



Ann Asper Wilson
Pastor 1992 – 2005

Born July 1, 1947, in Boston Massachusetts.

Gained several degrees, authored a book on Down's Syndrome. Gained a Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri.

Family: husband Harry, children – Harry Junior, Lucy, and Samuel.

Served as pastor at other churches before the Board of Directors of the Illinois South Conference called her to the position of Interim Minister for the conference in 1985.

As such, she served seven years with seven churches, one being St. Paul UCC in Belleville.

On September 15, 1992, she relinquished her Interim Ministry position to accept a two-year Assistant Pastor position at St. Paul's Church.

Upon the retirement of Pastor Trnka, Wilson became the Senior Pastor.

Celebrated the 25th anniversary of her ordination on May 23, 1999 and her 30th on January 16, 2005.

The church began a food pantry in her tenure under the leadership of Mr. Jerry Messick of our congregation. It evolved into the current Community Interfaith Food Pantry with an ecumenical membership of city churches.

Continuation of the Franklin Neighborhood Association under Al Wunderlich.

Wilson shepherded St. Paul's in handling the UCC General Synod's non-binding resolution to bless same-sex unions.

She maintained the advantages of keeping the church in downtown Belleville, expanding the outreach programs. In 2000, a UCC church mission trip went to Honduras with St. Paul's and other UCC volunteers.

On July 14, 2002, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Welcome Center for the church. It was dedicated on April 27, 2003.

Wilson left St. Paul's on August 31, 2005, to a pastoral position at the First Congregational Church of St. Louis, Missouri.

Information Source:

Material in the church archives.