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

Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2021-22
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, Board Chair

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 formally embraced and adopted the 8th Principle in 2021. The 8th 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Action Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2022</td>
<td>Tell The Senate Pass WRDA 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2022</td>
<td>Real Courts, Transform the Immigration Court System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2022</td>
<td>US Must Pay its Fair Share of the Green Climate Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2022</td>
<td>We Need Increased Equity &amp; Nature-Based Solutions in WRDA Bill</td>
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<td>March 2022</td>
<td>Immigration, Restore Asylum &amp; End Title 42</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2022</td>
<td>Modernize the Electoral Count Act and Protect Voting Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>We Need Pathways to Citizenship in Build Back Better</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>We Need Climate Solutions in Build Back Better</td>
</tr>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>There Must be Social Safety Nets in Build Back Better</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>Pathways to Citizenship for the Undocumented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Protect the Right to Organize with the ProAct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>Voting Rights, Support S1 and John Lewis Acts</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Teach a Fact-Based Understanding of American Slavery (HR 40)</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
<td>Congress should support Relief for Students, Fight to Eliminate Student Debt</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Call on President Biden to Tackle Student Debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>We Must Include Pathways to Citizenship for Essential Workers and Their Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Take Bold Action for Climate, Jobs, and Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>AIW Action Alert, Stop Voter Suppression</td>
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**Number of Messages Sent**

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<td>US Must Pay its Fair Share of the Green Climate Fund</td>
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<td>We Need Pathways to Citizenship in Build Back Better</td>
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<td>We Need Climate Solutions in Build Back Better</td>
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<td>There Must be Social Safety Nets in Build Back Better</td>
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<td>Pathways to Citizenship for the Undocumented</td>
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<td>Protect the Right to Organize with the ProAct</td>
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<td>Voting Rights, Support S1 and John Lewis Acts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teach a Fact-Based Understanding of American Slavery (H.R. 40)</td>
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<td>Support Relief for Students, Eliminate Student Debt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urge President Biden to Provide Relief to Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathways to Citizenship for Essential Workers and Their Families</td>
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<td>AIW Action Alert, Stop Voter Suppression</td>
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Number of Letter Writers

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<td>Real Courts, Transform the Immigration Court System</td>
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<td>We Need Climate Solutions in Build Back Better</td>
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<td>There Must be Social Safety Nets in Build Back Better</td>
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<td>Pathways to Citizenship for the Undocumented</td>
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<td>Take Bold Action for Climate, Jobs, and Justice</td>
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Number of Legislators Contacted

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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
- Individuals: 50%
- Grants: 21%
- Congregations: 18%
- Events: 8%
- CFC: 3%

Expenses
- Advocacy: 45%
- Management: 32%
- Education Communication: 15%
- Fundraising: 8%
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
Beren, 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
crhee, 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
deSouza, 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
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
Kinnard, Julia
Knepper, Kathleen
Knodell, Mary
Koehlin, 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
Mumert, 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
Outcault, 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
Thorny, 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

Acotink 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
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, 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).