



# UUSJ

Unitarian Universalists  
for Social Justice

*Advancing just and equitable federal policy  
- aligned with UU values -  
through engagement, education, and advocacy*



## Annual Report

Fiscal Year  
2021-22

7750 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 200012

202-600-9132 | [uusj.org](http://uusj.org) | [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org)

Dear Friends,

What a challenge and inspiration this past year was! A new, more national, more diverse board of directors took charge – with only three trustees carrying over from past boards. The eleven trustees (compared to over 20 in the past) included some very experienced and wise individuals from around the country (and the globe!). We are engaged in a culture shift in which the trustees focus on strategy, policy and fundraising while our Executive Director focuses on implementing the work program. How did that go this past year? Rather well, as you will see from the work program accomplishments noted later in this report.

UUSJ has continued to benefit from the shift to virtual meetings with members and with Congressional offices. We have engaged in more webinars to educate people about our main issue areas – Democracy, Immigration, Environment and Economic Justice. We have been able to engage constituents of specific members of Congress directly in advocacy virtual meetings rather than just asking them to write letters. We have used the action alerts and electronic letter-writing to provide opportunities for all UUSJ friends to make meaningful statements to appropriate Senators and House members. While we miss that in-person relationship-building experience we had in past board and Congressional meetings, we feel this new mode of operation is a way of widening the circle.

We are expanding our partnerships with other organizations that reflect justice-centered values, and whose initiatives we can amplify. Poor People's Campaign is key to our work on economic injustice; Interfaith Immigration Coalition and Detention Watch Network share our immigration justice goals. Washington Interfaith Staff Community is a source of true coalition work, and we are strengthening our relationships with Side With Love, UU Service Committee (UUSC), UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), and UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) in many ways.

UUSJ is the principal UU organization focused on federal level policy change, direct advocacy, regularly engaging legislators and their staff to advance UU principles and values. Your support helps UUSJ make a difference.



*Charlotte Jones Carroll*

Charlotte Jones Carroll,  
Board Chair



*Pablo DeJesús*

Pablo DeJesús,  
Executive Director

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## Vision

A just, compassionate, and sustainable world community

## Mission

Advance equitable national policies and actions, aligned with UU values, through engagement, education, and advocacy

## Moral Owners

Unitarian Universalists, UU congregations, impacted communities and the organizations that support them

## Values

- We are effective and responsive
- We are faithful to our UU Principles
- We respect others

## Staff and Contractors

Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director

Paulette DeMers, Administrative Assistant

Anna Hooker, Contractor, Advocacy

Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo, Contractor, Communications

Tom Hutton, Contractor, Bookkeeping

# What UUSJ Did in FY 2021-2022

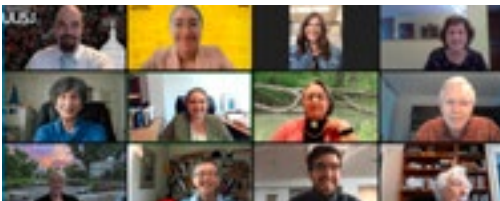
**Engagement:** UUSJ changed our engagement strategies, in alignment with a shift towards a new, more national, more diverse posture. We are striving to be more inclusive of impacted communities and UUs living well beyond our historic geographic footprint of DC, Maryland, and Virginia. A full 56% of our database of contacts now includes residents outside the Capital Region footprint.



As part of this shift, our volunteer policy teams or the Executive Director reached out more often to organizations representing impacted persons or UU partners as we developed positions for our four priority areas: Environment and Climate Change, Economic Justice, Immigration Justice, and Defending Our Democracy.

Increasingly, we collaborated and dovetailed our work with impacted community-led organizations, and other UU organizations, and have begun outreach to form our own accountable relationships. This allowed UUSJ to do our portion of the work for needed policy change in solidarity, and joining the justice making community rather than acting in a silo. Similarly, we more consistently invited constituents from across the U.S. into our direct advocacy, and educational opportunities. This allowed us to engage more participants than ever before in our 20-year history.

**Education and Fellowship:** Background and advocacy materials begin the process of educating and raising awareness about policy issues at UUSJ. Then we pair that content with virtual Expert Opinion Briefings, Thought Leader Talks, Workshops or Fellowship events. This allows us to bring members high-quality thought-provoking content for self-education and to build relationships in service to social justice.

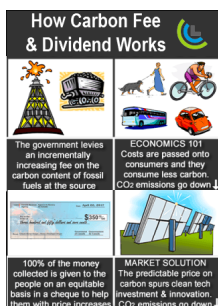


**Fellowship, Discussion, and Discernment:** as we prepared for advocacy on the Electoral Count Act, we gathered to watch together, in faithful community, the opening broadcast of the January 6th hearings. We held each other in love despite the anxiety of reliving events ([video](#)).

