



Dear Envoy,

What a world we live in. This past month has been full to say the least, with crisis after crisis asserting itself around the globe. Throughout it all, the pandemic has continued to run rampant. Last Friday the UUA issued [updated guidance for congregations](#) in light of the current delta-variant-induced Covid surge.

It's clear that we need to adapt again - to continue adapting! - for the sake of community. We must adapt to protect our community's most vulnerable members from Covid-19, from the violence of oppression, from natural disasters, and from other threats that climate change poses.

Right now summer is drawing to a close and a new year for churches and schools is about to begin. What have you absorbed this summer that you're carrying with you into the fall season? In what ways will you adapt for the sake of community?

After a couple of months' pause it was wonderful to see many of you on Zoom last week for the August Envoy conference calls! [Here are the minutes](#) from those meetings. Our next monthly Envoy meeting will be September 21 - I hope to see you there! [Please RSVP here](#).

In faith, love, hope, and justice,



Allison Hess

International Engagement Associate

Email Allison

FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S NEWSLETTER

A monthly message from the UUA Office at the United Nations.

In August, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its first comprehensive report in 8 years. This body, convened by the United Nations and made up of top scientists from around the world, warns that urgent action is needed to avoid absolute climate calamity. The planet is warming more quickly than previously understood and it is already too late to prevent serious consequences. The most extreme scenarios, however, *can* still be averted - but only if world leaders come together to make climate action a global priority. This means immediate stoppage of fossil fuels and transitioning to a zero-emissions planet by 2050. It also means centering human rights and equity in our climate change mitigation, adaptation, and response solutions, knowing that the effects of climate change are already being felt, and felt most by marginalized communities. With the UN COP26 climate conference coming up in November, the Unitarian Universalist Office at the UN will be sending representatives to push for outcomes at that conference to include aggressive measures by all countries, including full funding from wealthy countries for the Green Climate Fund to support developing countries' sustainability adaptations.

EVENTS

A look behind, a look ahead

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

August 3: UU@UN Director Bruce Knotts speaks at Disarmament Event hosted by UNA-NCA and All Souls DC

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

August 9: Application deadline for Seminar Planning Committee (incl. Chaplains)

August 12: International Youth Day

August 17: August Envoy Conference Call

September: 2022 Seminar Planning Committee convenes

September 6: UUA offices closed for Labor Day

September 21: International Day of Peace

September 21: September Envoy Conference Call

October 16: World Food Day

October 19: October Envoy Conference Call

October 24: United Nations Day (and United Nations Sunday!)

December 10: Human Rights Day

Calendar

TIME TO ACT

The following "Time to Act" suggestions for August 2021 will be related to the [Sixth Sustainable Development Goal: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all](#) - focusing on target 6.4 (*By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity*)

The first ever declaration of a [water shortage on the Colorado River](#) has led to cuts and rationing measures in the southwest U.S. and in Mexico. Meanwhile Indigenous leaders in Canada are [concerned about water sovereignty](#) and a secure supply to sustain their communities. These issues cut across national borders. Unitarian Universalists can engage with these issues:

- Water is life. [Take action to Stop Line 3.](#)
- Reach out to leaders to push for strong climate action that protects water supply and safety:
 - United States: Call your congressperson to advocate for water resilience measures in the proposed \$3.5 trillion antipoverty & climate plan.
 - Canada: Keep water access and climate issues front and center in the upcoming election.

TARGET 6•4

**6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION**



**INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY
AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES**

UNITED NATIONS SUNDAY

Recommended Date: October 24, 2021

Check out the UN Sunday resources online to connect with the global movement for food equity and sustainability! United Nations Sunday celebrates the work of the United Nations and the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the UN (UU@UN). Each year, the UU@UN encourages congregations to dedicate one service, around United Nations Day on October 24, to celebrate our interdependent world community. The 2021 UN Sunday theme is "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability." A collection of UN Sunday resources highlights the suggested theme and provides reflections, a sample order of service, opportunities to take action, and more. Reserve a date on your congregation's worship calendar and consider holding a special collection on that day to support the UU@UN. You can also invite UU@UN staff as guest speakers (likely just virtual at least for fall services).

[UN Sunday Resources](#)

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG

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



No More Time to Procrastinate

By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director

I'm a cancer survivor. Those who know about cancer know that early detection and action is important. The longer you wait, the longer the cancer can grow, and the harder and more painful it will be to obtain a cure. Our planetary parallel is of course climate change.....

[Read the post](#)



Confronting Climate-Forced Displacement with Global Compassion

By Andrew Mickle, UU@UN Summer Program Intern

Human-made climate change has contributed to global displacement of tens of millions. An international approach, prioritizing human life over political and corporate power, is the only effective solution.....

[Read the post](#)

NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

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

Climate & Biodiversity - UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and environment, David Boyd, warned that the global initiative to save the planet's biodiversity on land and water “must not be achieved at the expense of further human rights violations against indigenous peoples and other rural people.” For World Humanitarian Day on August 19, UN migration agency Director-General Antonio Vitorino urged the international community to [focus on the vulnerable populations worst-hit by climate change](#) – and the many “climate migrants” that will likely be forced away from their communities.

Afghanistan - The delivery of lifesaving aid and medical supplies to millions of Afghans must not be cut, the WHO said, citing a more than threefold rise in the number of trauma cases.

Meanwhile, the WHO reinforced that along with other UN agencies [they are "committed to staying" in Afghanistan](#), despite the uncertain situation following the Taliban takeover.

People of African Descent - A new [Permanent Forum of People of African Descent established unanimously by the UN General Assembly](#) will serve as a consultation mechanism for people of African descent and other stakeholders, and contribute to the elaboration of a UN declaration – a “first step towards a legally binding instrument” – on the promotion and full respect of the rights of people of African descent.

Tigray - UN chief António Guterres told journalists that he is [gravely concerned about the situation in Ethiopia](#), particularly the “unspeakable violence” against women and others in Tigray.

[More UN News](#)



Office at the
United Nations

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