

UUSJ Committee and Task Force Reports

Advocacy Oversight Committee Report 3-11-2014

Al Carlson, Lavona Grow, Pat Karlsen and Ed Kringer,

Pat, Ed and Lavona, three of the four members of the Advocacy Oversight Committee, met Friday March 7th. A proposed structure was discussed by which this Committee will provide general oversight, guidance and assistance to issue specific task groups. The Committee will establish the details of what each task group is expected to do to ensure effective advocacy: issue papers, letters to congressional members, background information, draft letters, emails, and phone scripts. It will be the responsibility of the issue task groups to actually develop these documents to be used by the issue advocates. The Committee is considering offering within the next two months advocacy small-scale workshops throughout the region to provide "how to" advocacy training (all kinds of advocacy) and to familiarize people with UUSJ's advocacy issues.

As near term objectives, UUSJ needs to accomplish the following:

- The Advocacy Oversight Committee, in collaboration with issue task groups, will oversee the preparation of a document outlining the details/requirements of effective types of advocacy.
- Each member congregation should be encouraged to establish an advocacy group, which will become part of the UUSJ advocacy network.
- The Advocacy Oversight Committee needs to coordinate with the Issues Identification Process Task Force to help identify a process to include consideration of issues that are actionable to be supported by UUSJ. (Ed will serve on the Task Force.)
- The UUSJ Executive Committee needs to reach out to non-member congregations to increase UUSJ membership to strengthen our advocacy network.

Audit Committee Report 3-6-14

I have all of the information needed to conduct the UUSJ audit and have it prioritized after finishing the AUUC Human Resources plan. I hope to have it completed before the next (after 15 March) board meeting. Ed Kringer

Development Committee Report

Members: Kay Scott, John Gubbings, Bob Schurter

The Development Committee is still working on a draft message for fair share to be coordinated with Outreach Committee. Membership renewal letters are planned for this spring.

Planning for efforts to generate new members and visits to congregations to encourage fair share contributions need to be coordinated efforts so that pitches do no conflict and are complementary. An action plan is needed that takes into account Outreach and congregation visit planning.

Immigration Task Force (IMTF) Report 3-8-2014

The UUSJ Immigration Task Force is successfully launched!

On February 22 a meeting was convened of some 20 former members of the UUSJ Immigration Project Oversight Group and others who had expressed interest in UUSJ immigration activities. The purpose of the meeting was to help put together an **Immigration Action Plan**.

Attendees were provided a briefing on UUSJ's new approach to advocacy and the proposed structure of the new Immigration Task Force - Hal Fuller to serve as coordinator and liaison to the Executive Committee and Board; Dean Wanderer to serve as lead for advocacy; and (subsequent to the meeting) Vicky Castro to serve as lead for education and awareness building.

Following updates on legislative opportunities at the Federal, VA and MD levels (all limited) the group discussed goals, objectives, and brainstormed potential activities by UUSJ.

Out of this meeting developed a comprehensive Immigration Action Plan for the remainder of 2014. The plan focuses on advocacy and on awareness building. It has been submitted to the Executive Committee for its review and blessing.

The Task Force goals for the remainder of 2014 are twofold:

(1) to build working relationships with federal and state legislators and with immigrant action groups as a means of laying groundwork for advocating on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform; and
(2) to increase the awareness of UU members and friends about and support for specific actions that are possible short of comprehensive immigration reform. Among the latter are:

- Virginia in-state tuition rates for “dreamers”;
- Virginia drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants
- A moratorium on federal deportation of immigrant bread winners for families containing U.S. citizens and “dreamers”
- Cancellation of agreements between federal authorities and state and local law enforcement agencies requiring the latter to report all misdemeanor arrests of undocumented immigrants.

In these and related activities UUSJ shall stress the importance of immigration reform as a moral issue; and to the extent authorized, speak on behalf of Unitarian Universalists everywhere.

The initial step in activating the Plan was taken on February 27 when members of the Task Force made "cold calls" on the staffs of the two U.S. senators from Maryland as

part of a UUSJ group on Capitol Hill to advocate on environmental and immigration issues. Similar calls on Virginia's U.S. Senator's offices are planned for later in March, and on key Virginia and Maryland congressional offices in May and June.

On the "Awareness" side, meetings are being arranged with HOLA, VACOLAO, Casa de Maryland, and the UUA "Standing on the Side of Love" Ministry to coordinate increased regional UUA participation in their events. We will also encourage congregations that have not recently offered the UUA course "Immigration as a Moral Issue" to do so this summer or autumn; and encourage wide UUA participation in the First Greater Washington Immigration Film Festival (GWIFF) to be held in October 2014.

Active support in their respective congregations by members of the Board of Trustees will be necessary to ensure the success of several activities, most notably: (1) the course "Immigration as a Moral Issue"; (2) letter writing campaigns; and (3) the Immigration Film Festival.

If Board members have reservations about any of the proposed activities, they should make them known immediately.

Submitted by: Hal Fuller

Nominating Committee Report 3-8-14

The priority of the Nominating Committee this year has been recruiting for members of Standing Committees and Special Committees, and nominating At-Large members of the board. We are currently looking to fill positions on the Nominating Committee, the Development Committee, Outreach Committee, and two At-Large positions on the Board.

In addition, we are recruiting for a second co-chair of the Executive committee to replace Al Carson who would like to step down as soon as possible so that he has enough time to devote to several other commitments that he has.

