



Dear Envoy,

As summertime gets underway, the UU@UN (and our second batch of all-virtual Summer Interns!) are gearing up for the UUA General Assembly taking place virtually in late June. For those who may be attending, you're especially invited to the UU@UN's workshop we're hosting *live* on June 26 with UU Young Adults for Climate Justice on intergenerational action for food and climate justice!

On behalf of the UU@UN I am happy to announce the list of 2020-2021 Sixth Principle Congregations below! Congratulations and *thank you* to those congregations for their dedication to global engagement and working for justice.

Keep an eye out later in June for United Nations Sunday resources. They're under development now, but while you wait I encourage you to start talking with the worship schedulers at your congregation to set a date for your UN Sunday service this fall. The recommended date is October 24 (United Nations Day!) and, again, this year's UN Sunday theme is *All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability* (more on this below!).

[Here are the minutes](#) from the May Envoy meeting. There will be **no Envoy meeting** in June! Stay tuned for an announcement about opportunities to connect with the UU@UN this summer...

In faith, love, hope, and justice,



Allison Hess

International Engagement Associate

Email Allison

SIXTH PRINCIPLE CONGREGATIONS

Proudly announcing 2020-21 UU@UN Sixth Principle Congregations

The UU@UN is proud to announce the following congregations who have achieved 2020-2021 Sixth Principle Congregation status. Congratulations! Congregations are recognized via a video this year since we're not able to gather at regional conferences in person. To learn what it takes to be a Sixth Principle Congregation, [take a look on our website](#).

- South Fraser Unitarian Congregation (Surrey, British Columbia)
- Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Bayside, California)
- Chalice Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Conejo Valley (Newbury Park, California)
- North Shore Unitarian Universalist Society (Lacombe, Louisiana)
- Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church (Bethesda, Maryland)
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (Frederick, Maryland)
- Towson Unitarian Universalist Church (Towson, Maryland)
- Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Morristown, New Jersey)
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (Manhasset, New York)
- Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York (New York, New York)
- The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist (New York, NY)
- The Unitarian Church of All Souls (New York, New York)
- All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church (Watertown, New York)
- Unitarian Universalist PEACE Fellowship (Raleigh, North Carolina)
- Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
- Kingston Unitarian Fellowship (Kingston, Ontario)
- First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Don Heights Unitarian Congregation (Toronto, Ontario)
- Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County (Hillsboro, Oregon)
- First Unitarian Church of Portland (Portland, Oregon)
- San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (San Marcos, Texas)

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Some recommended text to put in your congregation's newsletter.

A few days ago we recognized the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd. The response last year calling for justice was global, with a resolution passed in June 2020 at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva about "Promotion and protection of the human rights

and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers." This resolution included a request for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, to include updates on police brutality against Africans and people of African descent in all her oral updates to the Human Rights Council, which she has been doing. Increased attention to this issue is critical - and not enough. As part of their efforts to move global police forces towards more accountability and demilitarization, the UUA Office at the United Nations is working to make sure that murders at the hands of police are recognized as one of many forms of "extrajudicial killings" condemned by the United Nations. Read more about this effort on the [UUA International Blog](#).

EVENTS

A look behind, a look ahead

All events are virtual. Click Calendar below to view details about any of these events.

March 20-May 23: Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism

May 14-16: Canadian Unitarian Council Virtual National Conference

May 22: International Day for Biological Diversity

May 31: UUA offices closed for Memorial Day

June 3: UN webinar: Youth Voices in Food and Sustainability

June 3: Film screening and Q&A: *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code*

June 20: World Refugees Day

June 23-27: UUA Virtual General Assembly

June 26: UU@UN and UUYACJ host GA workshop: "Intergenerational Action: All In for Climate/Food Justice"

July 5: UUA offices closed for Independence Day

July 6-15: High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

August 12: International Youth Day

Calendar

TIME TO ACT

The following "Time to Act" suggestions for May 2021 will be related to the [Third Sustainable Development Goal: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages](#) - focusing on target 3.9 (*By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination*)

Environmental racism makes Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Here's an excerpt from an [intro to environmental racism from the NRDC](#):

*Though research has shown that it is primarily white Americans consuming the goods and services linked to the creation of fine particulate matter—the **deadliest form of air pollution**—that pollution **is disproportionately inhaled by Black Americans**. It should come as no surprise, then, that asthma mortality rates in children and adults are nearly eight and three times higher, respectively, in Black Americans than in white people. Communities of color also face unequal access to safe drinking water compared to white communities. In assigning pollution, waste, and risk of disaster to communities of color, higher rates of cancer and earlier death are also set.*

Since the start of the pandemic, we've seen high death rates from COVID-19 in these communities as a consequence. We can all take action to address environmental racism:

In Canada? [Ecojustice suggests the following actions](#):

1. Take Action Now: Call on Minister of Environment & Climate Change Jonathan Wilkerson to keep the federal government's promise to reform the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA): [Send your letter today!](#)
2. [Read up on Bill C-230](#), the *National Strategy to Redress Environmental Racism Act*, which has passed the second reading and is under discussion with the environment parliamentary committee before it returns to the House of Commons. Organize locally to urge your local MP to support the bill.

