

# Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Board Meeting

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Held at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

## Present:

Armele Vilceus, member, All Souls Church, Unitarian  
Ed Kringer, alternate, Accotink UU Church  
Frances Barlas, alternate, Bull Run UU Church  
John Gubbings, member, at large, Cedar Lane UU Church  
Rachel Perry, member, Davies Memorial UU Church  
Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, member, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church (by phone)  
Janet Overton, member, Paint Branch UU Church  
Jana Kirkman, member, River Road UU Congregation  
Loretta Garcia, member, River Road UU Congregation  
Frank Corsoro, alternate, UU Church of Arlington  
Lavona Grow, member, at large, UU Church of Arlington  
Hannah Pitts, member, UU Church of Arlington  
Al Carlson, member, UU Church in Reston  
Martha Ades, member, UU Congregation of Fairfax  
Ed Butterworth, alternate, UU Congregation of Fairfax  
Nancy Sorden, member, Washington Ethical Society

Pablo DeJesus, UUSJ Executive Director, ex officio

## Absent:

Brendan Orsinger, alternate, All Souls Church, Unitarian  
Larry Underwood, member, Bull Run UU Church  
Carmelita Carter-Sykes, alternate, Paint Branch UU Church  
Pat Karlsen, member, at large, Cedar Lane UU Church  
Kay Scott, member, Cedar Lane UU Church  
Linda Doyle, alternate, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church  
Marti Mackenzie, member, Towson UU Church  
Roger McIntire, member, UU Congregation of Columbia  
Betsy Osterman, alternate, UU Congregation of Columbia

## Guests:

Marsha White, Accotink UU Church  
Sarah Masters, UUSJ contractor

Welcome and reflection: Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, Senior Minister at Cedar Lane UU Church opened the meeting with a chalice lighting and shared the poem "Kindness" by Naomi Shihad

Nye. He also invited everyone to the Seminary for a Day program at Cedar Lane on Feb 18.

Call to order at 2:02 by John Gubbings.

Introductions. Rachel Perry is the new representative from Davies Memorial UU Church. Frances Barlas is the new alternate for Bull Run UU Church. Janet Overton and Jana Kirkman are attending their first Board meeting, but were added to the Board earlier.

Establishment of quorum. 12 members present and 2 alternates in place of members. John is holding one proxy.

Change in Agenda. The Advocacy Oversight Committee report is moved to directly after the Refreshments break and before the Standing Committee Chairs reports.

Change in Bylaws. Proposal to change two Executive Committee officers from co-chairs to Board Chair and Vice-Chair, and also to create a new position of Immediate Past Chair. This matter was introduced at the June 18, 2016 Board meeting and tabled. It was tabled again at the September 17, 2016 Board meeting. **Loretta Garcia moved to amend the Bylaws as presented in the Proposed Modifications to UUSJ By-Laws, attached. Martha Ades seconded. Discussion included the clarification that the Immediate Past Chair is a non-voting position (Note: non-voting Executive Committee member). Approved unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes. Discussion of minutes from the September 17, 2016 board meeting. Martha Ades moved to accept the minutes. Nancy Sorden seconded. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report, Budget, Donation Report and Financial Report. Treasurer John Gubbings presented his reports, attached. He announced that UUSJ is in good shape financially, primarily because the Executive Director position was vacant for two years. Now that the position is filled we're using the surplus. There would be sustainable funding if all member congregations paid their Fair Share dues. There is also the potential to expand individual memberships. Grants may also be obtained for specific projects. It would be helpful for Board members to determine what, if and when their congregations plan to give. Armele Vilceus said that her congregation, All Souls, is not a fair share congregation, but that they will be donating some funds by the end of February. Martha Ades said that Fairfax is doing a Share the Plate for UUSJ in both July and August. It's unclear whether that will count towards fiscal year 16-17 or 17-18. John said that the UUSJ books close June 30 so it will be counted towards 17-18. Martha indicated that Fairfax also has a line item in their budget, which will go towards 16-17. John noted that all donations are in good faith and voluntary. Loretta Garcia said that River Road is transitioning to Collect the Plate and that this may impact how much they contribute next year. However, their Board will make up any difference between the amount collected this year and the previously budgeted amount. Al Carlson said that UUSJ is a line item in the Reston budget and that if that amount ever needed to be cut the church's endowment funds for social justice

would cover it. He noted that a downside of having UUSJ in the budget instead of doing a plate collection is that UUSJ doesn't get the visibility it would otherwise. Al also said he was willing to give a personal contribution beyond his membership dues and wondered about designating it for a specific purpose. John said he could do that but that all funds are mingled in a single account. Pablo DeJesus said that we try to avoid having restricted funds but that all gifts will be accepted and used as designated. John shared that Cedar Lane recently eliminated many designated gift accounts and that it was a huge relief. Lavona Grow suggested that UUSJ solicit funds for particular needs. She also reminded the Board that there was a change in policy regarding individual contributions beyond membership dues. In the past they were counted towards that individual's home congregation's fair share. Now they are not. The intention was to monitor the effects of the policy change, but that hasn't happened. Nancy Sorden asked why the Washington Ethical Society's contributed amount was in brackets on the Donation Report. John said that it was because the contribution was an in-kind gift, not a cash gift. WES provides office space, a mailing address, and copying for UUSJ. Armele shared that working on a strategy to get more individual members at All Souls. She has spoken to the social justice minister about funding for posters and got approval. She suggested that UUSJ order some of them. **She also suggests that UUSJ produce a promotional video. Such a video worked very well for All Souls' annual campaign. She would be able to put a UUSJ video on the All Souls website.** Lavona said that there is a UUSJ volunteer who could produce a short video. Armele may also know someone at All Souls. Pablo underlined that all these efforts towards growth are helpful. The path to growth depends on the Board. Ed Kringer said that Accotink is about to have its annual collection for UUSJ. They announce that anyone who gives \$40 or more will be counted as a UUSJ individual member unless the contribution is marked Fair Share. Lavona said that at Arlington, anyone who identifies themselves to us and has given \$40, is considered a member. She said that often we don't know that people have given enough for a membership, either because they give it in cash in the plate or because they give through the Combined Federal Campaign. Pablo suggested that we run an ad in the UU World thanking CFC donors and asking them to self-identify so we can acknowledge them as members.

Executive Director's Report. Attached. Pablo DeJesus said that he would like to talk to each Board member and alternate to check in on things we're doing here and find out how your congregation works. These meetings can be by Zoom conference call. UUSJ continues to focus on advocacy and producing deliverables that we can . Three big items are going on now. First, starting in February, we'll begin monthly visits to Capitol Hill by the Advocacy Corps. Second, in April, we're co-hosting the advocacy conference, Reversing Inequality. It's co-hosted with the UU's for a Just Economic Community. It will include a day of policy, a day of advocacy training and a day of Hill visits. We want local congregants to attend and to volunteer. And third, we are offering advocacy training for all congregations who would like it. So far we've held it at Bull Run (pilot), Mount Vernon, Accotink, and Fairfax. Arlington would also like a training. We

want to continue the Hill visits, the advocacy training and a conference every year. If we can't maintain this for the next year or two, we won't be able to make it to the next potential level in our development as an organization.

Discussion of Executive Director's Report: Armele Vilceus said that All Souls' social justice minister said that the three things he wants to work with UUSJ on are organizing with PICO National Network on sanctuary, the climate march on April 29, and the LGBT Pride parade on June 11. He is concerned about duplication of resources. Lavona Grow said that UUSJ has coordinated the UU presence at the Pride parade for the past several years. Elizabeth Fogarty started it and **Jenny McAtee** at Columbia has done it in recent years. We did this for the Women's March as well. Pablo noted that our followers on Twitter, Facebook, and eNews all went up before and after the Women's March. Lavona said that Interfaith Power & Light is the point of contact for the climate march. She also said that these activities take a lot of time and resources and need to be prioritized. Armele said that we need to recruit more volunteers to work on these activities and not rely on the Board. Lavona said that these are ongoing challenges. Each minister has a list of priorities and we have to pick and choose what to be involved in. Each Board member should have meetings with their ministers to find out what the priorities are. Pablo underlined that each Board member should find out what the 3-5 key issues are at their congregation. Nancy Sorden asked that we keep these actions alive by getting photos and videos and posting them to eNews and social media. Pablo said that if people send us photos and videos, we'll post them on the website, Facebook and Twitter. One concrete thing Board members can do is support the UUJEC conference. If your church hosted people for the Women's March B&B style, find out if those hosts would be willing to do it for the UUJEC conference. If we can find low-cost housing, we can provide more scholarships for the conference. Pablo also said that the Core Group has been reviewing the Strategic Plan. He suggested that Board members read the old one. Three big challenges are 1. Managing and advancing development and fundraising, 2. Outreach and the path to growth, and 3. Operations and using volunteers. Every person's talents will be needed.

#### Advocacy Oversight Committee.

Lavona Grow, chair of the Advocacy Oversight Committee presented her report. She said that UUSJ has wanted to start regular advocacy work for some time and now we're ready to launch. There are three components: 1. Write Here! Write Now! Project where congregants write letters to their elected officials, usually during Coffee Hour at their home congregation, and then delivered by UUSJ. There is a toolkit with everything needed to run this program, available for download on the UUSJ website. 2. Witnessing. There are many opportunities to demonstrate with our physical presence what we support. For instance, Lavona recently could be seen on the Rachel Maddow show in B-roll footage, standing behind Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA). The UUSJ sign she was holding was very visible. Lavona notes that signs should be two-sided and easy to read. She brought a sign for each Board Member and a plexiglass stand for each.

There are multiple issues with witnessing: it needs coordinating because opportunities come up quickly, it takes away from our other work if it isn't related, and if there is no follow-up, it doesn't go anywhere. Perhaps we could organize a Rapid Response Team. Ministers want help with action steps, especially now when many new people are coming into our congregations. The congregations need to offer action the newcomers can participate with or they may lose the new people.

3. Designated Training on Advocacy. Anna Rhee, UUSJ consultant, and Lavona have developed a three-hour training program. It was piloted at BRUU and Arlington in 2016, a short 40-minute version at Accotink as part of a larger program in December, and the full three-hour training at Mt. Vernon and Fairfax in January. Sterling, Rockville and Arlington are interested in the training as well. The goal was to conduct four trainings this year and we're almost there. All have been in Virginia, so we need to offer it in Maryland and DC. . Loretta Garcia said that River Road would like to offer it. The training is very hands-on and designed for people who have never done advocacy before. It has been very well received. Martha Ades shared that the day after the training was offered at Fairfax, a delegation went to Richmond to lobby and participants said that the training was very helpful.

