. The Board and staff made it a priority to help Sister Parish communities in need and created an emergency relief fund. Through the generosity of donors, over \$45,000 was raised. The Sister Parish emergency aid fundraiser provided every Sister Parish community with aid money to use as they defined their greatest need. The majority of funds disbursed were being used for food. In the absence of government aid, Sister Parish Inc.'s community leaders organized efforts to help their neighbors in providing food baskets to help families through these tough times.

Hurricanes Eta and Iota hit Central America in November. At least four Sister Parish communities were affected. Sister Parish was able to provide emergency aid to these communities because of the relief funds.

2020 Letter from Board Secretary, *continued*

In addition to providing emergency relief, we needed to find ways to continue to grow our relationships between the north and south even through a global pandemic. We found ways to connect by transitioning to online communications. Partner communities shared Zoom Bible studies, committee meetings, and conversations about the impact of the pandemic. Sister Parish, Inc. also organized presentations by speakers from Central American communities. Speakers included Miriam López of CORDES in El Salvador, Dina Velásquez, President of the cooperative and community center UPAVIM in Guatemala, and Miriam Vásquez, a nurse in an urban clinic. We learned so much from these community leaders about their experiences.

The Board asked what more we could do to bring our communities together and carry out the mission of Sister Parish. Out of this conversation grew the

idea of a virtual delegation. Since we couldn't be together in delegations, we could be together virtually. We could build our relationships and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador and Guatemala in a new way. Our goals would be the same as in-person delegations—to share our cultures and faith, strengthen our relationships and to inspire action toward peace and justice. It was a labor of love by the Sister Parish Board, staff and communities to create a delegation experience that connected us. From November 15-21 our communities came together for live sessions, current event presentations, music videos, a cooking video and story time videos. Thirteen out of fourteen southern communities participated.

In spite of the pandemic, Sister Parish, Inc. continued to live out its mission of strengthening the relationships we facilitate. We came together this year, connecting in new ways. The bonds between our northern and southern communities are so strong that even a worldwide pandemic couldn't stop us from coming together to learn, laugh and share the love we have for one another.

—Cathy Burrell



2020 Sister Parish Inc. Board of Directors and Directivas



Sister Parish, Inc. Staff

El Salvador Regional Coordinator—Julieta Borja
Guatemala Regional Coordinator—Brian Tyler
Executive Director—Carrie Stengel

United States

Bruce Sherman
Maria Van Der Maaten
Cathy Burrell
Kate Casserly
Patricia Cespedes-Schueller
Luis Cuyun
Linda Main

Guatemala

Lorena Ramirez
Victor Chun Chub
Concepcion Mateo
Ricardo Choc
Nicolas Segura
Irene Alonso

El Salvador

Marleny Henríquez
Carlos Quintanilla
Consuelo Ayala
Ana Morales
Miriam López
Juventina Ramírez



On the South to North delegation, “we saw how people here care about what is happening in the world... We want to raise awareness with our youth about migration and we want to give bread to the hungry in our community too. Now we have more tools and ideas. Our experiences here give us strength to continue working even harder in our community.” —*Miriam Vásquez and Alba Rivera*

2019 Letter from Board President Maria Van Der Maaten



“The bonds between our northern and southern communities are so strong that even a worldwide pandemic could not stop us from coming together to learn, laugh and share the love we have for one another.”

2019 was an amazing year for Sister Parish, Inc., although it feels so distant now. As a board, we are grateful for the many delegations that continued to realize our vision of building God's kin-dom through cross-cultural, international relationships based on solidarity, consciousness-raising, reconciliation, and ecumenism.

This included an Open Delegation in November 2019 that fomented relationships between community members from El Salvador, Guatemala and the U.S. In 2019 we also had a successful “Solidarity Shout Out” special fundraiser, which leveraged our ability to weather the unanticipated events (and lack of delegation travel) in 2020.

We remain grateful for individual and community partner support in 2019 and beyond, as the pandemic, politics, and natural disasters facing our Sister Parish countries and communities continue to demonstrate how important and compelling our relationships with one another truly are.

—Maria Van Der Maaten



“We shared lunch together under the trees, enjoying wonderful food and then had our goodbye speeches. Many tears flowed - tears of joy, tears of sadness at our visit’s end, and the joy of being together once again. We took the routine picture of our visit next to a tree our first delegation planted - some 9 or so years ago - which has grown and flourished just like our friendship and love. “ —Vicki Schmidt

Financial Report 2019

Income

Donations	\$ \$36,351.33
Projects	\$ 36, 977.18
Delegations	\$ 51,833.60
Member Fees	\$ 14,000
Grants	\$ 6,744
Other	\$ 716.46
Total	\$146,622.57