In the United States? [These suggestions from WeAct.org](#) are created for environmental organizations, but are good to consider for UU congregations!

TARGET 3-9



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



**REDUCE ILLNESSES AND DEATH FROM
HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND POLLUTION**

HELP RECRUIT SEMINAR LEADERS
Applications due this summer!

The UU@UN is currently [recruiting Youth Deans and other leaders](#) for the 2022 Intergenerational Seminar, and we need help from Envoys and congregations! The 2022 Seminar theme will continue the last two years' focus on climate justice, this time with a lens on climate-forced displacement and migration. Are you or do you have a fellow congregant who is passionate about climate action? Be part of an incredible (and fun!) intergenerational team putting together an engaging conference next April 22-24 - hopefully to take place in New York City! Please encourage youth and adults you know to apply. Youth Dean application is due on July 7, Youth and Adult chaplain and planning committee member applications are due on August 9.

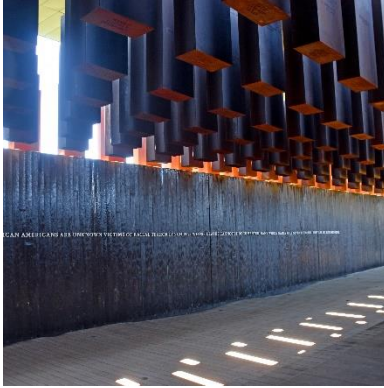
Volunteer Opportunities

UNITED NATIONS SUNDAY
Recommended Date: October 24, 2021

The UU@UN encourages Unitarian Universalist congregations to dedicate one Sunday worship service as "United Nations Sunday," focusing on our world community. This year, UN Sunday resources (shared online in June!) will address the theme *All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability*. Extra exciting: This year, United Nations Day falls on a Sunday: October 24, 2021! Save the date in your congregation's calendar now and keep an eye out in June for the UN Sunday webpage to be updated for this year's theme.

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG

Find more at www.UUA.org/international/blog



Police Shootings and the United Nations

By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director

Too often, and in too many places around the world, we see peaceful protestors and other civilians being killed by police, paramilitary, and military forces. Murder is wrong in all its forms. When it's committed by governments, it's tyranny.....

Read the post

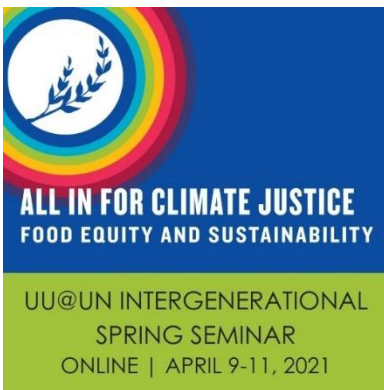


All In for Complexity: Climate and Food Justice, Equity, and Sustainability

By Allison Hess, UUA Int'l Engagement Associate

Everything is interconnected. For many of us in the U.S. and Canada, our societies' systems rely on - and have serious ramifications for - the planet we call home. Take food for example...

Read the post



To Counter Indifference

By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director

What was it in Derek Chauvin's face that was so disturbing as he had his knee on the neck of George Floyd? He didn't look hateful. He didn't seem angry. It was a look of profound indifference....

Read the post

NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

Keep yourself and your congregation informed about important news coming from the UN

Yemen - Although the World Food Programme (WFP) is ramping up support to people in Yemen's worst hunger hotspots, in efforts to prevent famine, the UN agency warned that [sustaining this response through the rest of the year is uncertain](#).

Protecting civilians - The international [legal framework and tools are all there to protect civilians caught up in conflict](#), and now it's time for governments and armed groups to apply them, the UN relief chief told the Security Council. He noted that, despite the UN chief's call for a global ceasefire during the COVID-19 pandemic, deadly fighting had continued, and worsened in some areas.

Biodiversity loss - Countries are [on track to miss the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) relating to environmental protection](#), two UN entities warn in new report issued on the International Day for Biological Diversity. Despite making progress in areas such as clean water, sanitation, clean energy and forest management, the world is still living unsustainably and biodiversity loss and climate change have continued to deteriorate.

Renewable energy - Swarm grids, an innovative technology designed to work with renewable energy sources, are [bringing reliable electricity to some of the world's poorest and remote regions](#) for the first time, providing a major boost to the livelihoods of those who live there. The installation, with the support of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), of so-called "swarm grids" in vulnerable communities, from Laos to Mozambique to Vanuatu, is demonstrating that low-cost renewable energy solutions can be an effective alternative to more expensive large-scale grid connections.

[More UN News](#)



Office at the
United Nations

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