

**UUSJ Committee and Task Group Reports
for June 15, 2019 UUSJ Board Meeting**

Reports Submitted as of June 14, 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
- Economic Justice Task Group (formerly Escalating Economic Inequity)
- 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)

Advocacy Oversight Committee Report – June ??, 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.

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Submitted by: Lavona Grow, Advocacy Oversight Committee Chair

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Submitted by: Lavona Grow, Advocacy Oversight Committee Chair

Development Group Report – June 6, 2019

Members: David Strauss of UUC Rockville, Gary Magnuson of UUC Frederick, Peter Bishop of Washington Ethical Society, Bob McCarthy of Fairfax UUC, and Larry Underwood of Bull Run UUC.

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 first task: to replace the operating funds that in the past we have realized through grants. Nearly all foundations and grant making organizations are prohibited from giving money for lobbying. While we would argue that actual lobbying is a small part of what UUSJ does, the fact that we do any such activity means that most foundations and other grant making organizations will be unlikely to consider UUSJ for grants. In addition, past grantors of funds to UUSJ have indicated that such funding is not renewable in perpetuity. While we did recently receive a grant from the UUFP it involves a matching requirement for full realization of the grant and it is doubtful it can be renewed in the coming years. We will still be able to seek grant funds for activities that qualify, such as voter registration, training and other episodic activities. The Development Group sees its task as generating ideas that will make it possible to grow the UUSJ programs by building on our foundation of congregational memberships, individual memberships, and periodic fund appeals.

Actions over the 2018-2019 year: The Development Group (DG) proposed several activities for the year to close a perceived budget gap. Although events are not the foundation of a fundraising plan, they are excellent ways to periodically raise unencumbered funds.

Accordingly, the DG planned and carried out a reception at River Road UUC with the express intent of raising general funds. Our goal was to attract about 85 UUs to the event that featured a Member of Congress from the DMV. The event was scheduled for December 2, 2018, just three weeks after the November midterm elections. Rep. Jamie Raskin, (D-Maryland) accepted our invitation and delivered a powerful speech. At least 144 tickets were purchased @\$75 each and more than 130 people attended. The \$3,000 goal we had set for the event became a net of \$8,100 and resulted in several new memberships in UUSJ.

We scheduled a mirror image event in Virginia for June 2, 2019 but it had to be canceled as we were unable to recruit a high profile member of the Northern Virginia Congressional delegation. We plan to reschedule it for the spring of 2020.

Another initiative was a Board responsibility goal of \$500 per member congregation over and above the congregation's fair share contribution. That has met with mixed results, as many Board members and alternates may not see this commitment as a part of their Board position. More discussion

will be needed in the coming years to inculcate a financial responsibility on the part of Board members and alternates.

Our next project: to make a strong appeal to all the people who had previously donated to UUSJ. The first phase of this effort, led by Peter Bishop, was completed in late May 2019. Over 650 letters were sent to donors. Some results should be in by the time of this annual Board meeting. The next phase will consist of personal calls and some home visits to larger donors. This will begin sometime over the summer of 2019. We hope this will result in considerable revenue and in a firm base of donors for the long term.

Finally, we are looking at our membership strategy. Currently, anyone can join UUSJ for a flat fee of \$40 per year. Some organizations have a tiered membership structure (e.g., Bronze, Silver, Gold) which involves progressively higher membership fees with enhanced benefits at each level. Pablo De Jesus has done some research in this area and has proposed a structure of tiered fees and benefits. This DG will be examining this in the coming months and will be making a recommendation to the Board at a future meeting. Input from Board members with experience in membership development is most welcome.

Further recommendations: There are many ways of raising funds that can be employed in addition to those described or proposed above. For example, while we can be proud of the 17 member congregations that provide considerable funding via the “fair share” program, we do not have all congregations in the DMV as members. Plus, as we move toward a national presence, it makes sense to recruit beyond the DMV to western and eastern Maryland and central and southern Virginia. This effort will require active involvement of Board members from the two states as well as our Executive Director.

Any Board members who have additional ideas on fundraising and are willing to work on implementation of those ideas are strongly encouraged to participate either as a member of the DG or to participate on an ad hoc basis.

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: the UUSJ Development Group

Immigration Task Group Report – June 6, 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, Dean Wanderer, with new and returning members added mid-February: Dave Strauss, Charlene Belsom Zellmer, Terry Grogan, Karen Scrivo.