Lavona said the Advocacy Corps program was based on the American Association of University Women's Lobby Corps as a model who's been doing weekly lobby visits for over 30 years. While advocating on reproductive issues for AAUW, Lavona had an experience where she was told by a legislative aide that the legislators hear frequently from the faith community, but that it was always from the other side. There's a real opportunity here to show our side of the faith community. The Quakers are a real force on Capitol Hill and they are smaller in number in the United States than the Unitarian Universalist, so we shouldn't feel like we are too small to be effective. The next focus for advocacy at UUSJ will be the launch of the Advocacy Corps monthly Capitol Hill visits, starting February 14, 2017, 9:30am-2:00pm is launching this month . Anna and Lavona held two online video information session and will record a special video information session due to demand. Ten people have already committed to going monthly on the second Tuesdays of every month from, 9:30am-12:30pm. This first Advocacy Day there will be an orientation and briefing to be held at the Friends National Committee for Legislation's ' office at 9:30am followed by visits on the Senate side. We'll deliver hand-written letters to Senators from the Write Here! Write Now! letter writing campaign and introduce ourselves to area Senate staff and leave behind a letter from UUSJ. It helps you feel like you know what you're doing. Lavona said that we won't know far in advance what the issues for the Advocacy Day will be. This first Advocacy Day won't be on a specific issue, instead we'll be introducing ourselves and our key issues.

We have organized issue groups: environmental issues, income inequality, and immigration. Those groups also lobby and they will continue to do so. The tough thing, especially in these times, is to not be only reactive. We also need to consider moving outside our region and to

advocate on behalf of UU's nationally. We know the UUA is not going to do this There is no doing this on a national level, and we are well-situated to do it. Ed Kringer asked why the UUA doesn't work with us and what would it take to get them to do so. Lavona answered that Taquiena Boston, Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness for the UUA, wants to meet with us. She UUSJ represent the UUA on the Freedom of Religion Act. UUSJ has the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee before. One question is should we continue to do this for free. The UUA has little money, but the UUSC does have some financial means. This raises capacity issues for us. Anna Rhee has been paid out of a previous grant and then by the Get Out the Vote grant, but we'll need new funding This work goes to the core of what UUSJ is about and is one of the four pillars of the organization. Lavona asked if the congregations are willing to be part of this and if there was support for taking the training and advocacy nationwide. Nancy Sorden asked if we had literature on what the pillars of UUSJ are. Pablo DeJesus said we don't, yet. Lavona said that we'd like to hire someone to write it all up. One person who we talked to about writing it up asked if the Board was behind . Ed Kringer said that taking UUSJ national could mean different things. One would be that every UU congregation could be an individual member, in the same way that our local congregations are members now. Another would be that we could speak for the UUA. Then we wouldn't have to try to connect with each individual congregation. Rachel Perry asked if we could say to legislators, "we have X number of UU members in your district." Lavona said yes and that this is what AAUW does. She also said that the congregations in the UUA through the General Assemblies vote on statements of conscience and actions of immediate witness. We can use those to say "UU's believe..." We also have the 7 UU principles that we can use as a basis for advocacy. Frances Barlas asked for more information on the rapid response team and said her congregation would be interested in being part of it. Jana Kirkman suggested that we could offer housing to UU's who come to DC to lobby. Pablo and Lavona both said that could be one service we offer our member congregations. Ed Butterworth said that Accotink has offered housing for marches. Loretta Garcia said that River Road has also. Lavona said we could have an annual UU Lobby Day in DC, advertised in the UU World. The Reversing Inequality conference could be a model. It's important that event go beyond being just a conference and actually make an advocacy impact. Nancy asked if the four pillars have names. Lavona Pablo DeJesus said that there are many opportunities and models for UUSJ, but that we need the Board to authorize a direction. Before we describe the organization (and the pillars), we need to know if the Board agrees to switch from a to national Lavona asked the Board members what they need to know to make a decision, particularly since there are many new and somewhat new Board members. She suggested discussing it at the Board retreat in April. Martha Ades noted that this is a governance issue and that she is ready to vote for it, but as a representative of her congregation, she doesn't feel like the congregation would be ready to vote yes. Ed Kringer asked what the Board members would be committing their congregations to. He said the Board can say where it wants to go, but the congregations will need to decide whether or not to

participate. He also indicated that he thought the congregations would agree to this switch to a national. He said he has a list of 19 people at Accotink who want to lobby. Lavona said that on-ramps to participation for congregants is important. Pablo said that each Board member has legal responsibilities for this 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Board decides the best and most strategic plan for the organization. However a Board member votes does not oblige their congregation to anything. He added that there are a lot of reasons to make this switch at this moment in history. John Gubbings asked Pablo to write a formal motion. Motion: Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice shall pursue a path to become a national advocacy organization representing Unitarian Universalists instead of its current form as a local or regional organization representing area Unitarian Universalist congregations. Nancy Sorden made the motion. Loretta Garcia seconded. Ed Butterworth spoke in favor of the motion. He said that UUSJ has been doing fine, but that the recent presidential election was the critical event that makes us go forward with this national strategy. UUSJ will need a new governance structure. He suggested keeping a local council and adding a national structure. Hannah Pitts agreed to help with designing a new governance structure. Lavona said that we have all the pieces in place to do this, many in UU leadership already look to UUSJ when they want to do advocacy. Ed Kringer suggested adding to the governance structure an explicit mention of working with the UUA. Pablo said we should reach out to them, but to go forward now. John Gubbings called for a vote. All were in favor. John said that the next Board meeting, scheduled as a retreat on April 8, 2017 in the afternoon, will be about strategizing how to implement this change. The meeting will be at Paint Branch or All Souls, depending on space availability. Lavona said that we need to also look at the Rapid Response Team. She passed out signs and business cards.

#### Standing Committee Chairs

Martha Ades, chair of the Program Committee, reported that the conference Reversing Inequality, co-sponsored with the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community is coming up April 3-5 at St Mark's Episcopal Church. Volunteers are needed for many tasks. She passed around a sign-up sheet. The Program Committee needs new members. Lavona Grow said that the Program Committee sponsors a webinar on the New Economy. She said that the Central East Region (CER) has an expertise in packaging and marketing webinars and needs content. Providing content could be something UUSJ does.

Nancy Sorden, chair of the Nominating Committee, said that elections would be held at the end of the year, or could be held now if candidates were identified for chair or vice chair. She said that John Gubbings, Treasurer, and Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, Secretary, are in their last year of their second term and will also need to be replaced. Ed Butterworth noted that the pool of potential Board members and officers grows with the new national focus. Nancy said we will also need new at-large Board members.

John Gubbings said that Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, chair of the Communications Committee, had to leave . The committee needs photographers, videographers, social media volunteers and general work volunteers. Armele Vilceus said that UUSJ needs a media plan. She suggested that students who are working on a capstone project might be interested. She will look into it. Ed Butterworth said that we should have an image repository and that he would work with Bill on this. We need to make sure we have the rights to the images. Rachel Perry said that she has a passion for development, but she's not sure how much time she has because she has other obligations. Lavona noted that we have a problem because people volunteer but we don't follow through to get them involved.

Closing Reading, UU Leader's Prayer by Kirk Bogue

"With gratitude and grace we lead forward to answer the call of our faith, we move happily together into the unknown, we open ourselves to growth, we go forth to begin the change to our corner of the world, we covenant together to transform the world through love and we are moved by Spirit to accomplish good works with compassion and love for all."

Meeting adjourned at 5:04pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sarah Masters.

Attachments:

Proposed Modifications to UUSJ By-Laws

Treasurer's Report

Budget

Donation Report

Financial Report

Executive Director's Report

Committee & Task Force Reports

January 23, 2017

Dear Board Member:

We will vote on proposed By-Laws changes to change two of the Executive Committee officers from co-chairs to Board Chair and Vice-Chair, and also to create a new position of Immediate Past Chair. We have discussed (but without a written proposal) this issue briefly at two Board meetings (November 7, 2015 and February 20, 2016). The proposed modification below, with one new change, was sent out in advance of the June 18, 2016 Board meeting for consideration. At the Board meeting it was tabled. The modification was brought up as Old Business at the September 17, 2016 Board meeting, and was once again tabled.

Your vote is needed on these proposed changes. Please review the proposed modifications below before our next board meeting, on Saturday, February 4, when we will vote.

Sincerely,  
John Gubbings  
Acting Board Chair

### **Proposed Modifications in UUSJ By-Laws**

The Executive Committee has prepared the rationale and the current draft incorporates all of the preceding recommendations.

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*Rationale:* Our new focus on advocacy has led to a need for changing our governance structure. Instead of co-chairs, there will be a Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and an Immediate Past Chair. The Board Chair and Vice-Chair have official duties and the Immediate Past Chair would be advisory. Modifications to the By-Laws are to reflect these changes in governance.

*Instructions:* What is in **[brackets]** is being changed or removed, what is **underlined** is being added.

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#### Section 6.1 – Officers

The Officers of the Organization are the **[Co-Chairs] Board Chair, Vice-Chair,** the Treasurer, and the Secretary. All officers must be trustees. All officers shall represent **[the]** UUSJ on appropriate occasions and perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be requested by the Board or the Executive Director from time to time.

## Section 6.2 – The **[Co-Chairs] Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Immediate Past Chair**

### (a) **Board Chair**

The **[Co-Chairs] Board Chair** of the Board of Trustees shall preside at all meetings of the Board and serve as **[Co-Chairs] Chair** of the Executive Committee. The **[Co-Chairs] Board Chair** shall perform all duties incident to such office and all acts for UUSJ not delegated to others. **The Board Chair may delegate certain duties to the Vice-Chair.**

### (b) **Vice-Chair**

**The Vice-Chair will perform as [Chair of Board] Board Chair [and the Executive Committee] in the absence of the Board Chair. The Vice-Chair is a voting member of the Executive Committee. The Vice-Chair will succeed the Board Chair if for any reason the Board Chair has to resign or is incapacitated.**

### (c) **Immediate Past Chair**

**The Immediate Past Chair is the immediate predecessor of the current Board Chair and serves in an advisory capacity on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.**

## Section 8.1 – Membership

The voting members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the **[Co-Chairs] Board Chair, Vice-Chair**, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and one at-large member, who shall be a trustee. The Executive Director shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. The **[Co-Chairs] Board Chair** of the Board of Trustees shall **[be the Co-Chairs] Chair** [of] the Executive Committee. **If the Board Chair is absent at a meeting of the Board or Executive Committee, then the Vice-Chair shall chair the meeting. [No person shall serve more than two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms as a member of the Executive Committee.]** Periods served on a temporary appointment to the Executive Committee in accordance with Section 8.4 below will be in addition to these elected terms.

