

UN Sunday 2014



SACRED ROOTS: INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, RESISTANCE AND RECLAMATION

COMPLETE PACKET PART I - IV



Unitarian Universalist
United Nations Office

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office
777 UN Plaza Suite 7G / New York NY 10017
P 212.986.5165 / F 212.983.5498

unitednations@uua.org / www.uua.org/unsunday

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ALL ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS:

INTRODUCTION: HERE IS A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. READ THE PURPOSES AS OPENING WORDS OR AS A REFLECTION.

With the scourge of war heavy on hearts and minds following World War II, 51 countries met in San Francisco to create the United Nations, where they drafted and signed its Charter. When these 51 countries signed the Charter on 24 October 1945, they became *member states* of the United Nations and committed their governments and peoples to “maintain international peace and security” as well as the Charter’s other purposes and principles. When *states* become *members* of the United Nations, they agreed to accept the many obligations of the UN Charter¹.

Much of the UN’s work sets normative frameworks, advancing global thoughts and policies, which governments must take upon themselves to implement. One of the most important purposes in the Charter to remember when thinking about the purpose of the United Nations is the fourth: “to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.”

A common misunderstanding is that the UN is a director of action or change or that it has power over states. Much like elected or appointed officials in a city or province draft legislation in the interest of their local constituents, UN delegates from different countries deliberate law and legislation at the international level. Governments draft, debate, and vote for or against treaties, conventions, or action plans discussed at the UN.

The entire budget for the United Nations is financed by dues and voluntary contributions from member states. There are 193 member states in the United Nations (the newest member state is Republic of South Sudan, 14 July 2011). In addition, the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority have observer status, which means that they have speaking rights, but no voting rights. Working with such a diversity of peoples requires a large full-time translation team, and the UN works in six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

PURPOSES:

HERE ARE FOUR OF THE MAIN TENETS OF THE UN, SIMILAR TO OUR OWN SEVEN PRINCIPLES

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace;
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

¹ United Nations Charter: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

UNITED NATIONS SUNDAY

HOW TO EXPLAIN UN SUNDAY:

BACKGROUND

The United Nations was founded in 1945 as a global association of governments that facilitates cooperation in international law, security, economic development, and social equality. With aims to protect human rights and achieve world peace, it is a center for governments to communicate and develop strategies to reach these ends. Since 1947, 24 October has been called United Nations Day to commemorate the anniversary of the UN's creation. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending that the day be observed as a public holiday by member states.

AT YOUR OWN CONGREGATION

In celebration of this annual event, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office invites congregations and individual UUs to deepen their understanding of the United Nations by devoting one service in October to reaffirming the connections between our UU principles and the vital issues dealt with at the UN. Usually, congregations organize a UN Sunday for the last Sunday in October, but any Sunday in October (or any month) would be better than no Sunday at all. The theme for the UN Sunday service follows the theme for that year's Intergenerational Spring Seminar which in 2014 is Sacred Roots: Indigenous Rights, Resistance and Reclamation.

We encourage ministers, lay leaders, and youth and adult envoys to take advantage of our prepared materials and/or develop their own ideas for a UN Sunday service. Consider enlisting a UU-UNO Envoy or a special UN speaker to present the sermon. We especially encourage a multigenerational service, including children, youth, young adults, adults, and seniors working together in the preparation and execution of UN Sunday. Our UN Religious Education curriculum (UN Me) is available on our UN Sunday webpage: www.uua.org/unsunday. Further, we urge congregations to organize related religious education sessions. On our website, a short insightful history of UN DAY and UU history at the UN is an additional great resource to use. Visit www.uua.org/unsunday and download "They called it UN Day" by UU lawyer Frank B. Frederick who was involved in the creation of UN Day and the UU-UNO.

Finally, we ask congregations to consider dedicating their UN Sunday offering plate to the important work of the UU-UNO (a tax deductible not-for-profit organization) and to inform fellow UUs of the benefits of contributing to the UU-UNO. The UU-UN Office exists to provide a unique Unitarian Universalist perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support. We need your involvement, your engagement, and your enthusiastic support to help us bring our UU voice to the UN. We can help to change the world so that every person enjoys a safe and dignified life. Thank you for participating in UN Sunday!

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: RIGHTS AND REPRESENTATION AT THE UN

BACKGROUND ON THIS YEAR'S TOPIC OF INTEREST AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED AT THE UN RECENTLY:

There are over 370 million indigenous people worldwide, and they constitute the largest group of marginalized and victimized people. Over the past few decades, indigenous groups have sought recognition among other things from the international community. First off, indigenous people want to be recognized as groups with distinct cultures, history, languages, traditions, practices, and rights. They also seek self-determination from the governments of countries in which they reside, deciding their futures for themselves. Thirdly, indigenous peoples want basic human rights without discrimination, in addition to, rights over the lands that they occupy.



As human rights are a centerfold of this issue, a declaration was adopted in 2007 by the United Nations titled, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.² The nonbinding declaration contains no formal enforcement mechanism, but outlines all of the rights that indigenous peoples are entitled to. Currently indigenous peoples are the only marginalized group, out of women, children, refugees, workers, disables peoples, etc, that has waited so long for an effective and comprehensive document.