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

Hill Advocacy on Immigration: The Immigration Task Group (ITG) arranged information gathering meetings with staff of Rep. David Trone of Maryland at his home office and with Jonathan Martinez of Rep. Nydia Velasquez' office, as the key drafter of HR 6, sponsored by Rep. Velasquez, the Dream and Promise Act of 2019, which is focused on permanent solutions for Dreamers and TPS/DED status persons. This bill combined earlier bills, but we learned that there were technical issues for expecting the Senate to do a similarly combined bill. We also met with the House Homeland Security Committee staff who had been regularly visiting the US southern border, to clarify their oversight responsibilities for current immigration legislation. We also participated in a UUA webinar on expanded Sanctuary and interacted with numerous partners or reviewed their communications. We formulated a UUSJ letter for the April 9 advocacy day focused on support for HR6 and participated with the Advocacy Corps on that day to visit House offices advocating for the passage of the bill, first out of committee (which did happen in late May) and eventually on the House floor (scheduled for June, but in separated form probably, as the bill was broken into two – one for Dreamers and one for TPS/DED, and a third added dealing with TPS for Venezuelans).

Hearings: ITG members began listening to select live-streamed hearings of the House Homeland Security Committee, as a more efficient way of following developments, including a hearing with (former) DHS Secretary Nielsen and another with representatives of DACA and TPS status persons and their advocates. We attempted to provide questions to the hearing with Secretary Nielsen, and did send in a set of such queries, but did not succeed in having those integrated into the hearing.

Vision for Comprehensive Immigration Reform: As a way to be ready and consistent in our interaction with Congress, ITG prepared a set of components that we would like to see included in an immigration reform bill, recognizing that one with our preferred components would not be likely to be passed before 2021. This vision will serve us however to react more quickly and consistently to the piecemeal bills being put forward, including those we do not support as well as those we do. (See Appendix A)

Public Comment Promotion: ITG continues to develop information and instructions for both UUSJ and individual UUs (or clergy) to make comments on proposed rule changes that are damaging for immigrants. This quarter, we have been most focused on HUD's proposed rule change to tighten access to low income housing subsidies for families that have even one undocumented person within the family unit. UUSJ has made its public comment (based on our proposed language) and a handout has been prepared for use in UU congregations to get individuals to make public comment before July 9. We have also proposed that UUSJ sign on to a NO BAN interfaith letter opposing the continued ban on entry into the US by persons from seven predominantly Muslim countries. UUSJ did sign onto that.

Homestead Detention Center Campaign: We are organizing to partner with AFSC in a one week campaign to shut down the detention center for minors in Homestead, FL, including potential actions here on June 9 (sponsored by UUColumbia) and June 12 (delivering letters to Hill offices).

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

Program Committee Report – June 6, 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.

The Program Committee continues to support events happening in and around UUSJ. Discussions were held with the Development Committee in an effort to hold a Virginia Political Speaker Fundraiser during the Spring. However, our preferred speakers were not available so this event will be postponed until 2020.

The UUSJ March 9, 2019 Board meeting was held at Mount Vernon UU. At that meeting we voted to engage Evan Junker to lead us in strategic planning. The goal is to develop a strategic plan that can guide UUSJ toward being a national organization. The first strategic planning meeting was held June 1 at River Road UU. Meeting and discussions will continue for the next year.

In the past quarter planning began for the 2019 Awards Gala. The Gala will be held October 6, 2019 at Arlington UU. A meeting to decide on award categories was held. Ed Kringer and Terri Barr have agreed to be part of the award selection team. Communication was sent to congregations (ministers, SJ leaders and UUSJ Board members) asking them to consider SJ leaders in each congregation. A nomination website will be established during the summer and we hope to make final selections by September 1 so that congregations will have time to gather people to attend the event. Award categories for 2019 are listed below. Find full award descriptions on our [web page](#).

Congregational Awards

- Collaboration Award
- Racial Justice and Beloved Community Award
- Congregational Social Justice Program Award
- Economic Justice Award
- Environmental/Climate Justice Award
- Immigration Award
- Defending our Democracy

Individual Leadership Awards

- Minister/Senior Leader's Award.
- Emerging Leader Award.
- Lifetime Achievement Award

UPCOMING EVENTS to close the FY 2018-2019 year are;

1. **National Week of Action to End Child Detention (June 9 – 16)** - special event is “Where are the Children” Sunday June 9th on the National Mall when UU Congregation of Columbia, MD

will be led by 11th grader Alex Kohn for a witness accountability action highlighting the impact of family separation on children.