**Green Climate Fund (GCF):** is a globally important source of finance for projects in developing countries that address climate goals. It is important that the US provide our fair share of funding since it is responsible for a huge share of emissions causing this crisis. Issue briefing by Joe Thwaites, World Resources Institute, as we prepared for our advocacy. Co-sponsored by UUMFE ([video](#)).



**Using Ethics to Build Social Justice Power:** we gathered for a workshop on how to identify key government accountability issues, consider the values we want to see in responsible leaders, and develop strategies for becoming a voice for ethical government in our community. Facilitated by Justine Ellis, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics (CREW).



**A Carbon Fee with Cashback** is an important potential strategy to meet climate goals as we grapple with the climate crisis. Presentation by Brett Cease and Kesten Bozinovic of Citizens' Climate Lobby ([video](#)).



**Restore Asylum At the Border:** Title 42 and Remain in Mexico deprive people seeking safety of their right to access asylum. We learned the devastating impacts of Title 42, from Black and Brown asylum seekers living in Mexico, as we prepared for our advocacy. Co-sponsored by UUSC ([video](#)).

**State Of Our Democracy, A UU View From The Texas Legislature:** offered a talk by Texas State Representative Donna Howard, sharing perspective on the state and federal nexus at ground level as we shifted gears in our advocacy from the Freedom to Vote/John R Lewis Act to the Electoral Count Act ([video](#)).



**How the PRO Act can Protect the Right to Organize:** In service to a 2021 Action of Immediate Witness we prepare for advocacy on worker’s right to unionize. Speakers included Melinda St. Louis, Director of Medicare For All, Public Citizen; Michael Szpak, Religion-Labor Coordinator, AFL-CIO; and Gina Kelly, Government Relations Specialist, Network Lobby. Co-sponsored by UUJEC ([video](#)).



**Social Justice Activist Roundtable:** as a seminar, we gathered activists to network, share stories of successes, discuss challenges, and feel energized to continue doing the work. Featured speaker was Rev. Dr. Pippin Whitaker, UUA Commission on Social Witness ([video](#)).

**Social Justice Awards Ceremony:** in fellowship, we celebrated the work of social justice standouts. We gathered to hear and support the stars nominated, and meet the new more national board. Our keynote was President, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, UUSC ([video](#)).

**Voting Rights: U.S. Democracy in Crisis:** as we prepared for our advocacy on voting rights and free and fair elections we hosted speakers Andrea Miller, Center for Common Ground / Reclaim our Vote and Sister Quincy Howard, Faithful Democracy, plus members of the UUSJ Democracy Action Team to discuss the state of play and why our advocacy matters ([video](#)).

**Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy**

Our Democracy Action Team authored a 2021 [Action of Immediate Witness](#). We gathered to educate and set the frame on the advocacy work required. Speakers included Aquene Freechild, Public Citizen; Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida, Tri-Chair New Hampshire, Poor People’s Campaign; Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson, UU Forward Together, North Carolina; Nicole Pressley, Organizing Strategy Team, UUA; Peter Bishop, DC Statehood Activist, Washington Ethical Society; Donna Scheidt and Fred Van Deusen, UUSJ Democracy Action Team.



UUSJ Abides By

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle**

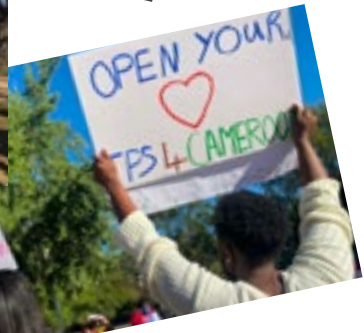
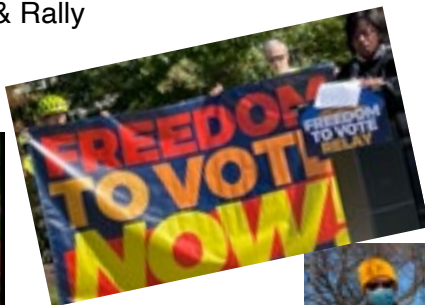
of

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

UUSJ formally embraced and adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle in 2021. The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle affirms and promotes “journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

**Witness, Solidarity and Amplification:** UUSJ mobilizes for participation in vigils, demonstrations, and marches of national import in Washington DC, or as part of coalition actions. We also join multiple nationwide amplification efforts.