## Section 8.3 – Meetings

Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such times as may be fixed by the committee, and special meetings may be called by the **[Co-Chairs] Board Chair** at any time. Meetings may be held telephonically or by other virtual means at the discretion of the **[Co-chairs] Board Chair**. When the Executive Committee consists of an even number of persons, the quorum shall be 50 percent plus 1; when odd, the quorum shall be 50 percent rounded up to the next whole person.

**UUSJ Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2016**  
For the February 4, 2017 Board Meeting

**2016/17 Budget Explanation:**

The 2016/17 **Budget** set annual income at \$59,998 and expenses at \$63,789, substantially more than the previous fiscal year's **actuals** of \$49,447 and \$37,367 respectively (we ran a 12k surplus). The following notes explain the increased income and expenses in the 2016/17 **Budget** over the previous year's **actuals**:

**Income increases:** 1) An increase of Church Fair Share contributions of nearly 8K. 2) An increase of paying member from 95 to 159 (\$600). 3) A small increase in CFC contributions (\$1,500).

**Expense increases:** 1) An Executive Director (ED) was hired so those funds will be expended this year unlike last year, as well as double from ¼ to ½ time (\$31,200 plus about 3k in payroll taxes). 2) An offsetting reduction in Consulting Expenses (about 8k) was projected.

**Cash on Hand (Current Assets) versus assets at start of Fiscal Year:**

Our cash on hand was \$62,695 at the end of FY2015/16 on June 30, 2016. □ At the end of December 2016 our cash on hand totaled \$46,520 (\$16,719 in checking and \$29,801 in money market). The 16k reduction in cash on hand in 6 months was created by spending almost all grant funds that had inflated our balance (\$10,000, including unbudgeted \$2,500 GOTV grant) and paying an ED (No ED expenses recorded last FY).

**Current Total Liabilities and Equity versus the Previous Fiscal Year on December 31:**

Total Liabilities and Equity (includes SJ Grant Fund) at this point last year totaled \$57,437 versus \$46,588 this year. This includes \$2,970 on the books for the SJ Grant Fund versus \$3,146 this time last year and ED costs.

**Actuals versus Budget on December 31:**

**Actual income** compared to our budget to-date show our income is \$1,328 under budget. Front loading of grant and CFC income was more than balanced by especially slow receipt of contributions from congregations and slow membership renewals. Our **actual expenses** were \$5,130 over budget. Our unbudgeted ciderfest (program expenses about \$650), unbudgeted use of Sarah Masters' time (consulting services about \$1,000) and up-front expenditure of grant money account for this over-run.

**Income from Members and CFC versus the Previous Fiscal Year on December 31:**

Total income from individual memberships this Fiscal Year is \$920 vs \$1,920 the same time last year. Contributions of individuals directly to UUSJ (\$5,318) and through CFC (\$5,369) totaled \$10,688 vs \$7,235 same time last year. Note: All amounts received from members above the \$40 membership are considered an individual donation to UUSJ unless it is specified as Fair Share (e.g., a note saying part or all of a check is to be applied to a particular Church's Fair Share).

**Fair Share Contributions:**

Total of Fair Share contributions from congregations was \$6,882 as of the date of the financials, which is substantially under this year's aspirational budget to-date of \$14,358 (the total budgeted for congregation Fair Share is \$28,716 for this fiscal year). **Congregations Fair Share donations payments are often delayed until later in the year, but UUSJ must get a good handle from Board members on what congregation contribution expectations are.** The new mission of UUSJ requires more hours of an Executive Director - paying for more hours requires Board members to motivate their congregations and individuals to give, as well as recruiting new dues-paying members. To the extent possible, additional funding resources will be sought.

UUSJ acknowledges the work of Linda Collyer, a volunteer CPA who does our accounting, including our monthly financial statements, and files our tax paperwork, on a pro-bono basis. The jobs of the Treasurer, the Executive Committee, and the Board would all be much more difficult without Linda's efforts.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**BUDGET VS ACTUAL (Actual as of 12/31/16)**

**FY 2016/17**

			<b>FY 2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2015/16 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2016/17 Actual as of 12/31/16</b>	<b>FY 2016/17 Budget</b>	
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>							
<b>Income</b>							
4000	Contributions Agencies		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
4001	Fair Share-Congregations		\$20,055 *	\$36,000 *	\$6,882	\$28,716	1
4002	Contributions-Individuals		\$8,990 *	\$8,000 *	\$5,319	\$8,000	
4003	CFC		\$7,419 *	\$8,000 *	\$5,369	\$9,000	
4013	Membership-Individuals		\$3,800	\$4,287	\$920	\$6,360	2
4020	UU Funding Prog./Faithify		\$8,265	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	3
4030	Programs		\$903	\$402	\$173	\$402	
4050	Investment Income		\$15	\$20	\$7	\$20	
<b>Total income</b>			<b>\$49,447</b>	<b>\$66,709</b>	<b>\$28,671</b>	<b>\$59,998</b>	
<b>Expense</b>							
5010	Salary-Executive Director		\$0	\$31,950	\$15,000	\$31,200	4
5011	Salary-Admin Asst.		\$11,761	\$14,000	\$6,353	\$13,000	5
5015	Payroll Taxes		\$904	\$3,791	\$1,876	\$3,791	
5018	Workers Comp Insurance		\$410	\$575	-\$2	\$575	
5019	D&O Insurance		\$623	\$623	\$623	\$623	
5030	Travel		\$208	\$500	\$179	\$400	
5050	Fundraising Expense		\$476	\$200	\$476	\$400	
5060	Bank Service Charges		\$47	\$50	\$20	\$50	
5080	Board Expenses		\$56	\$50	\$0	\$50	
5090	Depreciation Expense		\$204	\$225	\$68	\$225	
5100	Copying		\$0	\$150	\$0	\$150	
5110	Facilities **		[720]	[720]	[720]	[720]	
5120	Filing Fees		\$100	\$150	\$100	\$150	
5130	Postage		\$102	\$125	\$75	\$125	
5140	Supplies		\$58	\$250	\$0	\$250	
5180	UUA Funding Prog./Faithify		\$8,440	\$0	\$8,416	\$7,500	
5190	Program Expenses-Events		\$239	\$0	\$1,193	\$0	
5191	Program Expenses-Workshops		\$47	\$1,050	\$0	\$1,050	
5192	Program Expenses-Outreach		\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100	
5200	Meals		\$0	\$20	\$0	\$20	
5210	Fundraising Events		\$0	\$25	\$0	\$25	
5211	Fundraising Materials		\$163	\$25	\$0	\$25	
5235	Brochure		\$171	\$0	\$0	\$400	
5240	Technology Consulting		\$0	\$350	\$0	\$182	
5241	Web Hosting		\$168	\$0	\$72	\$168	
5242	Contact Mgt/SALSA		\$2,040	\$2,500	\$1,020	\$2,500	
5243	Consulting Services		\$10,051	\$10,000	\$1,447	\$800	
5250	Graphics/Design/Editing		\$962	\$0	\$0	\$0	
5270	Miscellaneous Expenses		\$90	\$0	\$0	\$0	
6560	Payroll Expenses		\$47	\$0	\$65	\$30	
<b>Total Expense</b>			<b>\$37,367</b>	<b>\$66,709</b>	<b>\$36,980</b>	<b>\$63,789</b>	
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>			<b>\$12,080</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$8,309</b>	<b>-\$3,791</b>	

\*The FY 2015/16 budget reflects an effort to have a more informative budget splitting up what has been a single line called Fair Share contributions into parts. These parts are Fair Share – Congregations, Contributions – Individual, and CFC.

\*\* Furnished in-kind by WES.

- 1) An increase from FY 2015/16 actual FS income levels of about 8k is projected in the budget.
- 2) Anyone who has given a contribution of \$40 or more between Jan 2015 and 2016 = 144 members. An aspirational goal of an increase of 10% yields the figure shown (\$40\*159).
- 3) The grant income is a carryover of grant income received in prior fiscal years but not yet spent. Actual grant income includes a UUA GOTV grant of \$2,500 not budgeted.
- 4) Allows for Executive Director hours of 20 hours per week.)
- 5) Previous budget was based on Rev. Snaveley's salary. This includes a \$.50/hour raise for our Administrative Assistant to \$16.50.