2019 Expenses

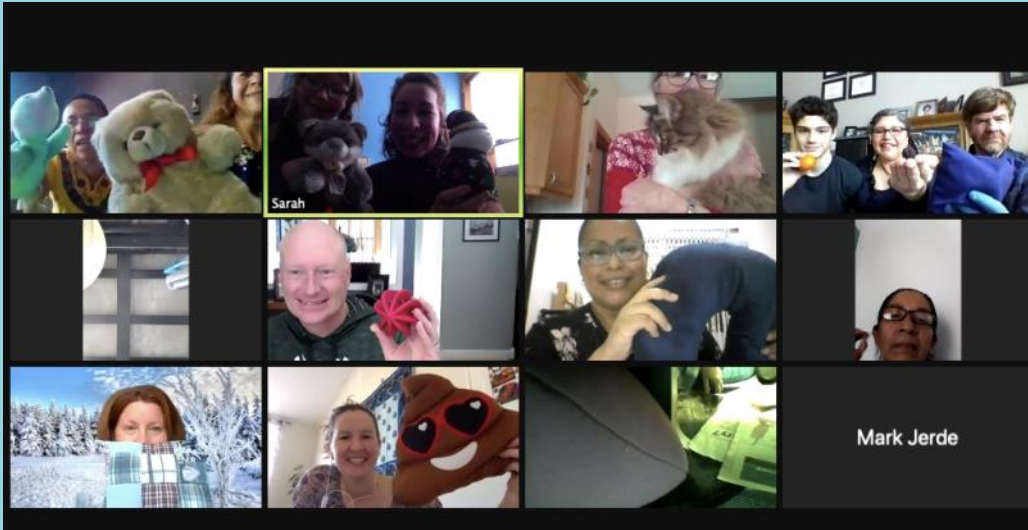


Expense

Delegations	\$28,222.82
Projects	\$36,977.18
Personnel	\$54,158.53
Pandemic Aid	\$30,750.12
Operations	\$5,417.58
Assemblies	\$2,927.74
Facilities	\$2,119.38
Administration	\$1,537.46
Publications	\$1,983.12
Total	\$133,343.81



Financial Report 2020



Income

Donations	\$37,326.68
Pandemic Relief Donations	\$30,493.43
Projects	\$42,583.05
Delegations	\$12,688.70
Member Fees	\$16,000.00
Grants	\$7,149.59
Other	\$215.30
Total	\$146,456.75

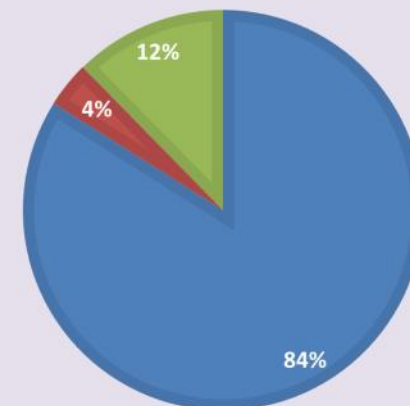
Reports do not reflect Sister Parish assets and liabilities, including project and pandemic relief funds yet to be disbursed.

Expense

Delegations	\$5,051.03
Projects	\$42,583.05
Personnel	\$41,012.68
Pandemic Aid	\$30,750.12
Operations	\$3,644.21
Assemblies	\$591.06
Facilities	\$1,655.88
Administration	\$1,939.53
Publications	\$1,744.99
Total	\$128,972.55

2020 EXPENSES

■ Program ■ Fundraising ■ Management, administration



2019-2020 Sister Parish Donors

Erin Abbey	Angie Carter	David Ericson	Sandra Heidemann
Jean Ackerman	Kate Casserly	Debbie Faber	Jaclyn Henry
William Adamski	Wendy Jo Cerna	Bette & Jim Felton	Nicole Hertel Meirose
Mindy Ahler	Patricia Cespedes-Schueller	Denise Fogarty	Ann Highum
Mary Ahler	Guillaume Charbonneau	Doug & Danielle Fogg	Michael & Mary Holm
Cathy Allen	Vivian Chavez	Brian Forney	Annette Homburger
Christa Anderson	Robert Chesnut	Andrew Freeberg	Gwyneth Homer
Cathy Anhut	Jessica Cook	Leroy Frie	Dottie & Bob Howell
Walter Arreaza	Donald Creighton	Amy Gammill	Carrie Hrousis
Edmond Arseneau	Maureen Crowley	Sarah Gant	Greg & Jenny Huang-Dale
Cornelia B	Luis Cuyun	Jane Gibbons	Sarah & Mark Jerde
Norma Bappe	Rebecca Dale	Julie Giese	Judy & Dave Jerde
Jeanne Basinger	Barb & Jim Dale	Sarah Gleason	Erik Jerde & Elizabeth Doty
Anita Baumgartner	Patricia Davis	Linda Graf	Bob & Joanne Jokela
Carol Bell	Robert Day	Rose Grengs	Nancy Jones
Nathan Benn	Valerie Dean	Marianne Grisez	Jean Jones
James Berglund	Mary Deauclaire	Bernie Grisez	Charles Jordan & Joe Larson
Gary & Judy Besch	Robin DeCook	Karen Grosscup	Mathew Kane
Dorothy Bisek	Richard Derrenbacher	Meghan Grossman	Tia Karelson
Deborah Bishop	Franklin & Eunice Dietrich	Gloria Guerrero	Kathryn Kasch
Roy Blackwood	Richard & Pam Dodge	Michael Haasl	Leslie Knoblauch
Nancy Bohada	Nate & Kate Dodge	Marta Hall	Carol Krush
Michael Branigan	Joan Dodge	Don & Marion Hall	Sara Laczó
Bridget Brehen	Peter Dodge & Madison Munn	Francisca Hanson	Gary Larson
Laural Briggs	Karen Doering	Alan Harper	Elizabeth Lebakken
Mary Buhr	Alexandra Durbin	Darren Harris	Boyung Lee
Ray Bunnage	Mary Edwards	Jean Hartman	Shannon Lockhart
Elizabeth Burden	Louise Eidsmoe	Margaret Hasselman	Marie Weber Lubeley
John Burrell	Miriam Eisele	Elaine Hauff	Charles Lutz
Chris & Alice Burrell	David Engelman	Jason & Catherine Haugland	Linda Main
Cathy & Bob Burrell	Joan Engelsgaard	Jean Heberle	Katharine Malaga & Ross Starkson