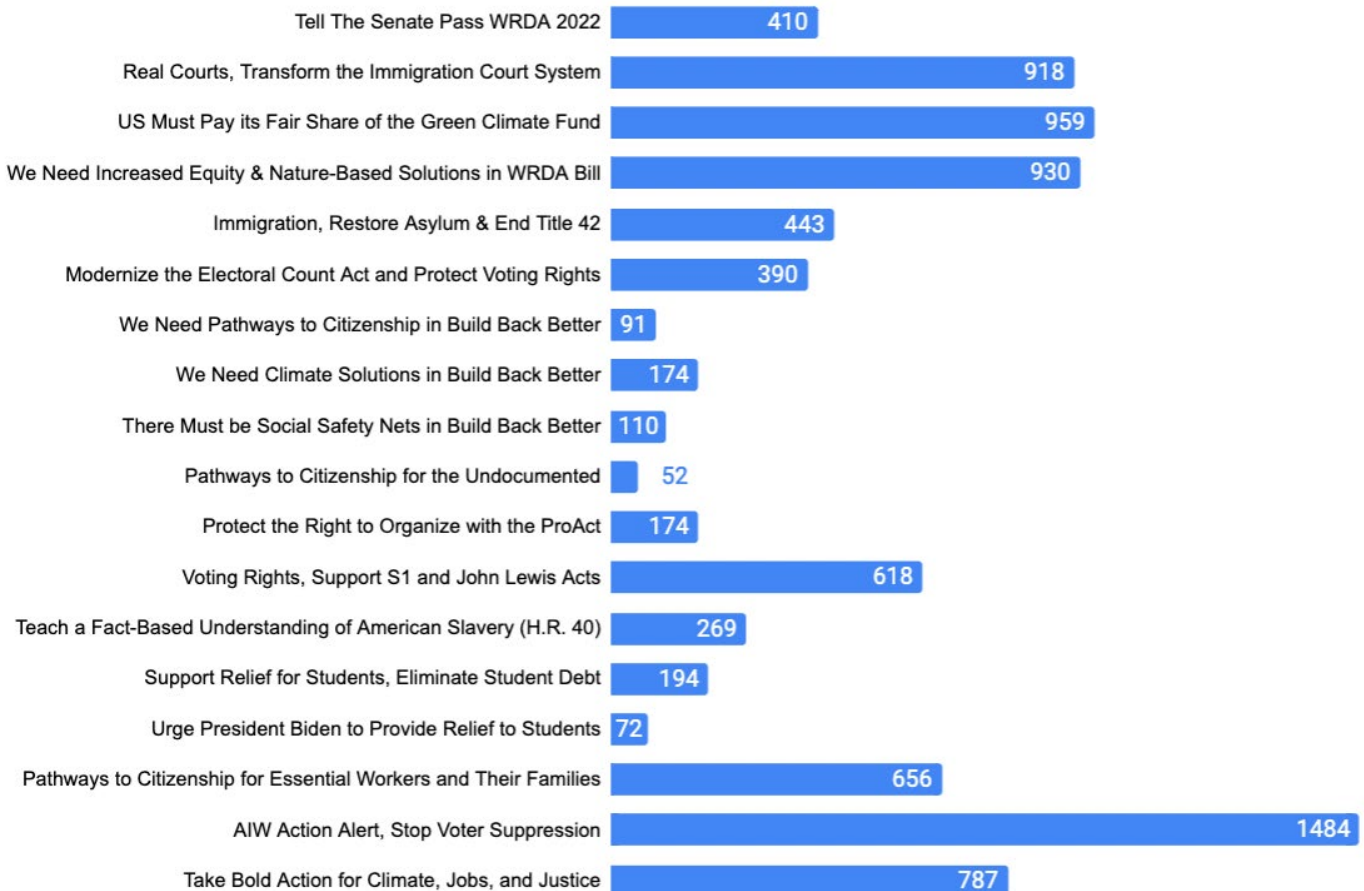
1. Poor Peoples' Campaign NCMR; Moral Mondays, Witness Wednesdays, and the June 2022 rally in DC. Proudly, UUSJ co-hosted President Susan Frederick-Gray for her first rally outside of Boston since the pandemic began, where she spoke at the December 2021 PPC event ([video](#)), and was joined by several UUs on the main-stage.
2. March For Our Lives 2022
3. Defund Hate Interfaith Day of Action
4. Welcome With Dignity - Rescind Title 42, Restore Asylum
5. Juliana v United States
6. Fight For Our Future
7. TPS for Cameroon
8. Election Hero's
9. Coal Baron Blockade
10. International Transgender Day of Visibility
11. Communities Not Cages
12. Welcome Without Discrimination
13. Day of Action to End Title 42 and Restore Asylum
14. January 6th Vigils
15. Build Back Fossil Free / People vs. Fossil Fuels
16. Freedom to Vote Relay & Rally
17. Immigrant Showdown



