

UUSJ Board Meeting Minutes  
August 1, 2023 @ 3 p.m. Eastern

Present: Rev. Peggy Clarke, Sandra Wilmore, Dan Schneider, Vonna Heaton, Meleah Houseknecht, Rev. Latifah Griffin, Jean Pierce, Dale Anderson, Mariano Vera, Pablo De Jesus

- Welcome and Check-IN
- Report from Executive Director
  - Tracking a possible government shutdown
  - Farm Bill - by law should to be reauthorized before end of September; may extend into 2024. May be delayed due to election
  - House was only able to pass one or two appropriations of twelve before recess
  - What will be the role of Congress in upcoming Bills and their framing
  - Economic Justice - Domestic human needs spending issues, Medicaid unwinding, SNAP
  - Immigration
    - Asylum ban - the Court found that the ban was not appropriate and needed to be revisited
    - Afghan Adjustment Act - UUSJ and partners continuing to push using a procedural aspect; trying to find a place for the act to live
  - UUSJ is reaching out ot Dreamer-centric organizations in regards to Actions of Immediate Witness
  - Event on the 9th - all are invited to join
- Treasurer's Report - Mariano
  - July report released today - nothing out of the ordinary except for GA expenses which were expected
  - \$4180 in donations this month
  - Predictive budgeting and planning needs to be considered throughout the year (ex. Audit)
- Finance Committee Report
  - Meleah is meeting with Charlotte to review tasks and timeline for upcoming year, planning to meet at the end of the month
- Development Committee Report

- Dale sent us draft of UUSJ Development Plan - please send any edits to Dale
- Goal: 30 congregations that could get us to the \$30,000 mark
  - Imagine if each board member contacted a few congregations and began relationships with them?
- An updated video with Rev. Peggy and Pablo in it?
- Bumper sticker series / overall swag
  - Advocating for Collective Liberation
- Raising Public Profile
- Donor Event - Let's keep it simple - Community and connections are the goals
  - The idea was to have some in person informal events
    - Taco Tuesday
    - Coffee and Conversation
- Power Sunday - Let's have a "Day"
  - Rev. Peggy and Rev. Kristen are leading
  - An annual event to bring people into Federal Advocacy for a day
  - A worship service about federal advocacy, focusing on a particular bill
  - Some kind of call to action
    - Call your senator right now!
    - Write letters at coffee hour
  - This Year: October 22nd
  - Chloe will be looped into graphic design conversations
  - Rev. Latifah will be helping
- People just don't know who UUSJ is and what it means
  - Our name is just an acronym
  - Is our name working in terms of raising our profile?
  - Think about it and regroup in September
- Newsletter:
  - Chloe added on as an editor, Meleah as a back up
- Next meeting: Tuesdays @ 3 p.m. Eastern, first Tuesday of each month
  - September 5th at 3 p.m. ET, 2:45 Gather and check-in
  - Development & Marketing
  - How do we grow in the ways we need to?