2. **Poor People's Moral Action Congress - Freedom School (June 17 – June 19).** [Register here](#) for this event.
3. **General Assembly (June 19-23)** - UUSJ will share a booth at GA in Spokane, Washington with UU for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC). Our volunteers will tell others about the work we do.

UPCOMING EVENTS to start the FY 2019-2020 year are;

1. **Building a Movement for a Green New Deal – Advocacy Conference on Environmental justice, Class and Race (September 15-17).** This conference will be held in our own backyard in Washington DC so is a great opportunity for our involvement. UUSJ is a co-sponsor of this event with UUJEC and is holding the first sessions at All Souls, Unitarian on September 15. We will work to get a significant number of UUSJ members to attend this special event and may be asking to volunteers to help. Watch the UUSJ website for more information.
2. **UUSJ Awards Gala (October 6)** – every two years UUSJ holds a Gala to recognize Social Justice leaders in the Washington area. This year's event will be held at Arlington UU, VA on Sunday, October 6. Nominations for SJ Heros can be made on a special nomination form which will be set on the UUSJ website during the summer. Nomination deadline is August 26, 2019. More information will be provided in the next few months.
3. **Virginia-based Political Speaker Fundraiser** – proposed for Spring 2020. An event similar to the one held in Maryland on December 2, 2018, which lets us hear from active politicians.

HELP NEEDED - The Program Committee needs volunteers to help us plan these events. If you are able to help with meeting planning, please contact Martha Ades at marthalades@aol.com.

Submitted by: Martha Ades, Program Chair

Nominating Committee Report – June 14, 2019

To: Board of Trustees of UUSJ

From: Sean McCarthy, Marti MacKenzie, and Larry Underwood, Nominating Committee

Date: June 15, 2019

The UUSJ Board of Trustees has asked the Nominating Committee to recommend nominees for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair of the UUSJ Board.

During its deliberations the Committee also decided to recommend that the Executive Committee in accordance with its responsibilities under Section 5.2(b) of the By-laws appoint two new At Large Members of the Board. (“Trustees” are also called “Members” of the Board). The two new At Large Members will fill one currently vacant At Large Member position and a second At Large Member position being vacated by Pat Karlsen June 30. (Pat has served the maximum allowable three consecutive terms of three years each, and must retire from the Board for at least one year. We also thank Pat for her lengthy and dedicated service to the Board).

At the recommendation of the Committee the Executive Committee appointed Charlotte Jones-Carroll of River Road UUC and David Strauss, currently a member of UUC of Rockville, as At Large Members to fill the above two vacancies. Charlotte’s appointment as an At Large Member is effective June 13, 2019, and David’s appointment is effective July 1, 2019.

The current Secretary, Martha Ades, and Treasurer, Mike McCord, whose terms are expiring June 30, 2019, asked not to be nominated to new terms beginning July 1 as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Martha intends to remain on the Board, and we hope Mike will as well. We thank the both for their dedicated service to UUSJ. The position of Vice Chair is currently vacant.

All officers are elected by the Board to two year terms. Under the current By-laws no one may serve as an officer of the Board, regardless of office or offices held, for more than two consecutive officer terms of two years each. The UUSJ officers are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. For example, no one can serve as an officer of UUSJ, such as Chair, immediately after serving one term as Treasurer followed by a second term as Secretary. Officers must be Members of the Board.

The current Chair of UUSJ, Bob Denniston, indicated his desire to be nominated and elected to another two year term. The Nominating Committee did not consider the position of Chair of UUSJ, but no other persons indicated to the Committee interest in being nominated to that position, and the Committee presumes that Bob will be nominated and elected by the Board at its June 15th meeting.

The Committee nominates Charlotte Jones-Carroll of River Road UUC to be Secretary of UUSJ for a two year term beginning July 1, 2019. Charlotte has a large number of years of experience as an officer and member of the boards of various UU organizations. For the past two and half years she has been the Convenor and motivating engine of the UUSJ Immigration Task Group. We hope she will continue in that role as well.