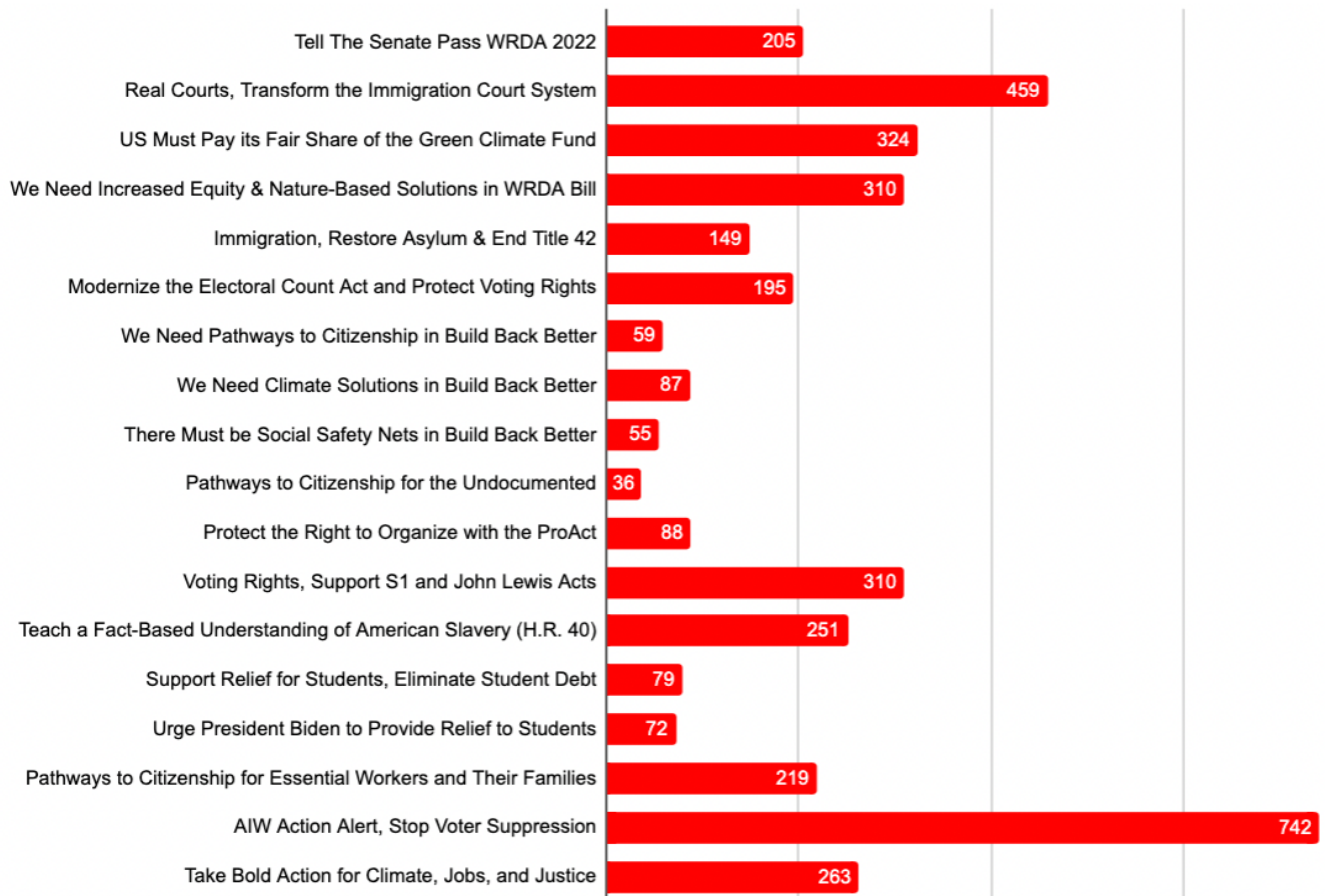
**Advocacy:** UUSJ's best-known activity is that of nonpartisan policy advocacy at the federal level. We develop materials with which to engage UU congregations and individuals. Using pressure campaign action alerts, *Write Here! Write Now!* letter writing campaigns, briefing materials, and talking points papers. Actions with links included are still open.

June 2022	Tell The Senate Pass WRDA 2022
May 2022	<a href="#">Real Courts, Transform the Immigration Court System</a>
April 2022	<a href="#">US Must Pay its Fair Share of the Green Climate Fund</a>
April 2022	We Need Increased Equity & Nature-Based Solutions in WRDA Bill
March 2022	Immigration, Restore Asylum & End Title 42
March 2022	Modernize the Electoral Count Act and Protect Voting Rights
February 2022	We Need Pathways to Citizenship in Build Back Better
February 2022	We Need Climate Solutions in Build Back Better
February 2022	There Must be Social Safety Nets in Build Back Better
December 2021	Pathways to Citizenship for the Undocumented
November 2022	Protect the Right to Organize with the ProAct
September 2021	Voting Rights, Support S1 and John Lewis Acts
August 2021	Teach a Fact-Based Understanding of American Slavery (HR 40)
August 2021	<a href="#">Congress should support Relief for Students, Fight to Eliminate Student Debt</a>
August 2021	<a href="#">Call on President Biden to Tackle Student Debt</a>
July 2021	We Must Include Pathways to Citizenship for Essential Workers and Their Families
July 2021	Take Bold Action for Climate, Jobs, and Justice
July 2021	AIW Action Alert, Stop Voter Suppression