The very extensive declaration includes a preamble and forty-six articles recognizing basic human rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples. It outlines several rights, including self-determination, collective right to ownership, control and use of lands and resources, development of institutions, and protection of cultural property. It also includes procedures for fair and mutually fair conflict resolutions between indigenous peoples and the State.

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly consisting of 47 seats, to which member-states are elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. The UNHRC holds regular sessions three times a year and special sessions as needed to address human rights issues around the world. The UN Human Rights Council adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and forwarded it to the UN General Assembly and then to the body's Third Committee on social, humanitarian, and cultural matters. After a small delay the Third committee debated the concept of self-determination in indigenous people's rights brought up by the Organization of African Unity.

There has been a lack of consensus and action in the United Nations on the issue of enforcing indigenous rights. Still, the United Nations continues to hold forums on indigenous peoples to further discuss their rights and recognition.

² The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf.

BREAKING DOWN INDIGENOUS ISSUES IN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM:

HERE IS A SMALL BREAKDOWN OF UU PRINCIPALS AND THEIR CONNECTION TO INDIGENOUS ISSUES MENTIONED IN THIS YEAR'S UN FORUM AND SEMINAR:

THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON:

Indigenous peoples deserve to be treated with respect and recognized as a legitimate group with unalienable rights and worth as human beings.

JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS:

A huge challenge for indigenous groups is the relationship between themselves and the government. They deserve to be treated with equity and easily able to obtain the knowledge needed to defend their rights.

ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

We must open our hearts and minds to the many indigenous practices and traditions, consulting with elders to respectfully include spiritual practices in worship.

A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING:

All indigenous groups are entitled to self-determination or the right to decide their future through their own truth and meaning.

THE RIGHT OF CONSCIOUS AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETIES AT LARGE:

Our congregations utilize the democratic process, giving voice to all of the community. Indigenous groups should be subjected to the same fair, inclusive processes, and deserve a voice in government.

THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL:

In order to achieve this goal, we must educate ourselves, our communities, and beyond about the injustices faced by indigenous communities around the world.

RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE APART:

Indigenous spiritual practices emphasize a connection with the Earth. We must learn from these practices by engaging with local groups and expanding our knowledge on caring for and working with the environment.



SACRED ROOTS: INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, RESISTANCE AND RECLAMATION

WHAT WE DISCUSSED AT THIS YEAR'S SPRING SEMINAR:

As Unitarian Universalists, we strive to make the world a better place for all. Our first principle affirms and promotes the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Around the world, indigenous peoples are some of the most marginalized and victimized group, which is why both our seminar and the United Nations permanent forum addressed the issue this year.



Our Spring Seminar this year was titled, “Sacred Roots: Indigenous Rights, Resistance and Reclamation, bringing together youth, young adults, and adults together to discuss the importance human rights issues facing indigenous groups.

During the Seminar, we had three excellent keynote speakers as well as dozens of panelists sharing their knowledge and personal experience in dealing with the issue of indigenous people. Keynote speakers got the opportunity to address our intergenerational audience in the UN Trusteeship Council Chamber, where UU UNO director Bruce Knotts mentioned as the place where the UN debated ending colonialism.

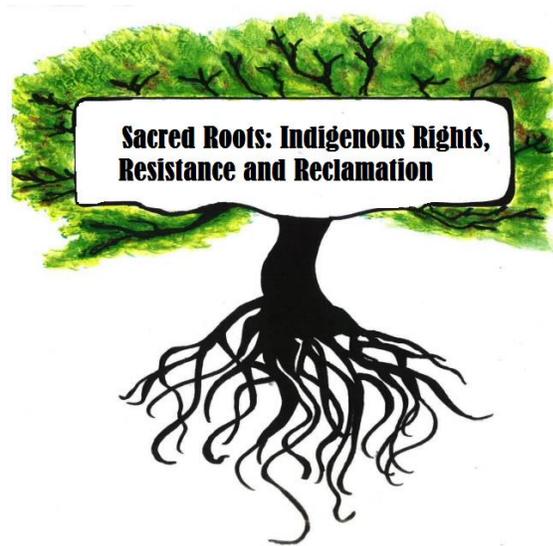
The first, Douglas Cardinal, indigenous architect, stated that, “we are all indigenous people,” this is how we survived and evolved. Secondly, Vyda Ng, Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council, called participants work to achieve safety and security for indigenous peoples through non-violence. Finally,

Unitarian Universalist Association President, Rev. Peter Morales, spoke about how religious institutions have worked to promote recognition and justice for all people throughout the years.



Other topics mentioned at the seminar included the unique role of indigenous women, and the groups' relationship with the surrounding environment. All of the attendees commented on how much they learned about the issue in the seminar, and how they were even more motivated to create change in their communities around the issue of indigenous people.

At the end of the seminar, participants worked together to draft a statement that was presented to the United Nations and to Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. We are committed to global equality and we support the United Nations in this endeavor. We left this year's seminar motivated and empowered to stand up for justice, spread knowledge, share our new skills, and make an impact on the world by being the change we want to see in the world.