The Committee searched, but has been unable to identify anyone willing to take over as Treasurer. Mike McCord has indicated he will continue to serve as Treasurer for a brief transition period until a successor is elected, but not beyond the next Board meeting. Please provide any suggestions you may have for a new Treasurer to the Board Chair or any member of the Nominating Committee. The new Treasurer does not have to be a current Member of the Board. If necessary, a majority of the Board can create a new At Large Board Membership.

The Committee was also unable to identify anyone willing to serve as Vice Chair. Suggestions are also welcome for this position.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean McCarthy (for the Nominating Committee)

Appendix - Board Report – June 6, 2019

UUSJ Vision for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. May 2019

BACKGROUND: By definition, comprehensive immigration reform is broad and complex. We summarize on the next page our principles about where we want to see reform, what should stay, what should go and what should be added/deleted revised compared to existing legislation. At the same time, we recognize the “push” factor of violence and poverty in countries south of the US border, and civil unrest in Middle East and North Africa. Other actions addressing these are called for, including technical and economic aid, that cannot be handled through immigration reform.

Current US Immigration Laws:

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) of 1965 was the last comprehensive law. It got rid of national origin quotas embedded in earlier laws. The INA’s family reunification focus gave preference to relatives of US citizens and legal permanent residents (LPRs) and also to persons with specialize skills. It limited immigration from the Western Hemisphere however, and required a federal certification of labor shortages before worker visas could be given.

In 1986, President Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), sometimes called the “amnesty” law of Reagan which introduced requirements that employers verify their workers’ immigration status but also legalized certain seasonal agricultural workers and long-residing undocumented persons who arrived in the US before 1/1/82. In 1987, an extension to this granted amnesty to children (under 18) of parents being legalized under IRCA.

The 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (Republican-driven but signed by Clinton) increased penalties on immigrants who violated US law, making many more eligible for fast-track deportation (even green card holders) and allowing more immigrants to be detained, where legal access is difficult. This law also set very high standards about who could get legalized (10 years in US plus proving “extreme hardship” to US citizen family if subject were deported) and generally heightened internal enforcement.

After 9/11 funding for internal enforcement grew dramatically – deportations grew from 70,000 in 1996 to 400,000 through 2012. Those who came undocumented and tried to become legal had to leave US and return after 3 or 10 years. Nevertheless, unauthorized immigrants grew from 5 million in 1996 to 12 million in 2006, partly because it got so much harder to go back and forth across the southern border legally for seasonal work and also because it was so hard to become legal.

Hardliners in the Trump Administration continue to take many executive actions hostile to immigrants and refugees, including on national origin grounds.

Principles on which we base our support for comprehensive immigration reform:

1. No discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation or economic status. Diversity in all these aspects is good.
2. No family separation for asylum seekers. Family reunification continuing as a significant justification for allowing relatives to come to the US.

3. Not a zero-sum game. US spatially and demographically has room for an increased number of immigrants and increases in one category should not require reductions in another. E.g. diversity lottery for low-represented nationalities should not be traded for increases in highly-skilled professional worker categories.
4. Permanent solutions for those who have been here for lengthy periods under DACA, TPS, DED and other potentially eligible categories. Reduce backlog of LPR processing.
5. Greater attention to needs of refugees both via resettling in US (need ceiling of at least 100,000 a year) and via financial support to third country resettlements.
6. Education and skills levels needed can be accomplished through immigrants from many continents, not just Europe. Current trends confirm this.
7. Accommodations for seasonal agricultural/fisheries/tourism workers at higher levels with greater flexibility for moving to new employers and worker protections (both safety/health and against exploitation by employer)
8. Reform and fund immigration courts to improve due process, dramatically reduce backlog in courts; hold more bond hearings.
9. Reduce use of detention; there are better less costly alternatives. Do not detain children. No indefinite detention. Oppose expansion of private corporations involved in the business of detaining immigrants.
10. Reduce pressure on local law enforcement to cooperate with immigration enforcers.
11. Border security: some level of border security needs funding and non-militarized implementation but oppose significant new physical barriers. Emphasize through practice and training humane treatment of asylum-seekers and other border-crossers, reduce “profiling” and harassment of US citizens at the border.
12. Asylum-seekers and vulnerable persons at risk of deportation other than for serious criminal reasons should have access to public defenders, paid lawyers or as a minimum, pro bono legal aid, so support local measures to fund such assistance. Advocate for better access to legal advice for those in detention.

May 2019