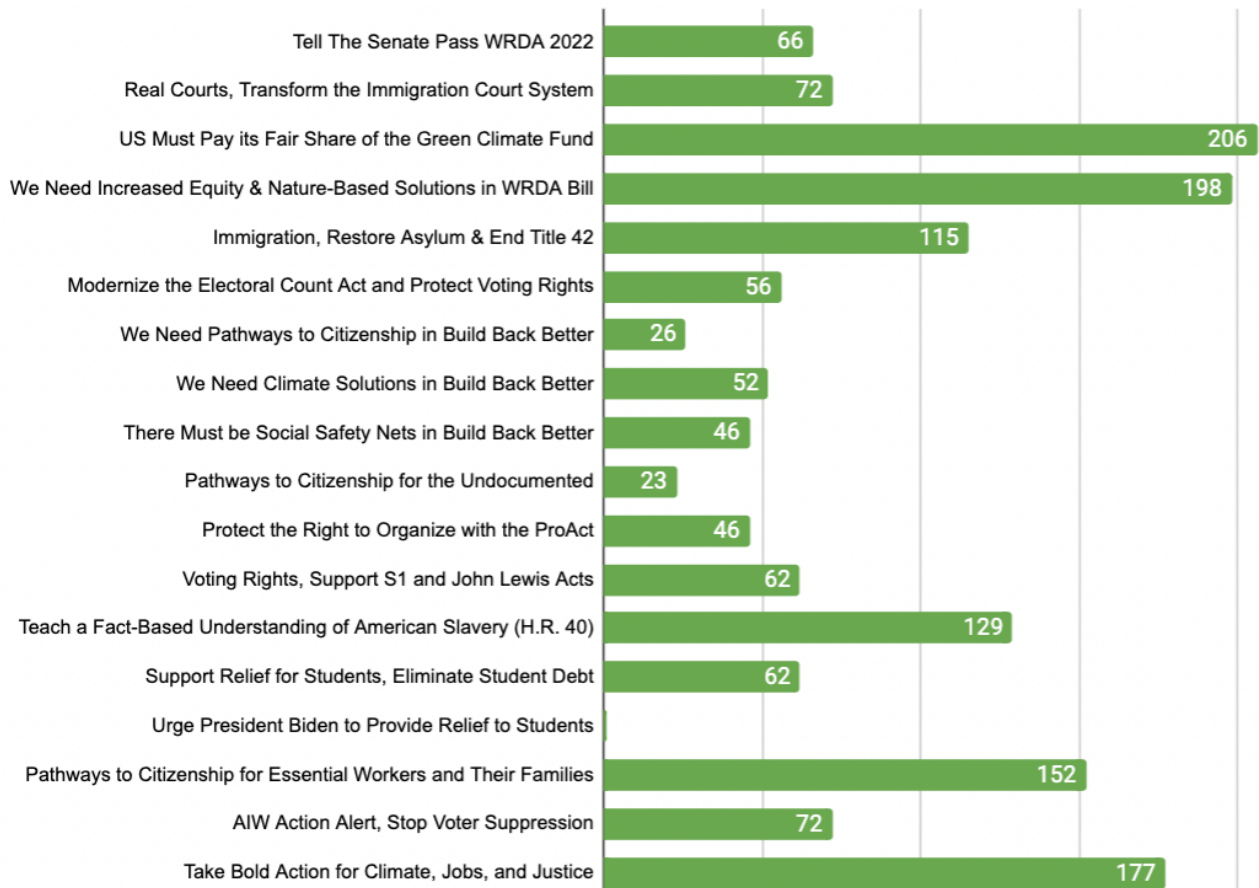
## Number of Messages Sent



## Number of Letter Writers



## Number of Legislators Contacted







**Rev. Mary Katherine Morn**  
 UU Service Committee  
 Pres/CEO

UUSJ's awards ceremony promotes and advances UU values by highlighting social justice service and advocacy by Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations. In 2021 our keynote speaker was Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, UU Service Committee.