For more information about this year's spring seminar check out our blog:

<http://international.blogs.uua.org/international-uu-organizations/uu-uno/sacred-roots-indigenous-rights-resistance-and-reclamation-recap/>

2014 INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR STATEMENT:
SACRED ROOTS:
INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, RESISTANCE AND
RECLAMATION

THIS STATEMENT WAS CREATED BY INTERGENERATIONAL SEMINAR ATTENDEES. IT IS A CALL TO ACTION TO SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

Whereas:

We as Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,

We as Unitarian Universalists turn to earth-centered traditions as a source of spiritual inspiration,

It is contrary to our values that treaty rights of indigenous peoples have been too long denied and their voices silenced,

The histories and current experiences of indigenous peoples have been suppressed by colonialism and western capitalist ideology,

We, as people who have inherited a culture of colonialism, have been ignorant of our interconnectedness with indigenous peoples and the planet, resulting in human rights abuses and an environmental crisis,

The right to land is not only for ourselves but for those who come after us,

Indigenous spiritual practices have been, and continue to be, misappropriated, historically with an intent to undermine the original culture,

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) sets a minimum standard for protection and advancement of indigenous rights,

The need to take action in the promotion of all rights of indigenous peoples is imperative to the future of humankind,

We Therefore Resolve To:

Affirm the self-determination, autonomy and cultural identity of all indigenous peoples and recognize our interconnectedness with the earth in an attempt to remedy the damage we have imposed.

Encourage Unitarian Universalist organizations and affiliates to consult with indigenous peoples regarding the appropriate and respectful inclusion of indigenous peoples' spiritual principles in our worship.

Demand comprehensive reform of education that is inclusive of many diverse indigenous cultural perspectives in an accurate historical and current context.

Learn from and work with indigenous peoples through developing intergenerational, authentic relationships with indigenous communities to ensure the prevention of cultural misappropriation.

Educate our society, starting with our home communities and advocate for change of the treatment of indigenous peoples.

Advocate in our communities and use our collective voice to ensure just action is taken by governments and corporations to uphold all treaties and guarantee the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples.

Reach out to indigenous community leaders to forge partnerships and learn from their communal approach to life, which preserves the resources of the earth for future generations.

Encourage the endorsers of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples not only to abide by its provisions, but to also go beyond them and to end oppression and misappropriation of indigenous rights.

Aid in non-violent resistance to environmentally unsustainable projects and practices perpetuated by colonial and corporate systems, and include indigenous teachings regarding environmental sustainability in our approach to the environment, health and the economy, in order to leave a healthy earth for all of our descendants.

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

HERE ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FACE EVERY DAY. HOW IS YOUR CONGREGATION ALREADY INVOLVED IN THESE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES? DURING YOUR UN SUNDAY SERVICE OR EVENT, SHARE AN ISSUE THAT YOUR CONGREGATION CAN CONNECT WITH.

LAND USE AND RIGHTS:

Indigenous peoples land use and the right to the land they live on is extremely important and fundamental problem they face. Besides a major economic asset, indigenous people are concerned with protecting the resources they use and their control over who uses the land, not ownership. The spirituality and sacredness of the land is of great importance to indigenous peoples, the resources from the Earth are considered special and invaluable. Several international laws, including the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention, all form the foundation for indigenous peoples right to land. Each country has its own common law for indigenous groups, but aboriginal title is the common law doctrine that assumes indigenous groups have sovereignty of the land. Almost every city or area has an indigenous group who has used or lived on the land. Try to find out what indigenous group or people live or have lived on the land where your congregation is get more information on their traditions, culture, and view of land use and rights.

SELF DETERMINATION:

Self-determination is defined as the right for people or a group of people to participate in the democratic process of governance and to influence their future, politically, socially, and culturally. Another major issue that indigenous groups face is self-determination or the right to influence their future. Indigenous groups are often the original settlers of an area, making their relationship with the current state or national government strained. Indigenous people deserve the right to make choices and be involved in choices made about their land, people, and matters affecting their living situation. Connect with the indigenous group in your area, try meeting with them to discuss this issue and how you can help by providing them with a voice in your local community. Advocacy is a powerful tool when it comes to self-determination, hopefully this will encourage intercultural conversations within your congregation and the community will be grateful for your support and advocacy of these important human rights issues.

NEW AGE MEDICINE:

Over the past few decades, new technology has enabled us to discover and create new cures, and medicines for various illnesses. Though, new medicine is generally welcomed by all, many indigenous groups have continued to rely on their own community medicine. Elders in the community use their knowledge of nature and herbal remedies to help their people. Many new generations become conflicted over whether they should continually rely on their medicine or new age medicine. This is not just an indigenous issue as there are many people internationally today that forgo new medicine citing side effects and dangers. It is important for us as UU's to be accepting of all people's choices. Focus on learning more about the difficult choices between new age medicine and more traditional practices of medicine to better understand this important indigenous issue.