UUSJ  
FY 2016 - 17 Donation Report AS OF 2/14/17

Congregation	State	# of Mbrs	Fair Share 2015-16 Actual	Fair Share Target 16-17 4.75 per mbr	Congregation Contributions					Household Donations	Total Contributions
					Donations as of	Budget Line	Plate Collection	Individ. F.S. donor	Total Desig. Fair Share		
Accotink	Va	195	\$1,891.25	\$926.25	2/4/17		\$1,891.25	\$140.00	\$2,031.25	\$460.00	\$2,491.25
All Souls	DC	976	\$0.00	\$4,636.00					\$0.00	\$230.00	\$230.00
Arlington	Va	827	\$3,929.00	\$3,928.25	6/30/16		\$200.00		\$200.00	\$935.00	\$1,135.00
Baltimore*	Md	186	\$615.26	\$883.50	8/11/16		\$588.51		\$588.51	\$10.00	\$598.51
Bull Run	Va	243	\$1,240.00	\$1,154.25	12/6/16		\$819.50		\$819.50	\$10.00	\$829.50
Cedar Lane	Md	738	\$3,499.00	\$3,505.50	12/20/16	\$950.00	\$1,967.50		\$2,917.50	\$950.00	\$3,867.50
Columbia	Md	435	\$896.50	\$2,066.25	12/13/16		\$1,321.28		\$1,321.28	\$220.00	\$1,541.28
Davies	Md	61	\$327.50	\$289.75					\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Fairfax	Va	711	\$1,000.00	\$3,377.25					\$0.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
Goodloe	Md	31	\$199.00	\$147.25					\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Mt. Vernon	Va	318	\$1,527.75	\$1,510.50	8/20/16		\$1,510.50		\$1,510.50	\$379.00	\$1,889.50
Paint Branch	Md	181	\$1,109.76	\$859.75					\$0.00	\$330.00	\$330.00
Reston	Va	173	\$836.00	\$821.75	1/17/17	\$821.75			\$821.75		\$821.75
River Road	Md	557	\$2,645.75	\$2,645.75	12/31/16		\$2,700.00		\$2,700.00	\$75.00	\$2,775.00
Rockville	Md	387	\$1,582.88	\$1,838.25					\$0.00	\$570.00	\$570.00
Towson	Md	232	\$1,000.00	\$1,102.00					\$0.00	\$220.00	\$220.00
Wash. Ethical	DC	149	\$0.00	[7.25]					\$0.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Unident.Cong										\$430.00	\$430.00
TOTAL		6400	\$22,299.65	\$29,692.25		\$1,771.75	\$10,998.54	\$140.00	\$12,910.29	\$5,239.00	\$18,149.29
CFC Annual											
CFC Other					1/17/17					\$568.86	\$568.86
80 pct target				\$23,753.80							
Congregations that have not contributed in the past three or more years											
Annapolis*	Md	392	\$0.00	\$1,862.00					\$0.00		\$0.00
Channing*	Md	56	\$0.00	\$266.00					\$0.00		\$0.00
Frederick*	Md	238	\$0.00	\$1,130.50					\$0.00		\$0.00
Loudoun*	Va	78	\$0.00	\$370.50					\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
National Mem.	DC	52	\$0.00	\$247.00					\$0.00		\$0.00
Silver Spring*	Md	286	\$0.00	\$1,358.50					\$0.00		\$0.00
Sterling*	Va	110	\$0.00	\$522.50					\$0.00		\$0.00
Shenend. Valley*	Va	148	\$0.00	\$703.00					\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL		13965		\$88,672.05						\$10,596.86	\$34,386.19
80 pct target				\$70,937.64							

\*non-members congregations

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC.

Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of December 31, 2016

	<u>Dec 31, 16</u>	<u>Dec 31, 15</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Checking/Savings</b>			
1000 · Checking-Suntrust	16,718.56	13,800.67	2,917.89
1010 · Money Market-Suntrust	29,801.55	48,786.00	-18,984.45
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>46,520.11</u>	<u>62,586.67</u>	<u>-16,066.56</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	46,520.11	62,586.67	-16,066.56
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
1645 · Equipment	1,019.00	1,019.00	0.00
1650 · Accum. Deprec. Equipment	-951.50	-782.00	-169.50
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>67.50</u>	<u>237.00</u>	<u>-169.50</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>46,587.61</b></u>	<u><b>62,823.67</b></u>	<u><b>-16,236.06</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Accounts Payable</b>			
2000 · Accounts Payable	0.00	865.19	-865.19
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>865.19</u>	<u>-865.19</u>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>			
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	3,018.63	433.88	2,584.75
2111 · Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.00	-257.96	257.96
2280 · Soc Justice Grant Fund C/O	2,969.65	3,145.78	-176.13
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>5,988.28</u>	<u>3,321.70</u>	<u>2,666.58</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>5,988.28</u>	<u>4,186.89</u>	<u>1,801.39</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	5,988.28	4,186.89	1,801.39
<b>Equity</b>			
3900 · Fund Balance	48,908.26	36,828.21	12,080.05
Net Income	-8,308.93	21,808.57	-30,117.50
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>40,599.33</u>	<u>58,636.78</u>	<u>-18,037.45</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>46,587.61</b></u>	<u><b>62,823.67</b></u>	<u><b>-16,236.06</b></u>

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC.**  
**Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison**  
As of December 31, 2016

	<u>Jul - Dec 16</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
4000 · Contributions-Agencies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4001 · Contributions-Congregations	6,882.29	14,358.00	-7,475.71	47.93%
4002 · Contributions-Individuals	5,318.84	3,999.98	1,318.86	132.97%
4003 · Contributions-CFC	5,369.26	4,500.00	869.26	119.32%
4013 · Memberships-Individuals	920.00	3,180.00	-2,260.00	28.93%
4020 · Grant Income	10,000.00	3,750.00	6,250.00	266.67%
4030 · Programs	173.00	201.00	-28.00	86.07%
4050 · Investment Income	7.33	9.98	-2.65	73.45%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>28,670.72</u>	<u>29,998.96</u>	<u>-1,328.24</u>	<u>95.57%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	28,670.72	29,998.96	-1,328.24	95.57%
<b>Expense</b>				
5010 · Salary-Executive Director	15,000.00	15,600.00	-600.00	96.15%
5011 · Salary-Admin. Asst.	6,352.52	6,500.02	-147.50	97.73%
5015 · Payroll Taxes	1,876.46	1,895.48	-19.02	99.0%
5018 · Workers Comp Insurance	-2.00	287.48	-289.48	-0.7%
5019 · D&O Insurance	623.00	311.48	311.52	200.01%
5030 · Travel	178.90	200.02	-21.12	89.44%
5050 · Fundraising Expenses	476.00	200.02	275.98	237.98%
5060 · Bank Service Charges	20.00	24.98	-4.98	80.06%
5080 · Board Expenses	0.00	24.98	-24.98	0.0%
5090 · Depreciation Expense	67.50	67.50	0.00	100.0%
5100 · Copying	0.00	75.00	-75.00	0.0%
5120 · Filing Fees	100.00	75.00	25.00	133.33%
5130 · Postage	75.20	62.48	12.72	120.36%
5140 · Supplies	0.00	125.02	-125.02	0.0%
5180 · Grant Expenses	8,415.76	3,750.00	4,665.76	224.42%
5190 · Program Expenses-Events	1,192.57	525.00	667.57	227.16%
5191 · Program Expenses-Workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5192 · Program Expenses-Outreach	0.00	50.02	-50.02	0.0%
5200 · Meals	0.00	9.98	-9.98	0.0%
5210 · Fundraising Events	0.00	12.52	-12.52	0.0%
5211 · Fundraising Materials	0.00	12.52	-12.52	0.0%
5235 · Brochure	0.00	200.02	-200.02	0.0%
5240 · Technology Consulting	0.00	90.98	-90.98	0.0%
5241 · Web Hosting/Internet	71.94	84.00	-12.06	85.64%
5242 · Contact Mgt/SALSA	1,020.00	1,250.02	-230.02	81.6%
5243 · Consulting Services	1,446.50	399.98	1,046.52	361.64%
5250 · Graphics/Design/Editing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5270 · Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6560 · Payroll Expenses	65.30	15.00	50.30	435.33%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>36,979.65</u>	<u>31,849.50</u>	<u>5,130.15</u>	<u>116.11%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-8,308.93</u>	<u>-1,850.54</u>	<u>-6,458.39</u>	<u>449.0%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>-8,308.93</b></u>	<u><b>-1,850.54</b></u>	<u><b>-6,458.39</b></u>	<u><b>449.0%</b></u>

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC.**  
**Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison**  
As of December 31, 2016

	<u>Jul - Dec 16</u>	<u>Jul - Dec 15</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
4001 · Contributions-Congregations	6,882.29	10,483.76	-3,601.47	-34.35%
4002 · Contributions-Individuals	5,318.84	1,860.35	3,458.49	185.91%
4003 · Contributions-CFC	5,369.26	5,374.20	-4.94	-0.09%
4013 · Memberships-Individuals	920.00	1,920.00	-1,000.00	-52.08%
4020 · Grant Income				
4021 · Technical Assistance Grant-UUA	7,500.00	5,000.00	2,500.00	50.0%
4022 · UUA Grant Match	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	-100.0%
4025 · Grant UUA GOTV	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	100.0%
4020 · Grant Income - Other	0.00	5,765.00	-5,765.00	-100.0%
<b>Total 4020 · Grant Income</b>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>15,765.00</u>	<u>-5,765.00</u>	<u>-36.57%</u>
4030 · Programs	173.00	697.00	-524.00	-75.18%
4050 · Investment Income	7.33	6.85	0.48	7.01%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>28,670.72</u>	<u>36,107.16</u>	<u>-7,436.44</u>	<u>-20.6%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	28,670.72	36,107.16	-7,436.44	-20.6%
<b>Expense</b>				
5010 · Salary-Executive Director	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	100.0%
5011 · Salary-Admin. Asst.	6,352.52	5,937.00	415.52	7.0%
5015 · Payroll Taxes	1,876.46	458.31	1,418.15	309.43%
5018 · Workers Comp Insurance	-2.00	-7.00	5.00	71.43%
5019 · D&O Insurance	623.00	623.00	0.00	0.0%
5030 · Travel	178.90	67.27	111.63	165.94%
5050 · Fundraising Expenses	476.00	0.00	476.00	100.0%
5060 · Bank Service Charges	20.00	11.95	8.05	67.36%
5090 · Depreciation Expense	67.50	102.00	-34.50	-33.82%
5120 · Filing Fees	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0%
5130 · Postage	75.20	77.29	-2.09	-2.7%
5140 · Supplies	0.00	10.00	-10.00	-100.0%
5180 · Grant Expenses	8,415.76	0.00	8,415.76	100.0%
5190 · Program Expenses-Events	1,192.57	214.29	978.28	456.52%
5191 · Program Expenses-Workshops	0.00	46.98	-46.98	-100.0%
5211 · Fundraising Materials	0.00	163.19	-163.19	-100.0%
5241 · Web Hosting/Internet	71.94	0.00	71.94	100.0%
5242 · Contact Mgt/SALSA	1,020.00	1,020.00	0.00	0.0%
5243 · Consulting Services	1,446.50	5,813.00	-4,366.50	-75.12%
5250 · Graphics/Design/Editing	0.00	961.77	-961.77	-100.0%
6560 · Payroll Expenses	65.30	23.41	41.89	178.94%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>36,979.65</u>	<u>15,622.46</u>	<u>21,357.19</u>	<u>136.71%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-8,308.93	20,484.70	-28,793.63	-140.56%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
4040 · Social Justice Grant Fund				
4041 · Soci Justice Grant Fd Expenses	0.00	-4,640.73	4,640.73	100.0%
4042 · Social Justice Fund Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4040 · Social Justice Grant Fund - Other	0.00	5,964.60	-5,964.60	-100.0%
<b>Total 4040 · Social Justice Grant Fund</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,323.87</u>	<u>-1,323.87</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,323.87</u>	<u>-1,323.87</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	0.00	1,323.87	-1,323.87	-100.0%
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>-8,308.93</b></u>	<u><b>21,808.57</b></u>	<u><b>-30,117.50</b></u>	<u><b>-138.1%</b></u>

February 4, 2017

Since the last Board meeting September 17th, UUSJ has engaged in the following:

Leadership Activity:

I followed through on our commitment to pursue collaboration efforts on Advocacy linked deliverables, the cornerstones being:

- 1) Re-reinivation of our **Advocacy Oversight Committee**; and,
- 2) Scheduling of our **Congregational Advocacy Trainings (CATs)**; and,
- 3) Inauguration of our **Hill Day Visit Program (Advocacy Corps.)**, and,
- 4) Planning towards our **April Advocacy Conference (Reversing Inequality)**.

