

UUSJ Committee and Task Force Reports for April 4, 2015 UUSJ Board Meeting

(Please scroll down-there is a page break between each committee or task force that has submitted a report)

The following committees had nothing to report since the last meeting:

Advocacy Oversight Committee

Audit Committee

Economic Justice Steering Committee

Environmental Steering Committee

Gala Committee

Social Justice Awards Committee

Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

Bylaws and Standard Operations Committee

Issue and Priorities Committee

Governance Committee

UUSJ Update Immigration Task Force: March 27, 2015

The Immigration Steering Committee includes Dean Wanderer, chair, David Strauss, and Lavona Grow.

We are pleased to report that the Steering Committee of the Immigration Task Force launched its new Hill initiative in winter 2015. With Congress firmly in the hands of anti-immigrant forces it is clear that there will not be a comprehensive immigration reform bill considered such as there was in S. 744, the bi-partisan bill passed by the Senate in June 2013. Following the 2014 elections both chambers of Congress appear to be much too conservative to expect positive legislation.

In December 2014 and January 2015 UUSJ leaders consulted with leading progressive groups such as the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Farmworker Justice, and the UUA to map out ways to promote a just and equitable immigration reform program. The strategy until the 2016 elections is to try to prevent negative legislation from passing while educating as many members of Congress as possible on the plight of undocumented and other immigrants living in our communities. Of course, our commitment is largely driven by the Statement of Conscience on Immigration adopted by the UUA General Assembly of 2013 and the activities of our member congregations.

Pursuant to our strategy, we recently conducted visits to the offices of Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). We also participated in a briefing for Senate offices on March 20. Both Sen. Kaine and Rep. Van Hollen's staff were enthusiastic about our involvement in promoting positive immigration reform, and they pledged to keep us informed about any legislation filed by Congressional members hostile to such reform.

The briefing on March 20 was sponsored by Church World Service and the National Immigration Law Council under the Senate sponsorship of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). About 25 Congressional offices participated, plus numerous NGOs, including UUSJ. The focus was to encourage the Administration to use its prosecutorial discretion to avoid deportation of undocumented immigrants, with special attention to those in sanctuary at religious institutions, such as the Denver UU congregation.

The UUSJ Immigration Steering Committee believes it is critically important to present a strong presence on the Hill on behalf of our commitment to immigrants and their families. We will continue to meet with Senators and Representatives from the National Capitol Area and beyond to promote the interests of immigration reform and to educate federal elected officials about UUSJ, our mission, and connection to so many active UUs.

Report submitted by David Strauss on behalf of the Steering Committee

Nominating Committee Report

4/1/15

Nominations of Officers

A candidate needed for second Co-chair.

Role of the second co-chair will be to prepare to be acting co-chair in June of 2016 when the current acting Co-chair, Lavona Grow's second term is up and the current bylaws require her to step off the Executive Committee.

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson is recommended to continue as and be the Nominee for Secretary. Bill has accepted the nomination.

John Gubbings is recommended to continue as and be the Nominee for Treasurer. John has accepted the nomination.

At-Large Members

There are three openings for At-Large members.

Committees

The Nominating Committee needs a third board member.

A draft update of the UUSJ Committee List is attached for review and further update at the April 4, 2015 Board meeting.

Submitted by Nancy Sorden

Chair, Nominating Committee

Draft update

UUSJ Committees and Duties Standing Committees & Issues Task Groups

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:

Lavona Grow, Co-Chair
Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, Secretary
John Gubbings, Treasurer

- 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
Bob Schurter
Jim Alcauskas

Membership cannot overlap the Audit Committee.

Mission/role of committee: The Finance Committee shall recommend to the Board policy for effective and efficient management of UUSJ. It shall review, evaluate and make recommendations to the Board with respect to all business functions of UUSJ including, but not limited to, budget, business records and systems, business planning, and auxiliary enterprises, except for those duties assigned to the Development Committee by these Bylaws.