MASS INCARCERATION:

Mass incarceration is not only a problem in the United States in regards to racial minorities, it is an international issue and affects indigenous peoples. The most incarcerated people worldwide are indigenous people. Indigenous offenders are often seen as uncivilized and uneducated, which is why they often get less than stellar representation in courts and get harsher sentences. Indigenous people are seen as a minority, and treated as such in terms of racial profiling and stereotypes in the justice system. It is also difficult for indigenous people as they must abide by their own group's laws and the larger communities'. Another reason for the large percentage of indigenous prisoners is that they are unfamiliar with larger community laws, and there are discrepancies in their law and the larger state law. It is important to know how indigenous laws and state/national laws are difficult, becoming familiar with the differences and marginalization of indigenous people as a whole is important to understand this issue.

SOME RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC OF INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Documentaries

- My Name is Kahentiiosta, Alanis Obomsawin, director, NFB, 1995. (Disc 3 in the Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance set).
- North Boys: The Story of Jimmy and Charlie (2012) – Residential Schools in Canada
- Finding Dawn, NFB, 2006 (Violence Against Indigenous women)
- No Turning Back: The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Greg Coyes, director, NFB, 1997.
- Urban Elder, Robert S. Adams, NFB, 1997, 29 mins.
- https://www.nfb.ca/channels/aboriginal_peoples_channel/ -Documentaries List
- <http://icarusfilms.com/subjects/indigeno.html> -Documentaries List

Books, Websites and Journal Articles

- Speaking My Truth. Aboriginal Healing Foundation, 2012 (Legacy of Residential Schools)http://speakingmytruth.ca/downloads/AHF_READER.pdf
- The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America by Thomas King (2013)
- Lawrence, Bonita. Gender, Race, and the Regulation of native Identity in Canada and the United states: An Overview. Hypatia 18.2 (2003) 3-31. [online journal]
- Weaver, Hilary N. Indigenous Identity: What Is It, and Who Really Has It? American Indian Quarterly, Spring 2001, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 240-255.
- Chandler, Michael J. and Christopher Lalonde. "Cultural Continuity as a Hedge Against Suicide in Canada's First Nations." In Transcultural Psychiatry. [online]

BRAINSTORMING UN SUNDAY:

HOW TO START THE PROCESS OF PLANNING A UN SUNDAY:

The following guide to planning a United Nations Sunday at your congregation is adapted from the work of Sylvia Heap, who has been planning these services for almost 30 years. The UN Sunday theme follows our Spring Seminar theme which this year is Indigenous Rights.

SET THE DATE with the church, preferably around October 24th. The 2014 suggested date is October 20th. If you are unable to book this date for a service, consider having a post-service event in October and hosting the service on another date. Alternate dates connect with UN international observance days.

- August 9th is the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
 - If you get a date in early September you can acknowledge this International Day. All services can acknowledge this International Day.
- September 21st is the International Day of Peace
- October 2nd is International Day of Non-Violence
- November 16th is International Day for Tolerance
- December 10th is Human Rights Day
- December 20th is International Human Solidarity Day
- February 20th is World Day of Social Justice

Feel free to contact the office for further recommendations.

DEVELOP THE THEME AROUND INDIGENOUS ISSUES

(SEE SECTION ON SEMINAR OR THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY FOR SOME ASSISTANCE)

- Decide on Guest speaker(s) - consider someone from the UU-UNO, Envoys, local Indigenous group representatives, congregants, yourself etc. (you have been provided with sufficient information to do it yourself)
- Pick out some options for readings, hymns, opening and closing. (Keep in mind the connection that Indigenous people have with our UU principles) We will post readings throughout September by UU ministers on the [UJN Sunday](http://www.uua.org/unsunday) portion of our website. www.uua.org/unsunday
- Consider including a presentation of some kind (i.e. show a video, give more information about a local indigenous group, have a discussion on local action, etc.)
- Plan on further organizing a reception for after the service (perhaps an international potluck) with special decorations, celebratory cake/food, more information on the theme (try to connect it to local or international indigenous groups)

CONSULTING FOR UN SUNDAY:

HOW TO SOLICIT HELP AND DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG MEMBERS INVOLVED:

MEET WITH THE CHURCH WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Develop/discuss an overview of the service you outline from the section above
- Discuss publicity
 - Utilize church newsletter, newspaper, etc. (designate someone to speak about UN Sunday during morning announcements in the weeks prior and write up a blurb to post in print and online)
- Designate someone to decorate the altar
 - Photographs, audiotape, videotape
- Contact the organist and/or the Music Director
 - Discuss prelude, hymns, postlude, other music (make it a collective decision, hopefully incorporating some indigenous inspired music)

*If your congregation does not have a Worship Committee, delegate the above tasks to Planning team members, or other congregation members interested in helping you plan and execute UN Sunday.

MAKE THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- Plan the cover – contact us to get a digital copy of the UU-UNO Logo
- Work with your congregation’s administrator on production
- Thank participants in the “Order of Service”
- Rehearse the Service
- “Choreograph” the service; practice moving from one segment to another
- If relevant and possible, have the guest speaker visit the church building
- Check on altar, microphones, video camera, and other audio equipment
- Rehearse the Service a second time if you can! You may find that there is something you want to change or add.