Along side this primary area of activity, I began to address Management and Operational linked deliverables. On these fronts I have shown preference to outreach linked initiatives that influence either **a)** member satisfaction or **b)** volunteer participation. Noteworthy highlights include:

- **Member Thank You Event:** We successfully held a Fall Cider Fest event in October. Planning and participation was complicated by the election, however, members had the socializing and networking event they requested.
- **Congregational Social Justice “House Visits”:** I met with Social Justice bodies of UUC of Rockville, and UUC of Fairfax to answer questions and share our vision for UUSJ’s impact and growth potential and talk up our Advocacy Cornerstones. I’ve asked each board member to help me set up visits or strategize what is the next step with their congregations.
- **Board Listening Tour:** I’ve had voice or video calls with most board members to discuss: our passions for social justice work, how we each came to UUSJ, what classic board activity is needed or interesting, the vision for UUSJ’s impact and growth potential, and the importance of our CATs, Hill Visits and April Conference. I’ve shared that our meta-goal is to get UUSJ on a growth path emulating the example of the Quakers (The Friends Committee on National Legislation) and that I’m looking to build a team willing to help.

February 4, 2017

Management Activity:

Hand-off of responsibilities from **Lavona Grow** continues but is tapering. **John Gubbings** continues as a temporary volunteer Board Chair, which ensures UUSJ has coverage on the basic legal necessities of the organization. Since the last meeting, I have collaborated with the various compositional bodies of UUSJ and, we have:

- 1) Continued a partnership around the April Advocacy Conference
- 2) Engaged in Hill Visits and began planning towards regular Advocacy outings
- 3) Completed the UUSJ Voter Mobilization Initiative
- 4) Re-engaged the Environmental and Climate Justice Task Force
- 5) Led participation of area congregations in the CSAI and SoC process
- 6) Completed a successful End Of Year Appeal (EYOA) for 2016
- 7) Started a refresh of our Guiding Strategic Documents
- 8) Commenced gathering-in volunteers for Board functions and roles
- 9) Acted in coalition on important education, witness and advocacy events

Needed actions include:

- Meeting of the **Nominating Committee** to start recruitment on Executive Committee candidates and other key Board roles and functions; and,
- Convening of a **Development Committee** to develop a growth plan; and,
- Sorting out of our **Outreach and Networking** needs: and,
- Firming up of a **Governance** working group.

Advocacy Activity:

As might be expected we have made the best, most concerted, progress on our Advocacy functions. With **Lavona Grow** in the lead as Advocacy Oversight Committee, Chair we continue contracting with **Anna Rhee** to improve UUSJ Advocacy procedures. In this area we have:

- 1) Participated in the 7th Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit
- 2) Completed the UUSJ Voter Mobilization Initiative
- 3) Pivoted towards “How-To”, advocacy driven educational events such as our:
  - a) CATs with engagements at Accotink, Mt. Vernon, and Fairfax; and, b)
  - briefing on CSAI/SoC process for Esca. Inequality and Corr. of Our Democracy

February 4, 2017

- 4) Attended Department of State briefings
- 5) Visited Capitol Hill on the Immigration issue of detention bed quotas
- 6) Re-engaged the Environment and Climate Justice/Green Activists
- 7) Continued work with the Escalating Inequality
- 8) Hosted **Chuck Collins**, the UU author, and negotiated his input on our scope of work as well as participation in our April Conference

Needed actions include:

- Scheduling of our **CATs** at more UUSJ churches; and,
- Thinking through the feasibility of a **Witness Committee** to standardize and make cohesive the organizational branding of our very participation; and,
- Evaluating the appropriate metrics and evidence for our Advocacy impact.

Operational Activity:

We continue lean upon our Staff, Contractors and Executive Committee plus other dedicated volunteers to get UUSJ operational duties done. Nominating and Outreach/Networking volunteer work streams impact this activity most acutely. We need more folks to assist. Concrete needs have been articulated for Communications (see the January 26 report include in Board materials). Program Committee requires event specific support. Nevertheless we have:

- 1) Launched a new webpage theme
- 2) Improved our internal accomplishments tracking efforts
- 3) Completed a successful End Of Year Appeal (EYOA) for 2016
- 4) Started a refresh of our Guiding Strategic Documents
- 5) Deepened collaborations with UUA, SSL and UUSC among others

Needed actions include:

- Recruiting of more volunteers to assist operational tasks; and,
- Expanding the Individual Member base at each church; and,
- Improving regional and national synergies to grow participation; and,
- Building towards funding proposal submissions; and,
- Cultivating a culture of networking and outreach in support of UUSJ

February 4, 2017

Forward Looking:

Now is the time for UUSJ to move to the fore on Advocacy for UUs in the Federal Forum. We need to capture the tension people are experiencing on the back of the election and help both individuals and congregations answer the productive question, “Resistance, witness, and outrage, to what end?” That means:

- 1) We need to bring home our cornerstone Advocacy efforts
- 2) Begin Development and Growth work
- 3) Reshape our Outreach/Networking culture and expectations
- 4) Demonstrate our Impact and Value added

Planning is Underway:

- To offer more **CATs**, for example at Cedar Lane UUC Pablo and Lavona are doing a 90 minute version at the Seminary in a Day on February 18; and,
- To inaugurate our **Hill Day Visit Program (Advocacy Corps.)**, on Feb. 14, as part of our engagement of the 115th Congress and Administration; and,
- To convene our **April Advocacy Conference (Reversing Inequality)**; and,
- To address the pressing need for recruitment, outreach and volunteers; and,
- To manage changeover in the composition of the Executive Committee.

Feasibility queries are being made regarding:

- A more formalized relationship with the CUUSAN, the Coalition of Unitarian Universalist State Action Networks: and,
- A Witness Committee to organize our very consistent participation.

Special thanks to:

- **Martha Ades**, “Ms. That Would Be Fun,” our logistics guru and go-to event orchestrator who finds her reserve tank whenever it’s needed.
- **Gary Magnuson**, “Mr. Speak the Truth of It” for facilitating my first Church House Visit, which was a success because he was an excellent guide.
- **David Strauss**, “Mr. Let’s Do This” for keeping us focused on the basics.
- **Hanna Pitts**, “Ms. Two Things for Ya,” for stepping up on Governance issues.
- **Larry Underwood**, “Mr. Show Me the Evidence,” for his truly open mind.
- As always, my sincere gratitude to the **Spouses, Partners and Loved-Ones**.

**UUSJ Committee and Task Force Reports  
for February 4, 2017 UUSJ Board Meeting**

**Reports Submitted as of January 31, 2017:**

Advocacy Oversight Committee.....Page 2  
Communication & Outreach Committee.....Page 5  
Green Activists - Environmental and Climate Justice Task Force.....Page 8  
Escalating Inequality Task Group.....Page 15  
Immigration Task Group.....Page 16  
Program Committee.....Page 17

**Committees that did not submit a report or had no new information to report  
since the last Board meeting:**

- Audit Committee (not a standing committee)
- Gala Planning Committee (not a standing committee)
- Governance Task Force (formerly Bylaws and Standard Operations Committee;  
not a standing committee)
- Issue Selection Process Task Force (not a standing committee)
- Nominating Committee

## Advocacy Oversight Committee Report – January 27, 2017

### Members

Bob Denniston, Anna Rhee, David Strauss, Larry Underwood

The roots of this committee go back to mid-year 2015 as an informal advisory (ad hoc) group, which helped advise and guide UUSJ through our programmatic pivot to advocacy. Thank you to Larry Underwood, David Strauss, and Adam Wasserman for their service, and input from Gary Magnuson on our UUSJ Advocacy Guidelines.

The group is now formalized with members Larry Underwood, (climate/environment) BRUU, David Strauss, (immigration) Rockville, Bob Denniston, (escalating income inequality) Arlington, Anna Rhee and Lavona Grow. We are the coordinating body for UUSJ's advocacy activities, materials, infrastructure to support advocacy work and to help identify, guide and provide feedback regarding UUSJ's advocacy program opportunities. We are pleased to report on several exciting developments since the September Board meeting. The report includes advocacy-related actions in issue groups, which should be reported in greater detail in their individual reports to the Board.

### Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC) UUA Representative - Lavona Grow

Lavona continues as the UUA representative to the WISC-Environment and Ecology Working Group, participating in face-to-face meetings every two weeks, and once per month phone meetings. Lavona participates in periodic Hill visits with other working group members. She notifies UUA staff of opportunities to sign on to interfaith letters. As a WISC member she attends the monthly all WISC meetings, which include training, briefing, and strategizing sessions. On January 24, she participated in the annual WISC retreat where they spent half their time power mapping Senator targets who may be key in providing swing votes on critical issues on a variety of WISC issues. We anticipate working with UU State Action Networks to expand our advocacy efforts beyond our regional Members of Congress.

As a member of the interfaith community, she attended two briefings organized by the Department of State's Office of Religion and Global Affairs. On November 3, she attending a briefing on the then upcoming COP 23 meetings by the Chief Envoy on Climate Change, that focused on the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement (UUSJ climate change advocacy priority); and on January 17 attended a briefing on the Green Climate Fund (GCF), UUSJ climate change advocacy priority), with the US GCF Board representative, Leo Martinez-Diez. With the transition soon to take place to the new administration, information was provided about transition staffing. Since the meeting, it is no longer certain that the Office of Religion and Global Affairs will continue. It has played a critical liaison role with the faith community and UU's established an ongoing working relationship with staff. This is also true of the DOS Chief Envoy's Office for Climate staff.

### Issue Advocacy Groups

- **Immigration** - the UUSJ immigration task force made several targeted visits this Fall to Capitol Hill offices on the issue of mandatory detention bed quotas.