4. Nominating Committee:

Nancy Sorden, chair
Pat Karlsen

- a. Nominates candidates for officers and at-large member on the Executive Committee and members of the standing committees.
- b. Nominates persons who have agreed to have their names put forward for election.
- c. Prepares a slate of nominees for officers to be voted upon.
- d. Works to fill all other committee positions.
- e. Recommends 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 Grow

Pat Karlsen
Al Carlson, consultant
Ed Kringer

6. Audit Committee:

Ed Kringer, Chair
Ed 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 Technology

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson
Lavona Grow
Kiley Mitti, paid consultant

b. Outreach

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson
Ed Butterworth
Clarke Herbert
Cyn Snavelly

- a. Responsible for oversight of publication and distribution of the UUSJ E-news newsletter.
- b. Works with Administrator to ensure the Directory of member congregations, representatives and liaison persons is current.
- c. Furnishes publicity materials about UUSJ activities to member congregations and to the community as needed.
- d. Maintains a file of notices about the UUSJ found in the news media.
- f. Gathers information, pictures, news, etc. from various sources for use in our newsletter and website.
- g. Maintains contacts with congregations to publicize their activities.
- h. Publishes information on upcoming meetings and events of interest to UUSJ members.
- i. Oversees the information technology needs of UUSJ and development and maintenance of the website.

8. Program Committee:

Martha Ades
 Pat Karlsen, chair
 Marsha White
 Nancy Boardman
 John Gubbings

Mission/role of committee: organize programs for UUSJ around UUSJ's priorities, both as primary sponsor and in collaboration with other organizations.

Film Database

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson
 Nancy Sorden

9. Social Justice Gala Committee:

Pat Karlsen, co-chair
 Martha Ades

10. Social Justice Awards Committee:

Pat Karlsen, Co-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

Other Committees

Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures Committee

Carmelita Carter-Sykes

Issues and Priorities SOP

Martha Ades

Ed Kringer

Governance

Jim Alcauskas

John Gubbings

Al Carlson

Pete Fontaine

Frank Corsara

Nancy Sorden

Core Working Group

Jim Alcauskas

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson

Al Carlson

Lavona Grow

John Gubbings

David Strauss

To re-establish UU presence at the federal level by transforming UUSJ into the group that advances UU principles by engaging UUs in the National Capital Region in advocacy. The Core Working Group intends to help the Board take the necessary implementation steps toward making this commitment to advocacy a reality.

Issue Task Forces

Immigration Task Force:

Dean Wanderer – Chair

Patti Absher

John Gubbings

Lovana Grow

David Strauss

Georgia Pourchot

Marilyn Baker

Jim Alcauskas

Economic Justice Steering Committee

Paul Sturm

Laura Dely

John Gubbings

Ed Kringer

Gene Mulligan

John Horejsi

UUSJ Environmental Steering Committee

Doris Marlin

Eric Goplerud

UUSJ Program Committee Report: March 28, 2015

In the last quarter the Program Committee has been very busy. Committee members include Martha Ades, Co-chair, Nancy Boardman, Lavona Grow, John Gubbings, Pat Karlsen, Co-chair, and Marsha White. UUSJ has provided support to both advocacy and education programs.

- December 6-- UUSJ sponsored a briefing at the Washington Ethical Society that was facilitated by Jessica Halperin, UUA Witness Ministries Program Associate and Susan Goekler, chair of the UUA Commission on Social Witness, which addressed the 2014-2018 UUA Congregational Study Action Issue Briefing: E\$calating Inequality: Bringing it Home to Your Congregation.
- January 10 – UUSJ Regional Environmental group meeting was held at All Souls Church, Unitarian
- February 26 – UUSJ provided support and recruited ministers to attend a UUSC Congressional briefing on Water Affordability and Availability
- March 14 -- UUSJ held a program at National City Christian Church entitled “How to Make Your Climate Efforts Count.” The program provided information on the new UU Commit2Respond program on climate justice and facilitated a strategy session. UUSJ team of volunteers (Lavona, John Gubbings and Bob Denniston, UUCA) stepped in to carry out the program with the presenter, Pam Sparr, UUSC, was not able to come to D.C. due to illness.

Upcoming programs and activities UUSJ is supporting are:

September 10: Grandparent Climate Action Day - to support leaving a livable planet for the next generation

October 18: Annual Social Justice Awards Gala dinner which will be catered and held at Arlington UU Church.

November 14: Bolder Justice: Beyond “Partisan Division,”#2 with the Reverends Scott and Anya Sammler-Michaels, which will be held on the north side of the Beltway.

Submitted by Martha Ades, Co-chair