PREPARE FOR FOLLOW-UP

- Email Envoy Coordinator for UU-UNO Donation Envelopes
- Talk with treasurer or church admin about check processing protocol
 - Can they provide you with a list of names of donors? Can they provide the office with the list?
 - Can they share the number of donors?
 - Can they send the UU-UNO donation envelopes to the office for our records?
- Review donation protocol (see document on www.uua.org/un/envoys)

SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE:

We recognize that each congregation has its own routine for Sunday morning gatherings, and we encourage you to use and modify the resources in this packet to fit your own congregation's needs. If your congregation is unable to hold a service, hold an event and/or fundraiser about the work of the UU-UNO on UN Sunday. For further inspiration, throughout September and leading up to UN Sunday we will post words and prayers from UU ministers on the UN Sunday portion of our website: www.uua.org/unsunday.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS: Use this time to introduce UN Sunday and the UU-UNO. Possibly have an Envoy introduce the service.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Singing the Living Tradition* #475 (UN Charter) or #614 (The Sacred Hoop)

OPENING WORDS/ CHALICE LIGHTING: *Singing the Living Tradition* Reading #561

JOYS AND CONCERNS: (if your congregation normally has them)

OPENING HYMN: *Singing the Living Tradition* #389 (Gathered Here) or #326 (Let All the Beauty We Have Known)

READING/ STORY: First Nation Creation Story

<http://www.sd91.bc.ca/frenchj/Students/Creation%20Stories%20First%20Nations.html>

READING: *Singing the Living Tradition* Reading #550 (We Belong to the Earth) or #661 (The Heart Knoweth)

SERMON/ HOMILY: Some congregations choose to invite a **guest speaker** from a local university or local United Nations Association (UNA) Chapter, **show a short film or clip**, or have an **Envoy or the Minister deliver a sermon** about the UN Sunday theme. Many invite UU-UNO Director or Envoy Coordinator to speak. This is where to go into further detail about international human rights specifically pertaining to Indigenous Groups and Rights.

OFFERING: The UU-UNO is supported financially by individual, family, and congregational contributions. **We suggest holding the offering after the sermon so people will be excited about helping the UU-UNO.** Some congregations choose to dedicate their offering on UN Sunday to support our vital mission, while others choose to contribute in their annual budget. We encourage you to decide the best way to support the UU-UNO.

CLOSING HYMN: *Singing the Living Tradition* #159: Far Too Long, by Fear Divided or *Singing the Journey* #1074 (Turn the World Around)

CHALICE EXTINGUISHING: *Singing the Living Tradition* Reading #672 or #694

CLOSING WORDS: *Singing the Living Tradition* Reading #578 (The Great Lesson)

UN SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

PLEASE ENLIST THE HELP OR DELEGATE THESE TASKS TO THE DRE OF YOUR CONGREGATION:

MEET WITH THE RE COMMITTEE

- To get the children involved
 - Processional – for example use “Let There Be Peace on Earth” banners
 - Include a Children’s Story
 - Other involvement: passing out pencils, etc.; taking collection
- Email the parents about what the children are doing and when
- Invite teachers to incorporate sections from our “UN Me Religious Education Curriculum” into their classes a Sunday or two prior as well as on UN Sunday
- Contact the Youth Group advisors to ensure Youth are aware of their opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of this event.

CONSTRUCTING A LESSON INVOLVING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS:

We encourage all congregations to fully engage all of their members in UN Sunday. Please refer to our Religious Education Packet, “UN Me” available on our website. Below, we have some suggestions specifically based around our 2014 theme: Indigenous Rights.

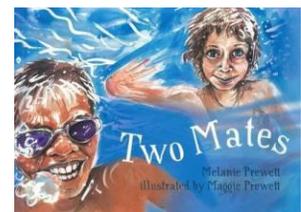


SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN: THIS PLAN IS TARGETED FOR ELEMENTARY AGED CHILDREN, HOWEVER IT CAN BE EASILY ADAPTED FOR ANY AGE GROUP BY CHOOSING AN ALTERNATIVE SHORT STORY, MORE ADVANCED ACTIVITY, OR INCLUSION OF A GUEST SPEAKER.

RE teachers should start by educating themselves through our resource section on current work of the UN on Indigenous rights. Use some of the text or resources to draft a brief lesson that will work for your class. After the lesson, engage the children in an activity/ craft. Possible suggestions for the craft are in the UU-UNO RE packet. Perhaps the activity can invite conversation about a local tribe and/or land rights. Following the craft, we suggest reading a book. Please feel free to choose from the list below. (This is often a good time for a “snack.”) A powerful way to end the class is to prompt the children to connect what they have learned to the seven UU Principles. With the UU Principles, children can identify which ones are directly related to the issues that Indigenous People are facing today in America and throughout the world. Perhaps you can have guest speakers in October from the congregation (consider youth, young adults, adults, and seniors). See Part II: *2014 Global Rights Topic* for more ideas and suggestions.