- **Environment and Climate Justice/Green Activists** - January 12 held an ad hoc group meeting to make recommendations on federal level priority issues to the larger Green Activist group and the UUSJ Board. Recommendations were also made on state issues for tracking and partnering with other groups like IP&L, Sierra Club Northern Virginia and the UU Legislative Ministry - Maryland. It is understood that state legislative action is not within UUSJ's scope. Concern was raised that since the UULM-Virginia does not include issues on the environment and climate change as part of its legislative priorities then shouldn't UUSJ step up and become active in Virginia. Group consensus was that we should encourage UUs to work with our state partner organizations. UUSJ as always would promote actions at the state level through our communications channels. Two members will approach the UULM-Virginia to discuss their intentions related to the environment and climate change issues.
- **Escalating (income) Inequality** - The new group was launched in August and has been meeting monthly but not on any regular schedule. August through early November was focused on research on issues for an advocacy agenda. While the draft Statement of Conscience on Escalating Inequality was released in mid-November, collective work was undertaken to review and provide comments. The group assessed the strengths and weaknesses of the draft, then developed specific and detailed recommendations for area congregations to consider in preparing their formal response to the UUA by the February 1 deadline. In December, UUSJ hosted Chuck Collins, a UU and author who works with the Institute of Policy Studies. Lavona met with him in October and he agreed to provide an advocacy framework for our consideration, which would also be used with the planning for the Reversing Inequality Conference April 3-5 (day three will be a lobby day). Chuck met with our group for a one hour meeting on December xx to discuss legislative prospects in a post-election reality. At the next Task Group meeting on February 5 at 7pm they will return to work to set an advocacy agenda.

#### Congregational Advocacy Training (CAT) Program

Led by Lavona Grow and Anna Rhee (UUSJ Advocacy Program Consultant), this three hour cornerstone UUSJ training program was delivered to three area congregations to nearly 70 people. Participants learned and role played how to organize and deliver effective face-to-face advocacy meeting with a member of Congress or their staff. Sessions were held:

- December 4 Accotink - an abbreviated 40 minute training as part of a larger panel discussion on upcoming Virginia and Federal legislative issues.
- December 10, Mt. Vernon
- January 15, Fairfax

On the horizon: We are anticipating an invitation from two additional Virginia congregation to conduct the CAT program. Pablo and Lavona are presenting a 90 minute version of the training at the Seminary in a Day on February 18.

2016-2017 Goal - to present the program in four congregations.

Question: For the three sessions mentioned above no fee has been asked except for photocopying of materials. Should we charge a fee to member congregations to cover costs; non-member

congregations; ask for a goodwill offering from participants; fund through other sources, etc? Funding of our key advocacy consultant, Anna Rhee, must be addressed.

#### UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps

We are launching this important program on February 14, and none too soon. As the new 115th Congress and Administration roll back progress on issues UUs care about and fought for, this is a critical time for us to take our liberal religious voice to policymakers in Washington.

We are mobilizing and need UUs willing to make regular monthly visits to Members of Congress and their staff on UUSJ priority issues of immigration, the environment and climate change, and escalating income inequality, among other UU issues that protect human rights, our planet, all living beings, and our democracy.

2016-2017 Goal - to build a pool of 6-8 Advocacy Corp volunteers that are willing to take our UU voice and values to the Hill each month. To include an additional 6-8 volunteers to participate on monthly lobby days.

On the near horizon: A rescheduled meeting with Evan Junker, the Executive Director of UU Justice Ministry of California, to discuss a nationwide advocacy network, and a pending discussion with the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN) executive committee regarding our potential relationship with them.

Question: UUSJ has stated for a few years that we aspire to going nationwide. In our UU World ads we proclaimed “we are your messenger on Capitol Hill.” As we now go to the Hill with our Advocacy Corps, it would be of greatest impact if we were visiting offices of more than just those in our region.

- Is the Board committed to moving UUSJ to go nationwide in our advocacy efforts?
- If so, what is our transition plan?
- How will it be funded and does our infrastructure and governance structure support such a transition?
- How does that impact the model of member congregations?

Submitted by: Lavona Grow, Chair

## Communications Committee Report – January 24, 2017

### Members

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, Bob Denniston

### New Website

The new website went live in early December using the new theme from the UUA. The new site is responsive, meaning that it is dynamically reformatted to fit the device it is being displayed on. To get a view of what the website will look like on various width screens, go to <http://mattkersley.com/responsive/>.

When the site was set up content was moved from the old live site (<http://uusj.net/wp>) to the new site (<http://uusj.net/wp1>). It is unlikely but still possible that some content was missed and so there will be missing pictures or documents or possibly missing pages.

If you encounter something missing or if you have a broken link then send an email to [web@uusj.org](mailto:web@uusj.org). Please be specific, please provide the page where the content is missing or if a link is broken please provide the link you tried using. Also please provide a phone number as that may speed up the process of fixing the problem.

### Linking

Please go to your congregation's website and make certain that it has a link to UUSJ.org that is easy to find, contains descriptive text about UUSJ and that the link works. You should double check this information and link periodically.

### Security

During a Communications Committee meeting it was mentioned that our website is not secure and therefore at least one person did not feel safe making an online contribution. This statement is only partially true. While "UUSJ.ORG" is not secure, we do not use "UUSJ.ORG" to collect information. When someone clicks on the "DONATE" button on our website they are taken to a different website, to an online form on the "SALSA LABS" website, and that site IS secure.

You can tell if a website is secure by looking in the address bar of your browser. If you see an "unlocked" pad lock symbol then the site is not secure. If you see a "locked" pad lock symbol then the site is secure.

Our site at "UUSJ.ORG" is not secure for a variety of reasons:

- Our site is hosted on a server that concurrently hosts many other websites which is the lowest price option for us.
- A secure site would require a special certificate, and would have to be hosted on a dedicated server costing more.
- We do not collect or store information using the "UUSJ.ORG" website, we simply dispense information through it.

All of our sign up and information collecting links transfer the user to an online form that looks somewhat like our website (by design) but is actually on <http://salsalabs.com>. Salsa Labs has good security for all the information it collects. Salsa does not maintain any credit card information used to make an online donation. That information is sent to the merchant gateway they work with, called Democracy Engine. For online donations or payments for events we do not have access to any credit card information. We can only see the amount of the transaction and whether it was successful or not.

### **Communications Committee Needs**

#### 1. New Members

We need new members with ideas for expanding our outreach and time to help with the efforts. Communications Committee members meet via ZOOM.

#### 2. Volunteer Support Staff

A volunteer staff person would be able to assist Elizabeth in posting articles to the website, to Facebook and Twitter. He or she would get short work assignments directly from Elizabeth. She often has many things pulling at her available time, so like it is at my church with our volunteer staff, in such cases Elizabeth would forward an article or event to the volunteer to post on the website or Facebook or Twitter.

A volunteer could also help with articles or event announcements that are not very well formatted to fit our standards.

#### 3. Photographers

We need more people to take pictures at events, to take portraits. Bob and Bill take pictures but occasionally cannot do so therefore it would be helpful having others come to UUSJ events and take pictures for posting to the website, to Facebook, or Twitter, would be most useful.

#### 4. Videographers

Bob has taken videos of our members speaking of their involvement in social justice for posting to our website. It would also be nice to have someone with skills of taking videos as well as editing them of events that UUSJ and its members are involved in.

#### 5. Social Media Helpers

We could use people with experience in using social media of all types effectively to generate interest in UUSJ.

As part of the eNews process, we'd like articles or events that are not posted to our calendar to be posted to Facebook, Twitter, and perhaps to our calendar. If Elizabeth, do

to her workload, cannot get to posting them then a volunteer could get them posted in a timely manner. Again Elizabeth would task the volunteer.

#### 6. General Worker

As part of the Communications Committee work we need people to do some of the following tasks:

- a. At least twice a year contact each board member to make sure we have the current communications contact for their congregation as well as the current social justice chair and church administrator.
- b. When we have special events such as the Ciderfest (or others) that we contact each board member, along with the communications contact for their congregation, to be sure information about the event is posted to the best place(s) to inform their congregation members. (For the Ciderfest we actually paid people to make calls.)
- c. Look within their own congregations for sources of commentaries or people with good writing skills to write commentaries.

Submitted by: Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson

## **Green Activists Meeting Draft Notes serving as the Environment and Climate Justice Task Force Report – January 31, 2017**

### **UUSJ Green Activists - Environment and Climate Justice Task Force January 14, 2017 - Zoom Online Video Conference Meeting**

Safety first - we changed from a face-to-face meeting at UUC Rockville to Zoom video online meeting due to ice storm predictions for the morning of our meeting. Many thanks to Julia Santerre and UUC Rockville for hosting, and we will return to you again for a later meeting.

#### **Participating via Zoom and Phone (19 participants):**

Lavona Grow - UUC Arlington and UUSJ  
Bob Dennison - UUC Arlington  
Doris Marlin - All Souls Church Unitarian  
Susan Rogers - All Souls Church Unitarian  
Lee Stuart - All Souls Church Unitarian  
Jack Lebowitz - UUC River Road  
Marty Mackenzie - UUC Towson and UUSJ  
Len Cohen - UUC Rockville  
Julia Santerre - UU Rockville  
Larry Underwood - Bull Run UU and UUSJ  
Al Carlson - UUC Reston and UUSJ  
Eric Goplerud - UUC Fairfax  
Nils Bjork - UUC Fairfax  
John Kester - Washington Ethical Society  
Margery Knight - UU Annapolis, former staff at UULM-Maryland - Still working on Climate  
Donneby Smith - UU Silver Spring  
Marsha White- Accotink UUC  
Pam Cox - Accotink UUC  
Rachel Perry - Davies Memorial UUC

**Opening words:** Favorite poem of Julia Santerre's kids.

**Facilitator:** Doris Marlin, All Souls Church Unitarian

#### **Review Agenda**

##### **Introductions**

**General Purpose of our meetings:** To collaborate and build relationships among national capital region UUs related to environment and climate justice.

**Check-in:** Doris asked everyone to address the **Elephant in the Room** - What are your plans for next two weeks during the Administration transition? Participants described what they and their congregations are doing during the Administration transition. Many are supporting travelers coming to town, others described events, some open some only open to congregation members. [Since all the activities are in the past, the information has been moved below the notes from the meeting]

**Lee Stewart's Announcement (ASC):** UU Young Adults for Climate Justice - participation from US and Canada - 100 Services Project - 100 services or special climate justice events

delivered by young adults by next Justice assembly - Open to all in DC area, you can be older than 35 or younger 18 to participate - to help with planning contact Lee at jlstewct@gmail.com. Next step is to come together with the others who have volunteered and decide what to do. Planning meeting date to be set.

