**2nd Draft (3/4/14)**

**UUSJ Immigration Advocacy and Awareness Work Plan 2014**

The 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.

Short Term Objectives (March through June)

1.  ADVOCACY Objective: -To develop legislative relationships through meetings with key legislative staffers.  Aim for third Tuesday of each month.

(a) March - Virginia senatorial staff

(b) April - Maryland congressional staffs

(c) May - Virginia congressional staffs

(d) June - Legislative Oversight Committee staffs

Lead: Dean Wanderer (in coordination with HF and LG)

2. AWARENESS Objective:  To establish cooperative partnerships with immigrant action groups with a view of mutually supporting one another’s activities in the area of education and awareness building.

(a) March - VACOLAO

(b) April - HOLA

(c) May - Casa de Maryland

(d) June – LULAC

Lead: Vicky Castro (in coordination with DW and HF)

3.  ADVOCACY Objective: To establish partnerships and common advocacy agendas with other UU groups and interfaith organizations. (To cover immigration and other UUSJ priorities)

(a)  March - All Souls Church in DC (Lead: Lavona Grow)

(b)  April - Virginia Interfaith Center (Dean Wanderer)

(c)  May - UUM of Virginia and UUM of MD (Dean Wanderer)

(d)  June - UU Standing on the Side of Love Ministry (Lavona Grow)

Lead: Lavona Grow and Dean Wanderer (in coordination with VC and HF)

4. AWARENESS Objective – Encourage UUSJ member congregations to offer UUA course “Immigration as a Moral Issue during 2014-15 if they have not done so since 2012.

Lead: Vicky Castro (in coordination with HF and UUSJ Executive Committee)

5. ADVOCACY Objective: – Convey to Executive Committee and Board need for additional resources to mount effective advocacy campaign (to include fund raising proposal(s).

Lead: Hal Fuller

Medium Term  (July through October).

1.  ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS Objective:  Follow through on opportunities identified in March-June activities. Start pushing on specific legislative issues.

Lead: Hal Fuller in coordination with DW and VC

2.  ADVOCACY Objective:  Build relationships with key members of the Virginia legislature - notably majority and minority leaders in the Senate and the House of Delegates.

Lead: Dean Wanderer in coordination with HF and LG

3. ADVOCACY Objective:  Identify and build relationships with other Virginia State Senators and Delegates who may be instrumental in drafting and passing legislation affecting immigrants.

Lead: Dean Wanderer in coordination with HF and LG

3.  ADVOCACY Objective:  Reach out to other Virginia UU Congregations to develop common immigration-related agendas.

Lead: Hal Fuller in coordination with DW, VC, and LG

4. ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS Objective:  Develop and implement plan for fund raising campaign/event in Jan 2015 to fund advocacy work and "Dreamer" scholarships (split 50/50?).

Lead: Dean Wanderer in coordination with ?????

5. AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY Objective: Launch Region-wide letter writing campaign in all UUSJ member congregations in support of specific proposals identified under GOALS (p.1)

Lead: Vicky Castro in coordination with HF and UUSJ Board Members

6. AWARENESS Objective: Support large turn-out for the first annual Greater Washington Immigration Festival scheduled for October.

Lead: Vicky Castro in coordination with HF and GWIFF Steering Committee

Long term (Post November)

Objectives: Depend on mid-term election results as well as progress made by November in pursuit of other objectives.