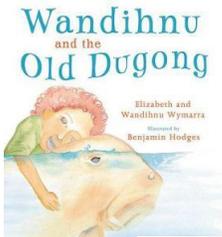
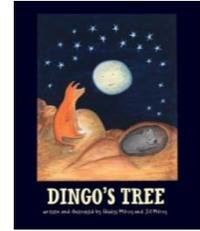
SUGGESTED BOOKS

- *Two Mates* by Melanie Prewett / Illustrated by Maggie Prewett
Prewett, Magabala Books, 2012: A story about the mutual respect between Indigenous and non-indigenous people based on the friendly



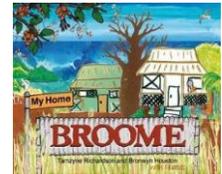
between Jack (Indigenous) and Raf (non-indigenous).

- *Dingo's Tree* Written and illustrated by Gladys Milroy and Jill Milroy Magabala Books 2012: A story about a Dingo and his friends and the effect of mining on the environment scarring the country prompting nature to work together to survive.



- *Wandihnu and the Old Dugong* By Elizabeth and Wandihnu Wymarra 2007 Magabala Books: The story of how an Aboriginal questions her identity in the 21st century and journeys back to her roots learning the culture and language.

- *My Home Broome* by Tamzyne and Bronwyn Houston, Magabala Books 2012: A story that explains the various seasons, their meanings, and culture, of one indigenous group.



ACTIVITIES/ CURRICULUM

A good activity is to give examples of some of the issues that indigenous people face in today's societies (see section "Think Globally, Act Locally" in Part II of the UN Sunday Packet), so children can relate better.

For additional RE resources, check out our website. The UU-UNO has several resources for curriculum located on our website, <http://www.uua.org/international/engagement/re/230870.shtml> We have a curriculum on the UN ("UN Me") as well as a curriculum that focuses on climate change and environmental justice.

UN SUNDAY: THE DAY OF



- Be there early to:
 - Get water for the speaker(s)
 - Set up tape recorder, video camera; test microphones
 - Make sure the Religious Education participation is ready
 - Greet guests as they arrive
 - Ensure the camera(s) are fully charged and have memory available
- After the service, enjoy coffee hour/luncheon
- Introduce speaker(s) to members of the congregation
- Collect checks made out to the "UU-UNO"
 - Mark checks from donors who want to be sustaining friends of the UU-UNO
 - Make a list of individuals who made donations, to qualify for Blue Ribbon Award
- Work with church treasurer to add up the currency from the collection plate (if the collection plate isn't for the UU-UNO, be sure to remind people we are supported by their donations).
- Email the Envoy Coordinator (kjacob@uua.org) with your total money count and how many individuals donated.

UN SUNDAY FOLLOWUP:

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO MAKE SURE YOU ACCOMPLISH AFTER UN SUNDAY:

- **Please send our office the following:**
 - **A few photos**
 - **Email unenvoycoordinator@uua.org with the number of individual checks (also include names, *if you receive permission*)**
 - **Total amount donated from collection plate (if applicable)**
 - **The Order of Service/Event program**
 - **A letter with any additional information you would like to share**
 - **THE REPORT ON THE NEXT PAGE**
- Email or mail the UU-UNO the UN Sunday report on the next page in order to qualify for the 2014-2015 Blue Ribbon Congregation Award
- Upload/develop pictures of the service – if on Facebook, tag the UU-UNO and post on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UU.UNO)
- Write thank you notes to speaker(s), committee chairs, and others who contributed to the service
 - You can also enclose copies of photos of participants in the service
- Confirm with the Board about donating the offering to the UU-UNO
- Submit the sermon or address to the 2014 Dana Greeley Award (www.uua.org/unsunday)
- Use the guide below on pg. 23 to plan a UU UNO fundraiser at your congregation
- **Celebrate!** You did a wonderful job.



ENVOY REPORT

Please take a few moments to consult with those involved in planning your UN Sunday and fill out this form. Your response will help us learn how congregations celebrate UN Sunday and how we can better support these initiatives. Please snail mail or email as soon as possible following your UN Sunday service and/or event.

Name: _____ Leadership Role: _____
Congregation: _____

HOW YOU CELEBRATE UN SUNDAY—

Our congregation celebrates UN Sunday annually. (please circle) YES NO

Our congregation supports the UU-UNO financially. (please circle) YES NO

Please provide a *description of your UN Sunday celebration*.

(Did you have a guest speaker? A video? A sermon by a lay leader or a minister?)

Our congregation takes an intergenerational approach to UN Sunday. YES NO

Please provide *examples of what children, youth, and young adults do to celebrate UN Sunday*.

PLANNING PROCESS—

When did you set the date for your UN Sunday Service? (MM/DD/YY)

Please *comment on the planning process*. (Materials used? Other ways we can assist you?)

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & FUNDRAISERS—

Have you planned any additional fundraisers or activities around UN issues? If so, elaborate, if now please explain how we can further assist you.

RESOURCES FROM UU-UNO

Resource Packet overall Great! Okay Needs Improvement

Please *comment on the resource packet*.

(Was it easy to understand and use? Which section is most helpful?)

