

## Agenda

### Bi-monthly Envoy Conference Calls

August 12, 1pm and August 13, 5pm Eastern

- I. Welcome & introductions
  - a. Wednesday, 1pm
    - i. Allison (UN office, NY)
    - ii. John (St. Catharine's, ON)
    - iii. Martin (Kansas City, MO)
    - iv. Barbara (Portland, OR)
    - v. Monica (Frederick, MD)
    - vi. Eryl (Toronto, ON)
    - vii. Liza (Thousand Oaks, CA)
    - viii. Rachel (North Hatley, QC)
  - b. Thursday, 5pm
    - i. Allison (UN Office, NY)
    - ii. Ruth (Surprise, AZ)
    - iii. Don (St. Louis, MO)
- II. Office updates
  - a. Climate Justice Initiative:
    - i. UU-UNO has applied to co-sponsor two events during December UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris. The events are now pending approval from the governing body of the conference.
    - ii. Bruce recently attended two conferences related to climate change. One of them was about how Unitarian Universalists can get involved in Climate change mitigation – one topic emphasized was choices we make in the food we eat. Certain types of food have a large negative impact on the environment, whether like beef they have a huge carbon footprint or like almonds they require an enormous amount of water to produce. Check your food's [Water Footprint](#) or [Carbon Footprint](#)
  - b. Every Child is Our Child: ECOC interns are applying for grants to get additional funds for the program. Currently, the program sponsors approximately 140 kids, we'd like to increase this number, especially the number of children we can sponsor through secondary school.
    - i. Anne (Office & Intern Coordinator) and Allison are going to visit the project in Ghana in November. Looking forward to meeting the children, the Queen Mothers (the traditional female leaders of the community who take care of girls and women as well as orphans and other vulnerable children), and other people there who work on the ECOC project.
  - c. Women's Rights: The UU-UNO is forming a coalition of progressive religious NGOs working at the UN to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. It's important

to have liberal religious voices stand up in support of women's right to make her own sexual and reproductive decisions.

- d. LGBTQ Program: Continuing to work on raising awareness and support for LGBTQ asylum seekers and asylees. Planning events in August, October, and February to raise awareness about the issues asylees face both in their countries of origin where they're fleeing from, and in the US/Canada/other countries where they seek asylum. Will provide information for individuals and communities interested in supporting asylum seekers (such as housing asylees, providing connections as they search for jobs, helping with transportation, etc.)
  - e. Spring Seminar: We will soon be accepting applications for the Planning Committee.
    - i. Youth dean applications are available now on our website at [uua.org/unspringseminar](http://uua.org/unspringseminar) – the deadline for those is August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- III. [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- a. Consensus reached by committee (Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals) last week – SDGs will be officially adopted by General Assembly in September.
  - b. Of the 17 goals, there is a heavy focus on various environmental concerns, such as preservation of biodiversity and combatting deforestation and desertification, as well as the achievement of equality within various aspects of society, all of which will contribute to sustainable development efforts around the world.
  - c. Allison will begin a “SDG of the Month” in the Envoy News with suggestions on how your congregation can focus on making a difference concerning one of the SDGs each month. Hopefully this will help us all connect more with the UN's sustainable development agenda and action being taken *around the world* in order to promote it!
    - i. Ruth: This is a good idea and will help provide some focus to our efforts.
- IV. UN Sunday
- a. Packet is available on our website: [UUA.org/UNSunday](http://UUA.org/UNSunday)
  - b. UN Sunday this year: October 25<sup>th</sup>, Theme: International criminal justice
    - i. You can choose any date for your service if Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> doesn't work. The topic addressed during UN Sunday is up to your planning team – just has to discuss the UN & UU-UNO and some topic of international concern related to human rights/social justice/etc. Background information on this year's theme (international criminal justice) is included in the UN Sunday resource packet.
    - ii. Allison and (UU-UNO director) Bruce are both happy to come speak at your UN Sunday service. Please invite us soon before our schedules get booked!
      - 1. We ask that the congregation provide for our transportation and lodging in addition to taking up a collection plate for the UU-UN Office either during or after the service.
    - iii. Ruth: UU Church of Surprise's UN Sunday will be Oct. 18. Because of their location, they try to have the UN Sunday later in the year because more people around in the later parts of the fall when people with two houses come south for the winter.
  - c. Tips for planning a UN Sunday service?

- i. Eryl: Toronto's minister, Rev. Shawn Newton, is very supportive of the UU-UNO and the UN and he gives a sermon each year. The congregation inserts materials from the UU-UNO into the orders of service so that people can donate (in Canada, congregations donate to the UU-UNO through the CUC)
  - ii. Liza: At GA, Liza met someone associated with the UN Association who she invited to speak at the congregation at the end of the summer.
  - iii. If you request materials for your UN Sunday service, Allison can send you a box of UU-UNO flyers, sign-up sheets, pins, brochures, etc.
- V. Other topics/questions/concerns to discuss?
  - a. Eryl: We need a mechanism for Envoys to be able to interact with each other.
    - i. There exists a "UU-UNO Envoys" Group on Facebook. Allison will try to be more active on that group but also encourage **all Envoys** to share any successes or challenges they've had as well as posting any articles that may be useful for other Envoys.
      - 1. All agreed that this would be helpful.
    - ii. Allison will provide clear instructions on how to join the Facebook group and make sure you do not miss any posts in the group's page.