

**UUSJ Committee and Task Group Reports
for March 9, 2019 UUSJ Board Meeting**

Reports Submitted as of February 27, 2019

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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)
- Communication & Outreach Committee
- Escalating Economic Inequity Task Group
- Green Activists - Environmental and Climate Justice Task Group
- Gala Planning Committee (not a standing committee)
- Governance Task Force (not a standing committee)
- Issue Selection Process Task Force (not a standing committee)
- Nominating Committee

Advocacy Oversight Committee Report – March ??, 2019
(Includes the Advocacy Corps and related advocacy efforts)

Members: Lavona Grow, chair, Bob Denniston, Ed Kringer, Anna Rhee (consultant), Sean McCarthy, and Loretta Garcia.

Submitted by: Lavona Grow, Advocacy Oversight Committee Chair

Development Group Report – March 3, 2019

Members: David Strauss of UUC Rockville, Gary Magnuson of UUC Frederick, Peter Bishop of Washington Ethical Society. Participants from Virginia are requested.

Ex Officio members: Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director and Bob Denniston, Board Chair, and Martha Ades, Board Secretary and Program Committee Chair -- participate as appropriate.

Charge: The group was formed in May 2018 to help stabilize and grow UUSJ's financial base as we advance our commitment to advocate for the issues arising from the principles and values of our UU faith.

Our report of January 5 described the UUSJ Development Team's objectives for this fiscal year. **Please refer to that report for a full description and for the results of the successful UUSJ fundraising effort on December 2, 2018.**

Future Event Fundraising:

- **Virginia Congressional Fundraiser:** While we don't want to rely solely on event fundraising, it is an important part of the financial foundation and UUSJ sustainability the Team seeks to construct. We are therefore planning to redo the December 2 event in northern Virginia. This would include inviting an elected official of the Virginia Congressional Delegation (Senator Kaine or Representative Wexler) to keynote the fundraiser.
- Most UUSJ congregations will be holding their stewardship campaigns beginning in mid-winter and lasting through the spring. To avoid conflicting with these campaigns the Team recommends holding the Virginia fundraising event in late spring. The proposed date, time and location are Sunday, June 2 from 4:30-6:30 at a large congregation site (such as UUC Arlington) in northern Virginia. The Team is pleased to report that both Larry Underwood (Board member from Bull Run) and Bob McCarthy (Board member from Fairfax) will be temporarily joining the Team to help lead this event.

NOTE: A part of the process of selling fundraiser tickets is a set of email appeals to members of congregations who have indicated an interest in UUSJ. UUSJ Executive Director Pablo DeJesus would benefit from a blanket approval to use your name as a UUSJ Board member and as a member of the particular UUSJ congregation that we are soliciting for this event. For example, your name would be used to email your congregation about this event. Board members will be given the opportunity to affirmatively opt-out. However, unless you have an objection to this process, a vote in favor of UUSJ conducting this event grants permission for Pablo to draft and send such emails under your name.

- **Individual Fundraising:** Another initiative that will begin in earnest following the spring stewardship campaigns is individual fundraising. Peter Bishop will lead this effort to meet one on one with UU members in our region who are large individual contributors. Working through the ministers, a list will be developed of those persons believed capable of making substantial

individual donations to UUSJ's critical advocacy work. We believe this will be a key part of UUSJ financial sustainability.

- **Board Member Contributions:** Finally, a few meetings ago the UUSJ Board approved a personal responsibility amount of \$500 for each UUSJ congregation. As you may remember this does not necessarily require Board members to write a check to UUSJ. It does mean you are responsible for that amount from your congregation, whether it comes through fundraising events (such as a film showing open to the public), or in other ways. We encourage you to focus on new member growth, increasing the number of congregants from your church that become individual members, especially those that are already in the UUSJ database. The Team would welcome a brief discussion of this item.
- **Membership and Benefits Discussion:** The Development Team welcomes a UUSJ Board discussion on UUSJ membership benefits and donor levels. For example, what are membership benefits of UUSJ and how can we best communicate those benefits? Also, what is the best way to distinguish benefits at different donor levels, if we decide to enumerate such benefits? A related question might be, what are we offering our three or four figure donors as compared to our \$40 members? Or, another example, discussing referral guidelines for promotion on/in UUSJ networks as a member benefit. Alternatively, a benefit might be the right to make home-stay requests for UUSJ members residing outside the DMV if they travel to DC for social justice work. This conversation might also lead to topics of branding, messaging, use of donor-centric language and ideas around gifts such as keychains, bags, shirts and caps, posters etc. We invite Board members to join the Team in a conversation on these questions.

DECISION NEEDED

Whether or not to sponsor a Congressional fundraising event in Virginia in early June.

CLOSING AND GENERAL APPEAL:

There may be other ways of raising the funds UUSJ needs to continue to advance its advocacy activities in the region and nationwide. We welcome all ideas and suggestions Board Members may have and we also welcome anyone on the Board and in congregations who would like to join the UUSJ Development Team. Thank you.