Thank you for completing this UN Sunday feedback form and for your ongoing commitment to peace, liberty, and justice for all. Please return this form to us by e-mail, mail or fax. We also encourage you to send us a copy of your Order of Service and photos from UN Sunday. Feel free to add additional comments on this sheet.

BLUE RIBBON CONGREGATION: NEW DETAILS

ENVOYS:

NEW QUALIFICATIONS FOR BECOMING A BLUE RIBBON CONGREGATION

NEW DEADLINE:

The new deadline for donations and Blue Ribbon qualifications for 2014-2015 is:

MARCH 31st

Make sure to write out succinct notes on how calculations are made so CUC and UU-UNO are on the same page with records.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Each year we celebrate envoys and their congregations with our Blue Ribbon Awards. The following is needed for a congregation to qualify for this honor:

1. An envoy or envoy team
2. Host a United Nations Sunday service
3. Submit a donation from the congregation or have an annual budget line
4. 5% of the congregation's individuals donating (basically a congregation of about 150 individuals needs to have 8 members send individual checks) or 15 members of the congregation donate as individuals

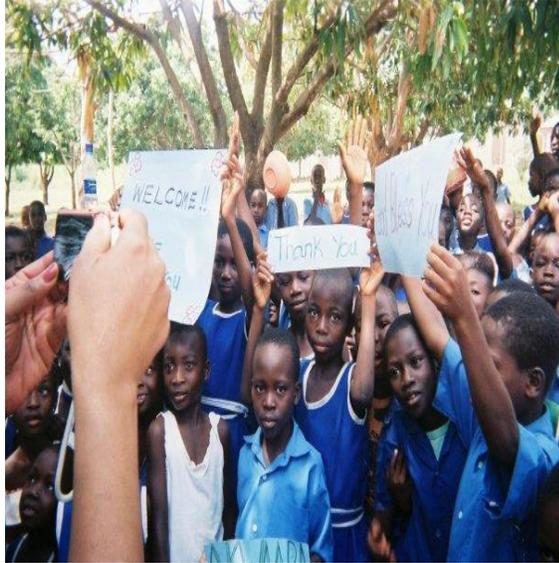
It is the responsibility of the envoy, when submitting the donation, to have a record list of names, emails, and amount. If the envoy is not allowed to see or share the amount, they must still send the list of names and include the total number of donations (the amount is important because our office needs to be able to cross reference data in the database despite anonymous donations).

UU-UNO ACTIVITIES:

HERE ARE SOME OF THE OTHER PROJECTS OUR OFFICE WORKS ON YEAR ROUND:

EVERY CHILD IS OUR CHILD

The Every Child Is Our Child (ECOC) Program is an initiative begun in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established by world leaders in 2000. The UU-UNO



provides grant funding to the Manye Krobo Queen Mothers' Association in Ghana in support of ECOC which works to empower this local women's organization to care for children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The program consists of offering essential resources and health care assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to attend primary school in the Manye Krobo District in Ghana. Our partnership with the Queen Mothers Association and Queen Mothers of the district is essential to our success. ECOC directly contributes to the goals of achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, and combating HIV/AIDS. Additionally, ECOC gives priority to girls, in order to help promote gender equality. Finally, the program contributes to the fight against AIDS, since children are taught about

HIV/AIDS prevention in school, starting in Grade 2. The ECOC Program provides real life opportunities to practice UU spiritual principles. By providing education to a threatened generation, we further affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person.

<http://www.uua.org/international/action/children/>

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER (LGBTQ) AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) HUMAN RIGHTS

Over the past 40 years, UU congregations have become more aware and supportive of LGBTQ constituents. However, even members of the North American LGBTQ community and their allies are largely unaware of the dangers faced by LGBTQ individuals outside of North America. In over 80 countries, people can face criminal prosecution based on presumed sexual orientation or gender identity – sometimes with fatal consequences. Our program is dedicated to advocating at the UN for decriminalizing homosexuality around the world. Using its unique position at the UN as a leader within the ecumenical community, the UU-UNO works to garner support among the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), especially the faith-based community, to end criminal sanctions based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, the UU-UNO holds UN ECOSOC consultative status, allowing it to build consensus and coalition among other NGOs with consultative status to support decriminalization.

<http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/witness/international>

WOMEN: SECURITY AND PEACE

The Women: Security and Peace program promotes awareness and action through education and advocacy in three key areas:

- The effects of armed conflict on women
- The importance of women's role in peace-building and peace-keeping efforts
- Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by the U.S. and international implementation

Our goal is to encourage the strong voices and actions of women as part of the peace building process. Through this program, the UU-UNO supports and advocates for the global implementation of key international agreements such as Security Council Resolution 1325 (affirms the importance of women in peacekeeping efforts) and CEDAW. <http://www.uua.org/peace/women>

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

In accordance with the UU-UNO's mission of promoting well-being, peace, and justice, the Climate Change Task Force sees a moral and ethical imperative to learn about global warming, and to act appropriately and decisively. As part of our efforts, we act in conjunction with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, CoNGO. Together we have produced a document entitled "Climate Change: A Discussion Paper," which was hand delivered to world leaders at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Conference, and at the Cancun Conference the year after.

