

UUSJ Executive Committee – November 11, 2022

Present: Charlotte Jones-Carroll, Rev. Peggy Clarke, Mariano Vera, Pablo De Jesus, Meleah Houseknecht. Absent: Chloe Ockey

- **Updates:** Pablo reported that:
 - our relationship/donor management database, Salsa, has been sold to Bonterra. He and Paulette are discussing options about whether to stay and receive less service or look for another donor database management system.
 - our IRS 990 report for last fiscal year had been e-filed successfully and on time (after several years of paper filing), since IRS no longer accepts paper 990s.
 - Susan Frederick Gray has accepted to participate in a webinar, which will be a fundraiser for UUSJ, on a date in late January or early February. She proposes that the format be an interview of her, rather than a talk.
 - Pablo has received around 60 applications for the communications assistant job and is culling them to prepare a long list of truly qualified candidates, which he will share with Chloe.
 - Charlotte and Pablo have spoken with anti-racism trainer Tammy Johnson, who is prepared to offer three 90-minute sessions on Jan 17, 24 and 31 (fall back dates Feb 1-8-15) to our board and committee members and wider participants.
 - A volunteer group had stuffed 300 end-of-year solicitation letters which were mailed to past donors and activists who have not yet donated.

- **Nominating Committee** – Chloe Ockey and Vonna Heaton, the two trustees, had met along with Pablo and discussed identifying three or four non-trustees to join the committee by January. Two persons have expressed willingness, but as both are in the greater Washington area, the Committee will look for another two from outside the DMV. Peggy suggested the NC consider Susan Leslie, recently retired from UUA. Charlotte proposed that some clear expectations be laid out for both incumbents who might want to be re-elected, and new candidates: The EC suggested these expectations: (i) participation in all quarterly board meetings for the whole time, (ii) membership in at least one Standing Committee and participation in that committee's deliberations, (iii) contribution in accordance with ability to donate, (iv) willingness to take anti-racism training if offered and (v) consistent efforts to boost UUSJ in UU and partner settings.

- **UUSJ 's place in the UU Universe:** after a five-year effort to become a national rather than regional UU organization and to focus on education and advocacy for policies and legislation at the federal level, UUSJ is still not widely known, nor does it always get credit for the work it does in partnership with other UU groups. How can we grow our capacity and improve our outreach in this context? Meleah had reached out to Rev. Ashley Horan of Side With Love to understand her views on how UUSJ could partner and participate in the movement to collectively work for justice in the world. Rev. Horan expressed a strong interest in having a capable UUSJ that works on federal policy. She

thinks we should focus on growing capacity through fundraising to support better staffing. She found UUSJ to already be a strong collaborator but urged that we avoid mixed messages from Exec Director and trustees. Meleah asked how we can show our unique capacity and raise awareness of our existence. Pablo had spoken with UUSC on how to work together. Like SWL, UUSC seems to be happy to have UUSJ do their DC-based work, but he felt mutuality of interests was not as strong as it should be. UUSJ does not always get much credit for its assistance, never gets financial support for this. He found UUSJ is undervalued within the UU landscape. But he stressed that it is for the Board to decide how to achieve the national standing we want. Others on EC noted that many other UU social justice organizations are well funded compared to UUSJ, we must recognize the risk of being subsumed into these other organizations, at least in the view of potential donors and grantors. UUSJ has already been mistaken for being an arm of Side With Love. How to work in parallel and maintain (and fund) our independence is the challenge. How can we get trustees to be big boosters of UUSJ – to spread the word and direct people to UUSJ actions? Mariano had made and shared copies within his congregation's social justice team of our annual report, as an example. Charlotte and Pablo had spoken at other congregations about UUSJ.

In conclusion, the EC agreed that this “existential” topic should be discussed at our January board meeting, along with fundraising responsibilities. Though the latter had been a topic on our September board agenda, not a lot had happened since then that could engage the trustees in reaching out to potential supporters. Pablo and Paulette are working on lists of people to contact, that can be distributed to trustees. Peggy noted that she followed up the notice to chair of Development Committee that she would be joining the DC, but had heard nothing back. Pablo will be in touch with chair, Norma, about getting the “board on board” for fundraising and updating the fundraising plan done last year.

Charlotte Jones Carroll, note taker