Submitted by: David Strauss

Immigration Task Group Report – February 28, 2018

Immigration committee meets every other Thursday online at 4 pm ET

Active Members: Charlotte Jones-Carroll, convener, Gayle Boyd, Don Chery, Lavona Grow, Serena Lowe, Sean McCarthy, Kalman Rupp, and Dean Wanderer.

Ex Officio members: Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director and Bob Denniston, Board Chair, and Anna Rhee, advocacy consultant -- participate as appropriate and as invited.

Immigration and US Federal Budget: Heightened attention to border security nationwide resulted from the five-week shutdown of one-third of the federal government over budgets for this issue including the White House demand for \$5 billion for border wall. The Immigration Task Group (ITG) monitored the bills being put forth to end the shutdown, which initially included some damaging language for TPS and DACA status persons and minors seeking asylum, but fortunately those were not approved. Now we continue to monitor and express views on the border security bill which did pass, including much less funding for general border security, not a wall, and the attempts by the White House to obtain funding by declaring a national emergency. Our partner organizations, including ACLU and CARECEN-California, have sued the government, so this looks like another long, drawn out struggle.

Finalizing Priorities through 2020: The ITG's main efforts this period were to get input on our proposed priorities for our efforts over next 24 months. We held a feedback session February 2 inviting a wide group of interested persons. Fourteen of us representing eight different congregations, the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network and the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network, gathered to discuss the draft. We also got feedback from UUA and UUSC (thanks to efforts of UUSJ Executive Director). The resulting final paper returns more strongly to developing our vision for comprehensive immigration reform and finding ways to build (as UUA is doing) ground-level support for this vision. See attached priorities statement.

Hill Advocacy on Immigration: The ITG researched the views on immigration held by newly elected freshmen Congress members (mainly House) and is continuing to re-build our databases on committee memberships for appropriations, homeland security and judiciary, which most impact immigration. Members of the ITG joined the Advocacy Corps for key meetings (Staff of new head of House Committee on Homeland Security) on February 12, when the AC had multiple topics to discuss on the Hill. Given the overlap that week with TPS alliance advocates and UUSC's presence to participate with that ally, we refreshed our past points paper and prepared a statement on border security and TPS, for the AC teams to use in their leave-behind materials. We are currently planning an immigration-specific visit to the Hill in late March, or perhaps with the AC visit in mid-April.

Other efforts: We have urged UUSJ sign-ons to letters regarding the "remain in Mexico" policy (done) and refugee resettlement ceilings. We prepared and UUSJ sent public comments in our name regarding the treatment of asylum seekers at the southern border. Finally, we encouraged individual signing of CASA's petition for release of Roxana, one of their high-profile immigrants suffering detention and threat of deportation. Finally, we shared information and will continue to monitor the immigration-related recommendations of UULM-Maryland, which met recently.

Submitted by: Charlotte Jones Carroll, convener, UUSJ Immigration Committee

Program Committee Report – March 3, 2019

The Program Committee holds monthly meetings

Members: Martha Ades, Chair, John Gubbings, Marsha White

Ex Officio members: Pablo DeJesus, Executive Director, Bob Denniston, Chair. Lavona Grow, AOC chair as needed and asked.

In 2019 the Program Committee continues its monthly meetings and caring for the UUSJ program needs.

Gala: 2019 is the year for UUSJ's biennial gala. It will be held the first Sunday in October 2019. The committee discussed the Development Committee recommendations of including a well-known speaker at the Gala and turning it into a larger fundraiser. The Program Committee defined the purpose of the Gala as: to celebrate churches' social justice achievements, network, and build team spirit across our congregations. The group thought it would be difficult to meet these goals and also focus it as a major fundraiser.

Awards: The Gala will again include awards made to local congregations and social justice leaders who are doing outstanding social justice work. In order to make awards, a sort-term award team will be created to follow a process of communication and evaluation of award nominations. Contact Martha Ades at marthalades@aol.com if you can participate in the award process team.

Major fundraiser: A report of recommendations were shared with the Development Committee. The two committees held a joint meeting and decided to leave the Gala as more of a networking event but create a Virginia fundraiser similar to the December event held in Maryland. There will still be a goal of generating more income from the Gala. The program Committee and Development Committee are in the initial planning steps for the political-speaker fundraiser to be held the first Sunday in June. Volunteers will be recruited to help with the event.

Upcoming events:

- March 9 – Board Meeting, Mt. Vernon UU
- March 16 – Advocacy Corps Information Session Zoom call
- March 20 – Immigration 101, 7pm UUCA
- June 2 – Fundraiser held in Virginia with major political speaker (tentative)
- June 15 – Board Meeting, Maryland
- June 19-24 – GA – UUSJ information table
- October 6 – Awards Gala

Submitted by: Martha Ades, Program Chair