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with corrections or suggestions. Thank you.

JJ Malone
Claire Marich
Linda Mashburn
Mary Ellen Maxell
Francis McAnulty
Bob McFeeters
Kathleen McGrane
Lori McNelis
Rosemarie Merrigan
Heidi Meyer
Judith Miller
Kathleen Milligan
James Mong
Michael Moore
Emily & Joseph Moore
Ellen Moore
Trish Moosbrugger
John Moosbrugger
Henry Mott & Marty Prentice
Dennis & Marah Nelson
Nikki Nichols
Diana Nielsen
Jeff & Rita Nohner
Mary Ellen Olson
Karen Orren
Ina & Ray Osborn
Francis Paine

Robert Patterson
Maureen Perry
Diane Pittman
Jeff Plitzkow & Debbie Nelson
Gaylene Poretti
Tom Pouliot
Anita Rapone
Arlene Reed
John Reinhardt
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Ashley Rivas
Sue Roman
Colin Roney
Susan Ryan
Mark Scannell
Margaret Schiefer
Vicki Schmidt
Marshall Schmitt
Patrice & Patrick Schober Branigan
Alisa Schofield
David Schott
Paul Scott
Susan & Jack Sell
Marie Shaw & Colleen Fox
Francine Sheppard
Bruce Sherman
Kathleen Shiring

Elizabeth Simpson
Dory Sjoblom
Michael Spellman
Susan Spence
Janice Stang
Mark Stengel
Jim Stengel
Elizabeth Struthers Malbon
Robert
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Irene Thommes
Jacqueline Thompson
Marie Thorsten
Marilyn Trouth
Michael Troutman
Maria Van Der Maaten
Andrew Van Der Maaten
Rosey Vogan
Mary Wagner
Karen Waldron
Amy Webber
Bob & Kathy Wedl
Evalynn Welling
Rose Welton
Gary Wiens
Nancy Wiens & Rick Nelson
Bill Williams

& Linda Reeve
Gary Withey
Cindy Wolslegel
Phillips Wood
Mark & Jan Young
Therese Zink
Lee Zook & Jan Heikes



“I learned that I do not need to speak or understand a language to share my heart or receive the love of another.” —2019 Delegate





Special Thanks to everyone who
donated to the pandemic relief funds.

Thank you to all who donated time and in-kind gifts
to the Sister Parish mission. Special thanks to
Gary Larson for his accounting support.

Thank you to the Community Foundation of
Northeast Iowa, Thrivent Choice and Amazon Smile
for grants to Sister Parish, and to those who direct
donations through these programs.



Sister Parish Member Communities

Christ Episcopal Church
San Andrés Itzapa Episcopal Community

Danville Congregational Church
San Antonio Catholic Church

North Dakota Committee
San Marcos Evangelista, Tierra Nueva I

First Lutheran Church of Duluth
San Antonio Los Ranchos

Trinity Episcopal Church
San José la Montaña

FUMC Decorah
Potrerillos

Downers Grove FUMC
UPAVIM

Wallingford United Methodist Church
Guarjila

East Orrington Congregational Church
Virginia

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church,
Tierra Nueva II

St. Thomas Lutheran Church

Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Chichipate

Catholic Community of
St. Francis of Assisi
Las Margaritas II

People of Hope Lutheran Church
ACOMUJERZA



“I prefer a Church which is
bruised, hurting and dirty
because it has been out on the
streets, rather than a Church
which is unhealthy from being
confined and from clinging
to its own security.”
—POPE FRANCIS