**Organizational Structure & Relationship Ad Hoc Group Report  
(was not discussed in its entirety during the January 14 meeting. Below is an unofficial summary of the January 7 Ad Hoc Meeting. )**

**January 7, 2017 Ad Hoc Group Meeting at Bull Run UU Church**

Members of the group: John Gubbings (not present at today's, January 14 meeting), Eric, Doris, Bob, Lavona, and Nils. John and Lavona provided background on the organizational structure and resources of UUSJ (501c3 with an H election). The group conducted a mini-SWOT analysis - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of UUSJ. Lavona explained a strength of UUSJ is its formal relationships with the UUA, UUSC, Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC), of which she is a UUA representative on the WISC Ecology and Environment Working Group, and some other partner organizations.

Following is a summary of the decisions and discussion:

- 1) It was agreed that the regional group that has been meeting quarterly, shall clearly fall under UUSJ. There are three UUSJ issue priorities immigration, escalating income inequality and environment and climate change with corresponding issues groups .
- 2) At least two group names have been used over time and it was agreed that "UUSJ Green Activists" would continue to be used as the short reference to the Environment and Climate Justice Task Force.
- 3) It was agreed that a steering committee will coordinate and provide leadership to the Task Force. The ad hoc members of this group, except for Nils, agreed to act as the temporary steering committee to continue discussions about the relationship and accountability of this UUSJ issue group. Since there are other UUSJ issue groups, there needs to be some parallel processes and procedures and a line of authority to the UUSJ Board. The steering committee shall provide quarterly reports to the UUSJ Board.
- 4) There was general agreement that the focus of advocacy work would be at the national level. (Eric and Larry will reach out to Dean Wanderer, co-chair of the UU Legislative Ministry - Virginia to ask about their engagement in environmental and climate justice issues.) UU Legislative Ministry - Maryland is actively engaged in environmental partnerships. It was agreed that UUSJ would continue to promote and report on the work and events of the state legislative ministries.

It was agreed that the group would meet again before the next Task Force meeting. Lavona will send out a Doodle Poll to find a date and time for the steering committee to meet.

**Advocacy Ad Hoc Group Report - Lavona**

**January 12, 2017 Advocacy Ad Hoc Group Meeting held by Zoom video conference**

Participants: Larry, Joelle Novey - Interfaith Power & Light, Eric, Doris, Bob, Jack, Marti, and Lavona met to discuss and make recommendation for advocacy priorities. Lavona led the

discussion and facilitated the meeting. We shared Lavona's screen to view a Google Spreadsheet that showed around 12 different possible national issues, and a few state issues. We used the 1-3 to denote levels of our engagement 1=strong/pro-active UUSJ support; 2=Join only in partnership; 3=research or track status of an issue and be opportunistic. Lavona explained that there is expected to be a lot of governing by changing rules, appropriations, and use of regulation and changes to the Congressional Review Act. We then ranked the top three issues.

Joelle provided information on what's happening in Maryland and DC. There was little information available about Virginia. Eric and Larry (as noted from the previous organizational meeting) will reach out to Dean Wanderer, co-chair of the UU Legislative Ministry -VA, to ask about their engagement in environmental and climate justice issues. There are no expected short term environmental issues to note in DC.

After discussion, it was agreed that we should recommend to the UUSJ Board that we should focus on three public policy issues at the federal government level. Two of three are focused on international policy since that's more vulnerable at this time: Maintaining active participation in and fulfillment of our commitments as called for in the Paris Agreement (The Clean Power Plan (CPP) is a cornerstone approach to reaching our targets - in courts now. Many states have started implementing its plan.); Support the continued funding of the international Green Climate Fund for the most vulnerable nations in the world (adaptation and mitigation); and support new legislation that is expected to be introduced this year to put a tax on carbon. At the state level, enactment of the CPP was decided to be a high priority to follow for possible action. In Virginia building of two pipelines, fracking and clean energy are considered important to follow. Sierra Club of Virginia (NOVA group too) is a partner with UUSJ with the lead on Virginia engagement on CPP and other issues.

**Standing Rock Experience:** Susan - Standing Rock interfaith Day of Prayer - UUs were honored by our Indigenous family letting Karen, from local UU church, be the first speaker for the prayer service.

**UUA Election for Next UUA President:**

Meet the Candidates for UUA President: April 1, at Cedar Lane UUC.

**UUA Presidential Candidates Questions Ad Hoc Group** and many others across the country prepared questions for the UUA Presidential candidates to answer. A link was provided to the survey but it's closed now. As of the date of the meeting there were 83 co-signing organizations and individuals. The introduction and questions are below:

Global climate disruption is on track to seriously disrupt civilization within 30 years, catalyzing a sixth ecological mass extinction event on planet Earth, and impacting already-marginalized communities first and worst. Rising greenhouse gas emissions jeopardize achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, threatening to exacerbate disasters, poverty and inequality the world over. It is crucial that the Unitarian Universalist Association seriously responds to the threats and injustices of the global climate crisis. As a candidate for presidency of the UUA, we would like to ask:

1. What do you see as the root causes of the climate crisis?
2. What foreseeable impacts of global climate disruption are you most concerned about? Why?

3. How do you relate global climate disruption to the other great moral, spiritual and religious issues of our time?
4. What moral imperatives should guide Unitarian Universalist climate action?
5. How do you respond to global climate disruption in your current life and ministries?
6. As UUA President, what specific actions and policies would you implement to address the climate crisis? How would you increase institutional support from the UUA for its congregations and their members to work towards climate justice, environmental justice, and a sustainable way of life?
7. As UUA President, how would you expand and support the UUA's work with other faiths and non-governmental organizations to take collective actions towards shifting to a low carbon future, advancing the human rights of impacted populations, and growing the climate justice movement?
8. How should the UUA and its congregations offer ministerial support for people struggling with despair, confusion, or denial related to the global climate crisis?
9. How should the UUA and its congregations offer ministerial support for members of front-line impacted communities of the global climate crisis? What steps should the UUA take to be in greater solidarity with the front-line impacted communities of the global climate crisis?

We respectfully request that you let us know your thoughts in response to these questions, by March 1, 2017. Additionally, we request your permission to publish your response via websites and newsletters, to share with our community bases.

#### **Dakota Access Pipeline - UU Presence at Standing Rock**

Susan Rogers & Lee Stewart both participated with the Water Protectors at Standing Rock in North Dakota - To view Susan's interview on WJLA about her time at Standing Rock, go to this link: <http://wjla.com/search?find=pipeline%20Susan%20Rogers>

#### **UNFCCC COP 22 Marrakech, Morocco Update - Doris Marlin**

Recording of COP22 Observers / Climate Action Team (CAT) Discussion:

Here it is: <https://soundcloud.com/aly-tharp/commit2respond-qa-with-the-uu-observers-to-cop22>

Legal Considerations on Withdrawal from Paris Climate Accord

<https://www.c2es.org/publications/legal-note-could-future-president-reverse-us-approval-paris-agreement>

Moments from Morocco

[http://www.commit2respond.org/momentsfrommorocco?utm\\_campaign=cop22\\_12\\_13&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=c2r](http://www.commit2respond.org/momentsfrommorocco?utm_campaign=cop22_12_13&utm_medium=email&utm_source=c2r)

US Mid-Century Strategy FOR DEEP DECARBONIZATION, Nov 2016

[http://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term\\_strategies/application/pdf/mid\\_century\\_strategy\\_report-final\\_red.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/mid_century_strategy_report-final_red.pdf)

Jan Dash Climate Portal Website: <http://climate.uu-uno.org/>

COP 22 Specific -

<http://climate.uu-uno.org/view/article/5804a9680cf2204d222d31dc/#ObserverBlogComments>

#### **Carbon Footprint Game - Eric:**

Files from Eric & Jack & Others will be posted to UUSJ website:

Lots of enthusiasm and ideas - Vegan Potluck, Transportation - family bicycle outing, Church-wide yard sale at beginning of May. He has lots of materials electronically to share - Home energy audits - weatherization - etc. Thermal guns - kids can search out the coldest place in the

church - UUCF can share the materials - guns etc for how to implement this. The game is super engaging - use Rewards, stickers and fun ways to give out rewards - who got the most stickers leading to a star and some sort of prize.

**UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps** - Lavona announced that there will be two UUSJ Advocacy Corp Q&A Info Sessions Zoom video conference meetings Sat.1/28 3pm and Tues. 1/31 7pm. Go to [www.uusj.org](http://www.uusj.org) to sign up. The first UUSJ Advocacy Corps lobby day will be February 14 followed by lobby days on the second Tuesday of every month.

**UU UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar, 2017 *Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet*, will be April 6-8, 2017 in New York City.**

<http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar>

**Closing Discussion:**

Doris asked participants to answer the question as our check out question: In 1 year what has the UUSJ Environment and Climate Justice Task Force Accomplished? What are we proud of and advances have we made? Or one word checkout.

Doris Marlin, ASC: UUSJ collectively has reduced our carbon footprint and gotten enough national attention via UU press & outreach, interfaith collaboration. The carbon footprint effort becomes a model to encourage other congregations and regions of UUs nation-wide, and they are following in the same path, contributing in a personal way to the US Nationally Determined Contributions for GHG reduction. UUSJ is a visible participant in the interfaith community ratcheting up progress towards the same goal, UUSJ is flooded with letters for national UU congregations to deliver to on top issues to congress, and nation-wide congregational groups are visiting their congressional reps with UUSJ hosting and trains guidance.

Susan Rogers, ASC: UUs are in a leadership role around environmental among the faith community.

Jack Lebowitz, UU River Road: working hard to keep the US in the Paris Accord; Come up with an ambitious strategy, i.e. visit General Mattis who recognized Climate Change as a threat multiplier and emphasize the need to remain in and increase our ambition supporting the Paris Agreement.

Marty Mackenzie - Towson: In 1 year we have made the difference to keep the US participation in the Paris climate Agreement in tack

Larry Underwood - Bull Run: The US has passed a carbon tax

Al Carlson - Reston: Encouraged!

