

**UUSJ Committee and Task Force Reports and
Committee and Task Group List
for May 16, 2015 UUSJ Annual Meeting**

Reports Submitted as of May 13, 2015:

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Committees that had nothing to report since the last meeting:

Advocacy Oversight Committee (not an active committee)
Audit Committee (not a standing committee)
Economic Justice Task Force (not an active Task Force)
Environmental Steering Committee
Gala Committee
Program Committee
Social Justice Awards Committee
Governance Task Force (formerly Bylaws and Standard Operations Committee)
Issue Selection Process Task Force

Environmental Task Group: May 6, 2015

Steering Committee Members: The Environmental Steering Group includes Doris Marlin, Eric Goplerud, and Lavona Grow.

June 2014-May 2015 Past Activities:

- Leadership by Doris Marlin & Andrea Grosse putting forward an Action for Immediate Witness on climate at UUA General Assembly in June 2014. AIW included in top 6, but did not make the final three.
- September 19, Multi-faith buses to the People's Climate March in New York City. Collaboration between Green Souls, UUSJ and Interfaith Power & Light supported four buses with 150 + passengers for the People's Climate March, joining 400,000 to carry the message to the United Nations and the world about the importance to act for the climate.
- Nov. 1, UUSJ and Cedar Lane supported the Great March for Climate who walked across the country carrying stories beginning in Los Angeles all the way to Washington, with March to the White House, Rally at Lafayette Park, and evening Celebration.
- Quarterly meetings of National Capital Area UUs for Environmental Justice and Climate. January 10- UUSJ Regional Environmental group meeting was held at River Roads UU, Unitarian, 53 people attended. 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 since the presenter, Pam Sparr, UUSC, was not able to come to D.C. due to illness. 28 people attended.
- Developing a stronger AIW for June 2015 GA, Act for a Livable Planet, and the Paris Treaty negotiations this fall. Doris Marlin, Eric Goplerud, Andrea Grosse, Terry Ellen, Jan Dash, Bruce Knotts and many others working to create a strong voice of support prior to Global Climate Treaty discussions and strong UUA presence in Paris.
- April 18 - Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) held a symposium and concert for Earth Day. More than 110 people attended the symposium and 150 attended the concert.
- April 23 – FACS participated in Vienna Green Expo, sharing information about Moral March on Climate, Commit2Act sign-ups
- April 25 – FACS participated in Fairfax SpringFest, sharing information about Moral March on Climate, Commit2Act signups

- March through September – preparations under way for a Moral March for Climate Justice, www.moralactiononclimate.org associated with the Pope’s visit to Washington DC. Moral March scheduled for September 21, additional moral and religious witness activities before and after the march planned, to include Multi-faith Vigil at the Lincoln Memorial and Reflection Pool on Sept 23 & 24th, the dates for the Pope’s address to the joint session of congress.

Upcoming Programs and Activities:

- May TBD meeting of regional environmental activists to coordinate for General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness on Global Climate Treaty, preparation for Moral March on Climate.
- End of June – Pope releases Encyclical citing Climate Change as major moral and social justice issue of our time
- April/May - Outreach to UU youth groups in April/May prior to summer break
- April/May -Outreach to MD DC VA communities to build participation and awareness of need for Delegates to help with General Assembly
- June - Approximately 10 delegates and/or attendees at GA are needed to help with General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, contact Doris Marlin from All Souls UU, dam17th2009@yahoo.com.
- Spring/Summer - Outreach to interfaith congregations to build awareness for September actions during Pope’s visit to DC, and the Moral March for Climate Justice Events.
- September 20 - Moral March for Climate Justice, National Mall, Washington, DC
- September 23&24 – Multi-faith Vigil, and Pope’s address to joint session of Congress on 24 September.
- December - Paris Global Climate Treaty Talks
- January 2016- Recuperation and Next Steps for Moral Action for Climate Justice

Submitted by Doris Marlin on behalf of steering committee

Immigration Task Force: May 11, 2015

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

Past Activities:

We are pleased to report that the Steering Committee of the Immigration Task Force has continued with its White House and Hill initiative in May 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. However, the Executive Orders issued in November 2014 and before, are now the focus for those supporting reform and in need of relief. The Order authorizing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is in play in which many are now renewing their approvals. The Order authorizing Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) remains in litigation.

In April 2015 UUSJ leaders continued to consult 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. We are also petitioning against those activities which are contrary to our Principles.

On May 8, 2015 The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and members of the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region (UUSJ) choreographed the delivery of 4,000 petitions to the Obama administration and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, to end its policy of jailing refugee children and their mothers in detention facilities in the Southwest.

Petitions were delivered simultaneously to the White House and to ICE Director Sarah Saldaña in Washington, D.C. At the same time, a coalition of interfaith advocates delivered the petition to officials at the ICE field office in San Antonio, Texas.

The national petition states, "Jail is no place for children. It is morally unacceptable that hundreds of refugee children and their mothers are currently being imprisoned in detention camps in the Southwestern United States."

Upcoming Programs and Activities:

Finally, we expect to participate in clinics to assist in the preparation of DACA and DAPA applications. We will be training volunteers to prepare application documents following our task force meeting tentatively scheduled for June, 6 2015 at Rockville from 1-4p.m. following the UUSJ Immigration Task Group meeting from 10a.m.-noon.

The UUSJ Immigration Steering Committee believes it is critically important to present a strong presence at the White House and on the Hill on behalf of our commitment to immigrants and their families. We will continue to meet with the President, 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.

Submitted by David Strauss on behalf of the Steering Committee

UUSJ Communications Committee Report – May 16, 2015

Members

Ed Butterworth, Bob Denniston, Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, Clarke Herbert

Recent Accomplishments

The committee met, set goals for the immediate future, and set a bi-weekly meeting date of first and third Tuesdays.

Current Projects

1. Recruiting clergy and lay persons to write entries for our blog.
2. Recruiting folks to do Facebook and Twitter postings.
3. Creating and emailing out a questionnaire regarding our eNews, format, and frequency; coming out soon so please watch for it.
4. Revising the website. The Communications Committee will meet on July 12th to brainstorm features of a new design.
5. Revamping email blast template.

Future Plans

1. Implementing the communications plan.
2. Sending out the eNews survey.
3. Analyzing the eNews survey results.
4. Work with staff, Board Chair, and Board to implement communication changes based on survey results.

Requests/Needs

1. More volunteers to help with media posting and updates.

Specific tasks for media volunteers are:

- Regularly consult the communications plan and media posting calendar.
- Research UU efforts pertaining to a major item on the media calendar. For example, research current and past work done specifically by local UU's around and for Earth Day.
- Using the information researched help develop Facebook and Twitter media postings.

- Meet regularly with Communications Committee, either face to face or on the phone.
2. Volunteers to help with website redesign. No technical skill required as we will discuss color schemes, what we want on the main page, what we want on interior pages. Design discussion will generally be done using a large white board, post-it notes.
 3. A volunteer with experience in producing short videos.