



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
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A People So Bold: Social Justice Ministries & Theologies

Resources for congregations to deepen work for social justice

In January 2009, thirty-two leading UU theologians, ministers, and activists gathered to reflect on how congregations might be beacons of UU values for the larger world. How do we understand suffering, oppression, injustice in the light of our faith?

Out of those conversations came A People So Bold, a DVD and online curriculum materials designed for congregational use as well as individual viewing and reflection. The curriculum can be found online at www.uua.org/apeoplesobold and copies of the DVD can be requested by emailing socialjustice@uua.org. The video will soon be available for viewing online as well.

MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!

Upcoming Social Witness Process Deadlines.

Beginning Friday, November 13th, congregations will have the opportunity to participate in a number of social witness decisions.

- Vote in the Congregational Poll (closes February 1, 2010)
 - Approve placing the Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) "Peacemaking" on the Final Agenda for General Assembly (GA) 2010
 - Select five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) ([view all proposed CSAIs](#))
- Submit comments on the Draft SOC "Peacemaking" (preview [comment form](#)) (closes February 1, 2010)
- Submit comments on the Draft CSAI "Ethical Eating" (preview [comment form](#)) (closes March 1, 2010)

For more information and to get started, go to www.uua.org/csw.

Dial Down Climate Change!

More than 100 UU congregations participated in 350.org's International Day of Climate Action to show their commitment to ending global climate change. Now it's time to focus directly on the legislation! The US Senate is currently discussing several climate change bills and negotiating to get the 60 votes necessary to pass a bill. Beginning December 7th, world leaders convene in Copenhagen to establish a framework for an international treaty around Climate Change. Now is the time to act!

Introducing the "Dial Down Climate Change" Campaign, with resources to help UU congregations persuade their Senators to pass strong and just legislation. Go to www.uua.org/environmentaljustice/ for more information.



"The walls between the countries with the most and those with the least cannot stand. The walls between races and tribes, natives and immigrants...cannot stand. These are the walls we must tear down."

– Barack Obama, speaking in Berlin, July 2008.

Calendar

Dec. 1	World AIDS Day
Dec. 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec. 10	Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights
Dec. 18	International Migrants Day
Jan. 18	MLK Jr. Day
Jan 22.	Roe v. Wade Day
Feb. 12	Freedom to Marry Day
Feb. 14	National Condom Day
Feb. 16	Presidents Day

We're on Twitter!
<http://twitter.com/UUJustice>

Social Justice Awards for UUs and Congregations!

Nominations and submissions due March 1, 2010!

Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action

The Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action, instituted in 1999 by James Bennett to honor the congregation that has done exemplary work in social justice, is accompanied by a \$500 cash award that is presented at General Assembly.

Holmes-Weatherly Award

The Holmes-Weatherly Award is given to an individual or organization, not necessarily a Unitarian Universalist, whose life-long commitment to faith-based social justice is reflected in societal transformation. The recognition is accompanied by a \$500 cash award.

Skinner Sermon Award

Presented annually to the preacher of the sermon best expressing Unitarian Universalism's social principles. Open to any Unitarian Universalist layperson, religious educator, or minister, the award was established to stimulate preaching concerned with the social implications of religion. The award carries an honorarium of \$500. The sermon is delivered by the author in a special worship service at General Assembly (GA). Individuals may submit only one entry to the Skinner Sermon Award Committee.

Social Witness Sermon Contest

This is the opportunity to speak out on any dimension of these current Congregational Study/Action Issues, adopted by the delegates of General Assemblies 2006 and 2008 respectively: **Peacemaking and Ethical Eating**. There is a \$500 award and an opportunity to deliver the sermon at General Assembly 2010.

For more information on the above awards, please see:

www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/

Get Ready for the 2010 Sexuality Education Advocacy Training!

Register today (<http://www.uua.org/SEAT>) for SEAT 2010, the sixth annual Sexuality Education Advocacy Training, which will take place in Washington, D.C. from March 20-23, 2010. SEAT brings together a dynamic, interfaith group of youth, young adults and adult allies to discuss sex education as a religious issue and its impact on young people. The three and a half day training includes interfaith sharing, anti-racism and oppression training, community organizing skill building sessions, a legislative briefing, lobbying training and lobby visits with Congressional staff.

Every year, SEAT creates an inclusive and supportive environment where a diverse group of youth, young adults and adult supporters learn to be effective religious advocates for comprehensive sex education in their congregations, schools and communities. We strongly encourage intergenerational groups from the same area to come to SEAT together. Financial assistance is available for those in need. For more information, email Orelia Busch at obusch@uua.org. Join us for SEAT 2010, Register today! (<http://www.uua.org/SEAT>)

Standing on the Side of Love Friday Calls and Webcasts

These 45 min web-cast conference calls happen every Friday at 1 PM EDT/EST (12PM Central; 11 AM Mountain; 10 AM Pacific)

Each call features a presentation by Campaign Staff and Advisors, Q & A and discussion.

Topics Include:

- How to get your congregation involved.
- How to develop a local campaign.
- How to use new media.
- How to bring SSL to interfaith colleagues and allies.
- And more!

Goto:

www.standingonthesideoflove.org/fridaycalls/

Social Justice Empowerment Workshop Applications

The UUA Social Justice Empowerment Workshop helps members of a congregation to assess their social justice program and make them more effective. For more information, please email Audra Friend at afriend@uua.org