**2021 Nominees**



## 2021 Social Justice Activist Roundtable

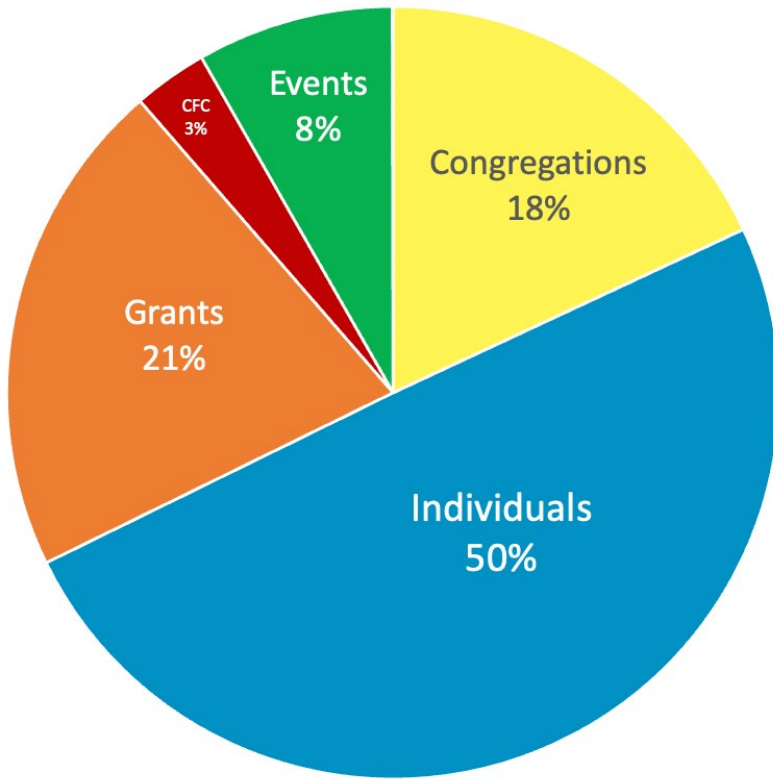


We face mountains of trouble in the world, from voter suppression, to a global pandemic, to humanitarian crises, to environmental devastation, and more.

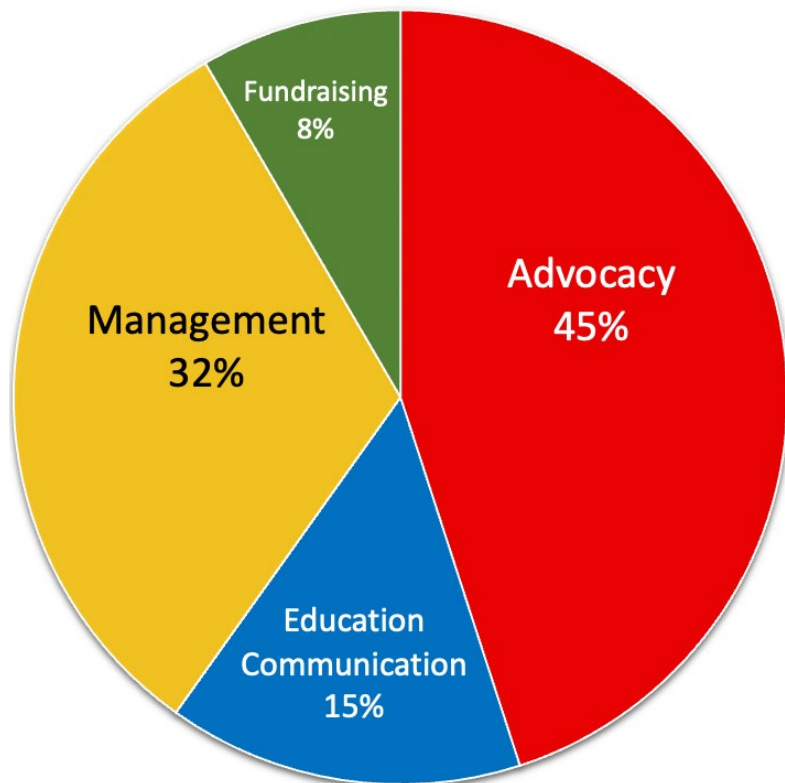
In November, 2021 we networked with other social justice activists, shared successful programs, discussed challenges, and were energized to continue doing justice work. Rev. Dr. Pippin Whitaker, Co-chair, UUA Commission on Social Witness was our facilitator.

# Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Financials

## Income



## Expenses



## Donors

Absher, Patti  
Adams, Kathy  
Adams, Shirley  
Adams, Kathryn  
Adams, Roberta  
Ades, Martha  
Alcorn, Donna  
Allen, Stan  
Allen-Schmid, Genia  
Alonzo, Virginia  
Alzamora, Betty  
Armstrong, Seth  
Asche, Jane  
Bacon, Paige  
Bainbridge, Lysbeth  
Baker, Barry  
Bangs, Pat  
Barratt, Marilou  
Batcher, Andrew  
Behenna, Pat  
Bell, Curtis  
Belton, Ralph  
Beninson, Ilene  
Bennett, Susan  
Bennett, Lauren  
Bergen, Kay  
Bird, Nora  
Bisbee, Mary Alice  
Bishop, Peter  
Bishop, Martha  
Boudin, Kathy  
Boyd, Gayle  
Broderick, Sharon  
Brown, Francis  
Browning, Sue  
Brunson, Paul  
Buckingham, Stephen  
Buffington, Lynn  
Buil, Beyssa  
Butler, Patricia  
Cable, Joyce  
Caldiero, James  
Carlstad, Melanie  
Carpenter, Bruce  
Chastain, Suzan  
Cherem, Barbara  
Chery, Donald  
Clarke, Peggy  
Clarke, Norie  
Clause, Cynthia  
Clayton, Marilyn  
Clegg, Bob  
Coale, Karen  
Cochrane, Julia  
Cohee, Margaret  
Collegeman, Mirjam  
Connor, Katherine  
Coons, Elizabeth  
Corbeil, Ryn  
Cosca, Cecilia  
Cox, Lyn  
Crothers, Diane  
Crowley, Betty McGarvie  
Culhane, Carol Fern  
Culp, David  
Dash, Jan  
DaSilva Jain, Katherine  
Davies, Carole  
Davis, Nancy  
Davis, James  
Deadman, Erica  
Degner, Gwyn  
Dempsey, James  
Denniston, Bob  
DeRose, Kara  
Desmarais, Theodore  
DeSousa, Teresa  
Diamant, Barbara  
Dimond, Margery  
Donn, Marjory  
Dorr, Karen  
Douglas, John  
Duarte, Marean  
Dugan, Richard  
Dwire, Janet  
Eckstrand, Stephen  
Eckstrand, Katherine  
Edwards, Jolene  
Epstein, Richard  
Evans, Steven  
Evansmore, Jean  
Fennell, Iris  
Fernandez, Janet  
Finkelstein, Roberta  
Finkenberg, Jack  
Fischell, Sarah  
Flaherty, Chris  
Fleming, Amelia  
Flot, Shanti  
Floyd, Rebecca  
Fontneau, Peter  
Foster-Clark, Frederick  
Francis, Sharin  
Fulton, Sandra  
Funk, Rus  
Garcia-Sampson, Lisa  
Garin, Nick and Gayle  
Garland, Sam  
Garrison, Nancy  
Getty, Cynthia  
Gilkey, Fred  
Giordano, Tony  
Gould, Ron  
Grant, Cynthia  
Greene, Minna  
Grogan, Terrance  
Grow, Lavona  
Grubman, Cathy & Stewart  
Gubbings, John  
Hager, Christine  
Hargrave, Anna  
Harris, Bill  
Hauck, Molly  
Heaton, Vonna  
Helde, Joan  
Helfert, Nina  
Henigin, Linda  
Hensgen, Bernard  
Hicks, Karen  
Higgins, Christina  
Higgins Hargrave, Meredith  
Hilke, John  
Hoffman, Pat  
Hoffmann, Frances  
Holbein, Lynn  
Horner, June  
Hubbard, Brad & Andrea  
Hughes-Rease, Marsha  
Hundley, Anne  
Hunt, Douglas  
Hybl, Lois  
Jacobs, Barbara  
Johnsen, Robert  
Johnson, Alan  
Johnson, George  
Jones, Rev. Roger  
Jones, Jennifer  
Jones Carroll, Charlotte  
Kane, James  
Kappler, Denise  
Keiswetter, Allen  
King, Iva  
Kinnaird, Jula  
Knepper, Kathleen  
Knodell, Mary  
Koechlin, Emily  
Koehl, William  
Kringer, Ed  
Kubien, LLC  
Ladd, Dianne  
Ladner, Robert  
LaFerriere, Lorraine  
Langrall, Rebecca  
Lathrop, Patricia  
Lazarus, Deborah  
Lebowitz, Jack  
Little, Deborah  
Logie, Alice  
Lohr, Jack  
Lopez, Norma  
Lovelace, Rebecca  
Lowe, Serena  
Lowman, Terry  
Lynch, Bernise  
MacDonald, Ethel  
Magnuson, Gary  
Malcolm, Kim  
Manning, Judy  
Manning, Barbara & Charles  
Maranville, Deborah  
Marcus, Jill  
Marking, Paul  
Martin, Virginia  
Maschal, Alberta  
Maslanka, Stephanie  
McCarthy, Sean  
McCarthy, Bob  
McCord, Michael  
Melchior, Lee  
Meslin, Jan  
Michael, David  
Miller, Suzanne  
Miller, Karen  
Milner, Melanie  
Miserendino, Mary Jo  
Mitchell, Ken  
Monaco, Rosemarie  
Moore, Josephine  
Morn, Mary Katherine  
Morris, Barbara  
Morse, Mia  
Morse, Robert  
Mummert, Gary  
Munson, Sarah  
Nading, Toni  
Nahas, Betsy  
Narter, Meltem  
Nazare, Leni  
Neiss, Charlie  
Nelson, Jane  
Nelson, Elaine  
Nobel, Barry

Northrup, Margaret  
 Nye, Susan  
 O'Kester, Katherine  
 Ockey, Chloe  
 OMeara, Maureen  
 Outcalt, Russell  
 Owen, Jean  
 Pappas, Nancy  
 Parker, Natalie  
 Parker, Carolyn  
 Paxton, Mary  
 Pearce, Barbara  
 Petersberger, Ralph  
 Peterson, John  
 Pezzuto, Rena  
 Phillips, Charlotte  
 Phillips, Patricia  
 Phillips, Natasha  
 Pierce, Daniel  
 Pietras, John  
 Piez, Eleanor  
 Pinson, Margery  
 Poon, Leslie  
 Poppei, Jean  
 Porth, Suzanne  
 Pranschke, Carol  
 Pratt, Cynthia  
 Priese, Katrina  
 Ramsden, Lindi  
 Ratta, Gregory  
 Remenchik, Ellen  
 Repasch, Tom  
 Reponen, Stefanie  
 Roberts, Tanya  
 Robison, Judith  
 Rosasco, Gregory  
 Rosenthal, Kristin  
 Routhier, Scott  
 Row, Constance  
 Rowe, Loretta  
 Salmons, Janet  
 Sand, Jessica  
 Santos-Lyons, Joseph  
 Sapirman, Nadine  
 Sayles, Julia  
 Scheidt, Donna  
 Schiller, Donna  
 Schmitt, Priscilla  
 Schmitz, Joseph  
 Sciullo, James  
 Scott, Kay  
 Scott, Ursula  
 Scrivo, Karen Lee  
 Seiffert, Dianne