Eric Goplerud - Fairfax: Blocking withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement and carbon tax has passed, and accomplished in deliberate communion with evangelicals and other faith communities (not just the liberal faith groups of our normal alliances)

Nils Bjork - Fairfax: he is buying a EV vehicle. He is demonstrating his commitment, not hiding his awareness that he's making the future worse for his grand children - Chevy Bolt.

John Kester - WES: Will be making trips to Annapolis for Clean Energy legislation.

Margery Knight - Annapolis: Get strong MD legislation passed - and more MD UU engagement with state-wide congregations to pass good legislation in MD - We are a visible leader in MD.

Julia Santerre - Rockville UU: To know we've been heard on Capitol Hill, A specific number of senators [and congressional representatives] know who we are and what we care about and that we are all [interfaith] connected, hold 2 - 3 interconnected [collaborative uu/interfaith environment and climate justice] events.

Donneby Smith - UU Silver Spring: All of the above and one thing more - Paris Agreement, Carbon Tax, State level override - inspired more engagement across denomination and more interfaith work.

Lavona Grow - UUC Arlington and UUSJ: Hopes to bring to fruition that UUSJ is seen as credible, UU voice, and model of what collective action looks like; to make a difference on the Hill and show what partnering look like for UUs; how to be engaged across the nation, with the strategy and tactics to deliver this with those across the nation trained in advocacy, and put strong mechanism in place for second Tuesday of the month advocacy visits and engagement with the Hill staff and Members of Congress; finally engagement by some area ministers.

Rachel Perry - UU Davies: Wants more persons working in environment and social justice to know that they can reach out to UUs who continue to connect on social justice work and as identified leaders in raising climate change as a moral issue.

Marsha White - Accotink: That we can stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline; we are successful in getting Fairfax County to commit to a clear reduction of their carbon footprint in all facilities and actions; and to make our congregation greener and more politically active on environmental issues.

**Next Meeting:** March 18, afternoon at Bull Run UU OR Zoom - to be determined since weather could still be an issue in March. People seemed to like the Zoom online video interface and ability to share screens and view documents. But Doris noted that face-to-face is good and maybe we could alternate.

### **Meeting ended around 12:40pm**

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Unauguration - Emma's Revolution concert & more - Fundraiser for progressive orgs - Sold Out. <http://www.unnaugural.org/>

Inaugural Bawl - UUC Fairfax members have organized a benefit for Southern Poverty Law Center link to flyer. The Inaugural Bawl -

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044ca9ae23a3fe3-inaugural>

Inaugural Bawl & Benefit for the Southern Poverty Law Center

So you aren't expecting an invitation to an official Inaugural Ball??

Let's face it, 2016 sucked. 2017 may be worse.

Please join your friends to brace for the next four years at our Inaugural Bawl on January 20 from 8-11 pm for live music, dancing, light snacks and drinks. Share your fears at the Wailing Wall, your hopes and resolves at the "They Go Low, We Go High" wall.

For details and to RSVP, click on the link.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044ca9ae23a3fe3-inaugural>

Beyond Extreme Energy - "Resist Trump's

FERC." <https://www.facebook.com/events/241932829568729/>

Washington Ethical Society Events:

[http://www.ethicalsociety.org/calendar.php?action=event\\_details&id=1915&date=2017-01-21](http://www.ethicalsociety.org/calendar.php?action=event_details&id=1915&date=2017-01-21)

**Many Local UU & Multi-faith activities:**

**January 14-20** - Week-long [Fast4Power](http://wesayenough.org/fast4power/), <http://wesayenough.org/fast4power/>, sponsored by the [We Say Enough](#) multifaith/secular campaign. [Sign the pledge to fast here](#), and join daily calls to receive spiritual sustenance.

**January 15-16** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday and Monday will focus on resistance, resilience and our vision for a world where all can thrive with sermons, events and actions.

· View the [Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday collection](#) on UUA WorshipWeb, .  
<http://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/mlk-sunday>

**January 16** - Launch of [30 Days of Love 2017—Fortifying the Movement](#), <https://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ourstories/save-the-date-30-days-of-love>

Get ready for four inspiring weeks of building the movement for justice, focusing on relationships, covenants, transformation and sustenance.

**January 22** - UUSC Congregation and Clergy webinar - Solidarity & Sanctuary: learn options and strategies for organizing, advocacy and offering physical sanctuary to those at risk for deportation. 3:30-4:15 pm ET, [register here](#), <https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/a7a7fdf3e4a6dd21d746f627e8486654>

**January 20** - Faith leaders with the [We Say Enough Campaign](#) are planning a Fast4Power this week with an emphasis on January 20th., <http://wesayenough.org/>

**January 21** - Events at All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, DC:  
[J21 Teach-In](#) - sponsored by the Reeb Voting Rights Project (Sign up). We Will Rise, <http://j21teachin.org/> [*On the day after inauguration, we are providing a safe, warm space for folks coming to the [Women's March](#) — and other progressive events taking place inauguration weekend — to gain a deeper understanding of the **critical challenges facing our nation**, find ways to **plug into grassroots campaigns** that tackle those challenges, **connect with people** from a vast array of movements and **acquire skills** to become more effective organizers at home.]*

· [Evening events](#) - Post-Women's March welcome, Solidarity Sing, J21

Closing <http://www.all-souls.org/>

· [Download the January 21 ASCU Info Sheet](#).

**January 21** - [Women's March on Washington](#) in Washington, DC.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1617863051849017/>

· Join the [UU Meet Up at the Women's March on Washington](#); [couch-surfing](#) available through All Souls Church Unitarian.

· [Find a sister march near you](#), currently organized in most states.

**January 22** - Melissa Harris-Perry preaches at [All Souls Church Unitarian](#) in Washington, DC.

**January 22** - UUSC public webinar - Solidarity & Sanctuary: learn options and strategies for organizing, advocacy and offering physical sanctuary to those at risk for deportation. 3:00-4:15 pm ET, [register here](#). Congregational groups encouraged to attend!

**Polar Bear Plunge to Keep Winter Cold** - Chesapeake Climate Action Network 2017- Jan 28th, 2017, National Harbor <https://www.crowdrise.com/CCANPolarPlunge2017>

Report prepared by Doris Marlin and Lavona Grow

## **Escalating Inequality Task Group Report – January 24, 2017**

### **Members**

Adam Wasserman, Bob Denniston

The Escalating Inequality Task Group has met monthly either in person or via online Zoom sessions since it was established in August. The members worked initially to define a set of policy priorities and gather information to use to lobby members of Congress, focusing on three main areas: tax reform, building the social safety net, and long-term structural change. Group members began researching a number of issues and writing position papers, but the election results required the group to shift its focus. While we had planned to push for major positive policy changes, under the new Administration our efforts will need to focus more on opposing policies that exacerbate inequality.

The Inequality Group also worked to analyze the draft Statement of Conscience (SoC) on Escalating Inequality that was issued in November. Through a process of discussion and meetings over several months, the Group drafted a comprehensive set of comments that it has shared with local congregations to help them deliberate about the SoC. Several congregations are using the UUSJ paper as the basis for their response.

The Task Group expects to work with UUSJ's new Advocacy Corps in the months ahead to help build support for policies that will make a difference in reducing inequality.

Submitted by: Adam Wasserman

## **Immigration Task Force Report – January 24, 2017**

### **Members**

Dean Wanderer, Pablo DeJesus, Lavona Grow, David Strauss, Bruce Griffin, Don Chery and John Gubbings

Activities and Accomplishments:

**7th Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit:** This initiative was held on October 4-5 at the Arlington UU Church. Lavona and Dean participated. The topics included DAPA/DACA, voting registration and poll watching and the Virginia Redistricting initiatives.

**Priorities for the forthcoming year:** Comprehensive Immigration Reform is our top priority but there are many moving parts in its development. Our present efforts include the end of family detention of those mothers and children who have arrived in the US without permission and the requirement that ICE's performance is in compliance with lawful standards.

**Detention Watch:** We expect to visit the Farmville Detention Facility on February 8, 2017 in support of the establishment of a Detention Watch program in Virginia.

**Advocacy:** We conducted visits to Florida Congressman Ted Deutch and Congressman John Delany in Washington in November and December 2016 to discuss our opposition to the minimum bed requirement, i.e., that Congress has mandated since 2009 that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) hold at least 34,000 immigrants in detention each day. We will continue our visit program, however, our topics may be change as events dictate.

We conducted advocacy training at the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church on December 4, 2016 in support of the then forthcoming Virginia General Assembly. Bills of interest include drivers' licenses for those with DACA status, in state college tuition for those who may lose DACA status and loss of funds for those institutions which offer sanctuary.

Submitted by: Dean Wanderer and David Strauss

## **Program Committee Report – January 24, 2017**

### **Members**

Martha Ades Chair, Lavona Grow, John Gubbings, Marsha White, Elizabeth Stevens

Since September 2016 the Program Committee has provided support for several events:

The first annual **Cider Fest** was held on October 30th at Arlington UU. This celebration of UUSJ members and an opportunity to meet executive Director Pablo DeJesus was attended by more than 50 people. There was good food and live music by the All Souls Blue Grass Band.

On **December 3rd**, we held a discussion session that reviewed the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) process. Specific documents that were addressed were the Statement of Conscience pertaining to the **2014-2018 CSAI**, “Escalating Inequality” and the Study Guide provided by the UUA for the **2016-2020 CSAI**, “The Corruption of Our Democracy”. Twenty-five people representing 12 congregations attended. They were able to learn what had been done on the 2014-2018 CSAI and what plans are for the 2016-2020 CSAI. This program was a repeat of a similar one held in December 2015 and seems to be appreciated by the congregations.

For two days, **December 12-13**, author and fellow UU **Chuck Collins** visited our area and was able to meet with UUs in programs sponsored by UUSJ. He talked with us about a post-election direction that would help us address our issues, generally, and income inequality, specifically. He held a private book signing at UU Arlington and also a public one at Potter’s House in DC. Before the public one he was able to chat with UUSJ members about current issues. The program committee supplied logistical support for the 2 meetings in Arlington.

The program committee continues to provide logistical support for the **April 3-5 2017** conference that UUSJ will co-sponsor with UU’s for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC). This conference, to be held at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Washington will include education, training and on-the-ground advocacy related to reversing inequality. There will be speakers and trainers from both faith and political backgrounds. UUSJ volunteers will be needed as home hosts, meeting greeters and setup organizers.

Submitted by: Martha Ades