<http://www.uua.org/environment/climate/un/>

UUA INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES OFFICE

The UUA's International Resources Office provides resources to congregations for their international engagement; coordinates with the various Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist (U/U) organizations involved in international ministry; and maintains and develops linkages with historic and new U/U judicatories around the world based upon principles of right relationship. The office invites and supports congregational integration of faithful and holistic vision of international engagement to their ministry via the Faith Without Borders program, which supports seven areas of congregational life: worship, religious education, justice-making, partnership, stewardship, pilgrimage/witness, and associational leadership.

www.uua.org/international

FURTHER INTEREST IN OUR UU-UNO OFFICE:

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED WITH OUR OFFICE IN NYC:

INCLUDE AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE IN YOUR CONGREGATION

Does your congregation currently have a group focused on climate change? How about one working for immigrant justice? Between our advocacy programs and UN Non-Governmental Organizations committees, chances are that whatever your congregation's passion is, the United Nations Office is engaged with these issues as well. In the research, education, and advocacy of important issues addressed by your social action/ justice group, keep track of action being taken at the UN related to those issues.

<http://www.uua.org/un> unitednations@uua.org

BECOME A UU-UNO ENVOY FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

Envoys are extremely valuable to the UU-UNO because they are the link between the Office and the global UU community. As an Envoy, you represent the UU-UNO within your local congregation while also letting us know what global issues your congregation is most passionate about and wants us to focus on. You connect your congregation to the UU-UNO and relay important information on current UN activities. You engage your congregation members in UU-UNO program initiatives and then plan events such as UN Sunday to promote UN education.

<http://www.uua.org/un/envoys>

EMBRACE LEADERSHIP AS A YOUTH ENVOY

The Youth Envoy Program is a way for youth around the United States and Canada to incorporate personal, congregational, and UU beliefs in the worldwide efforts of the United Nations. The responsibilities include raising awareness of UN events within your congregation and planning discussions, fundraisers, and other international events to connect your youth group to the UU-UNO. In partnership with congregational Envoys, Youth Envoys raise visibility of the UN and our office so we can work together to make the world a safer and more just place. We highly recommend having youth as part of the envoy team.

<http://www.uua.org/un/youth>

<http://www.uua.org/un/envoys>

PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR

Every April, youth and adults gather in New York City for our exciting and educational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deeper understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun. Past seminars have focused on water, poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, and peacekeeping. The topic for 2013 was LGBT and Human Rights. Both youth and adults attending the Spring Seminar take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. Contact our office and download the Leadership Application for more information on how to participate in the next spring seminar, 2015, Criminal Justice and Criminalization. <http://www.uua.org/unspringseminar>

CONSIDER THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Internship Program provides people with an exciting opportunity to learn about the United Nations and to work in support of UN efforts to eradicate injustice, armed conflict and intolerance around the world. Interns at the UU-UNO conduct research, write blogs, participate in conferences, and much more. The talent and cultural diversity of our interns is evident in the various articles, video documentaries and web-page designs they have produced. Their contributions are invaluable. Contact Nickie Tiedeman, Intern and Office Coordinator, at unitednations@uua.org.

<http://www.uua.org/un>

UU COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

LISTED BELOW ARE WAYS TO GET YOUR UU CONGREGATION OR COMMUNITY MORE INVOLVED WITH OUR UN OFFICE:

ENTER THE ANNUAL GREELEY SERMON COMPETITION

All UUs are invited to submit a sermon (or address) to the UU-UNO. The purpose of this annual award program is to encourage and to recognize UU principles, thought and action on a wide range of global issues as well as the role of the UN and our own UU-UNO. While all submissions will be considered, those highlighting the work of the UN and the UU-UNO will be given priority consideration. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$500 and will have the opportunity to deliver the sermon or address at the upcoming 2014 UUA General Assembly. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission.

<http://www.uua.org/unsunday>

HOLD AN INTERGENERATIONAL UU-UNO FUNDRAISER:

The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique UU perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support. We ask for your involvement, your engagement and your enthusiastic financial support to help us change the world so that every person can enjoy a safe and dignified life. Consider holding a coffee house, dance, spaghetti dinner, international food fair, or craft sale to support our work. Other ideas have been: We also have our "FUNdraising Packet" we can send you per request or you can download on our website (www.uua.org/un). This can be a fun opportunity to learn about an issue, build intergenerational community and raise necessary funds. You may submit donations online here: <https://giving.uua.org/uu-uno>

BECOME A BLUE RIBBON CONGREGATION

United Nations Sunday is a great opportunity to increase support for the UU-UNO by helping your congregation achieve Blue Ribbon status. In order to do this, a congregation needs to:

1. Have an Envoy, Youth Envoy, or Envoy Team
2. Hold an annual UN Sunday service or event on UN Sunday
3. Have 5% of your congregation be contributing friends to the UU-UNO (or 15 people for larger congregations)
4. Have your congregation formally commit to annually giving the UU-UNO a budget line or collection plate.

Meet these 4 qualifications and submit the UN Sunday Report by March 31st, 2015 in order to achieve Blue Ribbon status!