We are planning to have the descriptions of the various committees posted on to the website so that people have ready access to the information about the different committees. We suggest that these descriptions go onto the Volunteer page with links from the bylaws and governance page. Only the descriptions of the committees would be posted, not the committee members. We will be updating the descriptions a bit and welcome input from your committee.

Please see the accompanying document, UUSJ Committees and Duties, for the latest listing of the various committees' members.

Submitted by Nominating Committee
Nancy Sorden and Pat Karlsen

March 8, 2014

UUSJ Committees and Duties

Standing Committees

1. Development Committee: Catherine (Kay) Scott

John Gubbings
Bob Schurter

- a. Recommend to the board fundraising policies and programs in support of objectives established by the Board to carry out the work of UUSJ.
- b. Oversee the Social Justice Awards Gala.
- c. Implement fundraising programs.
- d. Implement donor development programs including membership renewal efforts.
- e. Maintain contact with and encourage inactive member congregations to participate in UUSJ activities.
- f. Develop orientation materials for new representatives and member congregations.
- g. Actively seek additional members among National Capital area UU congregations.
- h. Actively pursue reactivation of a member congregation that has consistently not fulfilled its responsibilities to the UUSJ. If after one year, this congregation has not responded to these attempts, recommend in writing to the Board of Directors, that UUSJ membership of this congregation be severed.

2. Executive Committee: Al Carlson, Co-Chair Lavona Grow, Co-Chair Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, Secretary John Gubbings, Treasurer Pat Karlsen, At Large

- a. Act for the board and carry on the business of UUSJ in the interval between board meetings promptly.
- b. Present the proceedings of the committee to the board for approval.

3. Finance Committee:John Gubbings, Treasurer, non-voting member
Ethel Gilbert, Chair
Bob Schurter

Membership cannot overlap the Audit Committee.

- a. Oversee all financial activities.
- b. Submit a budget of anticipated revenues and expenses for approval at the board of trustee meetings.
- c. Review requests for funds for new UUSJ-related endeavors.
- d. Annually prepare financial information for use by the UUSJ and member congregations in determining their financial needs.

4. Nominating Committee:Nancy Sorden, ChairPat Karlsen

- 1 open position*
- a. Nominate only those persons who have agreed to have their names put forward for election.
 - b. Prepare a slate of nominees for officers to be announced at the annual board meeting and voted upon.
 - c. Nominate candidates for officers and at-large members on the Executive Committee and members of the standing committees.
 - d. Work with the Executive Director to fill all committee positions.
 - e. Recommend for election persons who meet the criteria for At Large Representative .

At-Large Board Members

Lavona Grow
John Gubbings
Pat Karlsen

Special Committees

5. Advocacy Oversight Group:Lavona GrowPat Karlsen

Al Carlson, consultant
Ed Kringer

6. Audit Committee:Ed Kringer, ChairEd Cochran

Membership cannot overlap the Finance Committee.

- a. Selects own committee members.
 - b. Conduct audit by members according to DC non-profit regulations*.
- *may specify number committee members and selecting an outside auditor.

7. Communication and Outreach Committee:

a. Information TechnologyBill Alsmeyer-Johnson, ChairLavona GrowKiley Mitti, paid consultant

b. Outreach

Marilyn Hathaway
Nancy Sorden
Yaa (Dorothy Johnson)

The committee is responsible for the oversight of the following:

- a. Be responsible for the oversight of the publication and distribution of the UUSJ E-news newsletter.

- b. Work with Administrator to ensure that the Directory of member congregations, representatives and liaison persons is current.
- c. Furnish publicity materials about UUSJ activities to member congregations and to the community as needed.
- d. Maintain a file of notices about the UUSJ found in the news media.
- f. Gather information, pictures, news, etc. from various sources for use in our newsletter and website.
- g. Maintain contacts with congregations to publicize their activities.
- h. Publish information on upcoming meetings and events of interest to UUSJ members.
- i. Oversee the information technology needs of UUSJ and development and maintenance of the website.

8. Program Committee: Pat Karlsen, Chair Marsha White Nancy Boardman

Film Database

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson
Nancy Sorden

9. Social Justice Gala Committee:

Pat Karlsen, Chair
Martha Ades

10. Social Justice Awards Committee:

Pat Karlsen, Chair

1 additional person needed from Board

1 person selected at the time for Nomination review and Award selection only

11. Strategic Plan Implementation Committee:

Steve Buckingham
Hal Fuller

Other Committees

Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures Committee

Carmelita Carter-Sykes

Issues and Priorities SOP

Hal Fuller
Martha Ades
Yaa (Dorothy Johnson)
Ed Kringer

Issue Task Forces

Immigration Task Force:

Vicky Castro - team leader for Awareness & Education
Dean Wanderer - Advocacy & Witness
Many others as of 2/22/2014 Immigration Meeting:
Ed Kringer
Judith Johnson
Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
David Strauss

UUSJ Program Committee Report March 15, 2014

Program: Economic Inequality Matters: Moving Toward Fairness

Place/Date: Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington: Saturday, May 3: 10:00 – 12

In Collaboration: UUCAV, Common Cause

Goal/Background: Economic Inequality is a problem pervasive in our society today.

.What does UUSJ do about it?

.What do Individuals do?

.Find dedicated people to form a task group to work on ideas generated today..

Format: Keynote Speaker

Q & A

Panel – 2 or 3 peoples' reflections

Open Discussion

Note: If you wish to see the film “Inequality for All”, prior to the program, some copies are available for borrowing,. contact the UUSJ office at info@uusj.org.

Members of the Program Committee: Pat Karlsen, Chair; Nancy Boardman; Marsha White