Sherman, Peggy  
 Shields, Robert  
 Shilling, Ken  
 Shilton, David  
 Smart, Janice  
 Smith, Dorothy  
 Smoker, James & Joanne  
 Smrekar, Mary Jo  
 Soule, Cindy  
 Speights, Michael  
 Story, Dale  
 Strauss, David  
 Swahnberg, Nadine  
 Swanton, Patricia  
 Tanner, Mary Cathy  
 Tanner, Marietta  
 Taylor, Howard  
 Taylor, Beth  
 Teall, Margie  
 Thompson, Jan  
 Thoryn, Michael  
 Thurmond, Anita  
 Tice, Patricia  
 Todor, Nina  
 Toigo, Diane  
 Tugendhat, Marcia  
 Tyler, Martha  
 Uhlig, Lucy  
 Ulrich, Thomas  
 Underwood, Larry  
 Van Brunt, John  
 Van Deusen, Fred  
 Van Doren, Thomas  
 Van Wagner, Marty  
 Vera, Mariano  
 Walker, Carol  
 Wanderer, Dean  
 Wasserman, Adam  
 Wells, Ross  
 West, Karen  
 Weston, Nancy  
 White, Marsha  
 Whiting, Carolyn  
 Whitson, Sarah  
 Willard, Nikki  
 Wilson, Rebecca  
 Winston, Leon  
 Wray, Tanner  
 Wyatt, Craig Dylan  
 Young, Elizabeth  
 Zilber, Suzanne



## Congregational Contributors

Accotink UU Church, Burke, VA  
 All Souls Church Unitarian, Washington DC  
 Bull Run UUs, Manassas, VA  
 Cedar Lane UU Church, Bethesda, MD  
 Davies Memorial UU Congregation, Temple Hills, MD  
 Edmonds UU Congregation, Edmonds, WA  
 First Parish, Concord MA  
 First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, MD  
 Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, VA  
 Paint Branch UU Church, Adelphi, MD  
 River Road UU Congregation, Bethesda, MD  
 Towson UU Church, Timonium, MD  
 Unitarian Church of Lincoln, NE  
 UU Church in Reston, VA  
 UU Church of Arlington, VA  
 UU Congregation of Columbia, MD  
 UU Congregation of Fairfax, VA  
 UU Congregation of Frederick, MD  
 UU Congregation of Rockville, MD  
 UU Fellowship of Easton, MD  
 UU Fellowship of Hendersonville, NC  
 UU Santa Fe, NM  
 Washington Ethical Society, Washington DC

# UUSJ 2021-22 Board of Trustees

## Executive Committee



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Vice-Chair

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Fresno CA  
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Mariano Vera  
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New York NY

Johannes Favi  
Elmhurst IL

Norma Flores Lopez  
Texas

Serena Lowe  
Falls Church VA

Rev. Eleanor Piez  
Alexandria VA

Rev. Joseph Santos Lyons  
Antipolo City, The Philippines

## A Brief History of UUSJ

During the 1980s, most Washington, DC area UU congregations worked together to launch and support the UU Affordable Housing Corporation (UUAHC). In 1998, Jack Edmondson, the Executive Director of UUAHC, asked Rev. John Beuhrens, President of the UUA, to explore how the various Washington-based UU entities might cooperate more effectively through a coalition. After exploratory discussions, Rev. Buehrens embraced the idea and after conducting meetings with area ministers and UU leaders, an organizing meeting was held. In 1999 of 20 UU congregations and organizations decided to organize. UUSJ was incorporated in April 2000. Over the years, UUSJ moved from having a single-issue focus to multiple priorities. Since its inception, UUSJ had been educating about advocacy. In 2013, UUSJ launched a direct advocacy program to bring critical issues to the attention of public policy makers, given its strategic location in the Capital region. A letter-writing campaign (*Write Here! Write Now!*) was developed to elicit letters from constituents and briefings were prepared to inform Advocacy Corps members of their scheduled meetings with Congressional staff. The Corps has delivered over 11,000 personal letters written by UUs across the country. UUSJ has been staffed over the 20 years by a part-time Executive Director (currently Pablo DeJesus) and part-time administrative staff (currently Paulette DeMers).

# UUSJ 2022-23 Board of Trustees

## Executive Committee



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Chair

Rev. Peggy Clarke  
New York NY  
Vice-Chair

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Vonna Heaton  
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Meleah Houseknecht  
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