

Minutes
Monthly Envoy Conference Calls
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 2pm and 6pm Eastern

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. 2pm
 - i. Allison Hess (UU@UN)
 - ii. Nasreen Gagner (UU Church of Long Beach, CA)
 - iii. Jeannie Lewis (San Marcos UU Fellowship, TX)
 - iv. BJ Allen (San Marcos UU Fellowship, TX)
 - v. Peggy Montgomery (All Souls Church NYC, NY)
 - vi. Marilyn Mehr (All Souls NYC, NY)
 - vii. Dana Burch (UU Community Church of NY, NY)
 - viii. Janis Daly (Don Heights Unitarian Congregation in Toronto, ON)
 - b. 6pm
 - i. Allison Hess (UU@UN)
 - ii. Markly Wilson (UU Congregation at Rock Tavern, NY)
 - iii. Barry Lee (North Shore UU Society, LA)
 - iv. Mandy Mynhier (All Souls Community Church of West Michigan)
 - v. Bill McPherson (University UU Church in Seattle, WI)
 - vi. Joanne Spivey (UU Congregation of Frederick, MD)
 - vii. Terry Van Brunt (North Shore UU Society, LA)
 - viii. Elaine Nelson (UU Community Church of Washington County, OR)
 - ix. Anna Mone (All Souls NYC, NY)
- II. COP26 UN Climate Summit
 - a. From PassBlue: “It’s impossible to be happy about COP26’s outcome — virtually every country said the Glasgow Climate Pact was less than it wanted, and island nations in particular were furious over India’s last-second intervention, but the pact was not an irredeemable failure. COP26 President Alok Sharma’s claim that COP26 had “kept 1.5 alive” is plausible, if barely.” Read the article:
<https://www.passblue.com/2021/11/15/cop26-president-fights-back-tears-as-the-summit-ends/>
 - i. At the last minute, India submitted an amendment to change strong language around “phasing out” coal to “phasing back”
 - ii. Bill: Also in that line was “unabated coal.”
 - b. Infuriating result for a lot of young people, indigenous people, and small island states whose futures are seriously in jeopardy. Representatives have said that “2 degrees is a death sentence” for small island nations who would be submerged by oceans if the planet warmed that much. And we’re currently on track for 2.4 degrees of warming (and even that is only IF promises are kept).
 - i. Bill: one carbon tracker said it could be 1.8 degrees, there are still calculations being done
 - ii. (NOTE: I looked back later to clarify: 2.4 degrees refers to projections based on current *action*; 1.8 reflects current *commitments*)
 - c. From UN News: ““It is (an) incremental step forward but not in line with the progress needed. It will be too late for the Maldives. This deal does not bring hope to our hearts,” said the Maldives’ top negotiator in a bittersweet speech.” Read the article:
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1105792>

- d. Dana: Something to ponder: Recognizing that China's and India's leaders didn't attend and then also opposed strong language re: coal... How do Envoys and UUs talk about other countries that are defectors as dangerous to global concerns. Good at targeting ourselves (U.S., Canada, multinational fossil fuel companies)... how do we talk with courage and conviction about other countries without targeting and critiquing others and not ourselves?
 - i. BJ: Perhaps go with questioning method of "why did they?" "what is at stake for them?" "what can we do to help them get ready?"
- e. Encouraging announcements during COP26:
 - i. Leaders from over 120 countries, representing about 90 per cent of the world's forests, pledged to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 (2030 of course being the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs))
 - ii. Methane pledge, led by the United States and the European Union: more than 100 countries agreed to cut 30% of emissions of this greenhouse gas by 2030.
 - iii. More than 40 countries – including major coal-users such as Poland, Vietnam and Chile – agreed to shift away from coal
 - iv. More than 100 national governments, cities, states and major car companies signed the Glasgow Declaration on Zero-Emission Cars and Vans to end the sale of internal combustion engines by 2035 in leading markets, and by 2040 worldwide. At least 13 nations also committed to end the sale of fossil fuel powered heavy duty vehicles by 2040.
 - v. Bill: Just a note that these agreements re: methane, coal, electric automobiles, and some financing agreements were actually outside of the negotiations. Though not part of official negotiations, the outside agreements were some of the most important things to come from the Glasgow conference. COPs are a good opportunity for business and activist groups to come together and hammer out some of these agreements on the sidelines.
 - vi. Bill: This is the first climate agreement/document to ever explicitly name fossil fuels.
- f. Anna: how do they come up with these dates for the deadlines? 2040 seems so far away, and arbitrary
 - i. Bill: Economies will have to adjust and taper down the use of fossil fuels, adapt the infrastructure, costs that have been incurred (people are going to be driving their cars for years, can't just buy an electric car immediately, also house heating for example) So the dates are estimates of when such tapering could realistically happen. It requires gradual but serious action, can't wait until the deadline to make changes. (e.g. if still selling lots of diesel cars in 2049, won't meet zero emissions in 2050 because people are still driving the cars)
- g. Terry: Are there official ways to monitor commitments and how they're doing on their progress?
 - i. Bill: The UNFCCC monitors countries' NDCs and reports of progress. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx> The basis for the Paris agreement is naming and shaming. No enforcement militarily or anything, but countries hold one another accountable.
- h. Terry: Many small island communities – so many lives at risk from rising sea levels. Need the rest of the world to understand on a yearly basis what they're going through to develop international concern and support for meeting the obligation.

- i. Yes, it's important for US and co. to hear from reps from those communities in forums like COPs/the UN generally. The UU@UN 2022 Interger. Seminar focus is "Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice"
 - i. Dana: Who in the UU space do you follow for perspectives about these things?
 - i. Allison: Rev. Peggy Clarke (Senior Minister @ Community Church of NY), Aly Tharp (Director of Programs & Partnerships at UU Ministry for Earth), Salote Soqo (Director of Advocacy and Global Displacement at UUSC)
 - ii. BJ Allen: Climate Healers
 1. Animation of The Cow in the Room : <https://climatehealers.org/cop26/the-cow/>
 2. Interview with Sailesh Rao by Betsy Rosenberg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Inv6XqnmNUI>
 3. WWF Youth group asks panel with Nestle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-uWNdwtxIM> "Global Youth Calls COP26 Leaders to Make Food a Focus"
 4. Plant-based Treaty <https://plantbasedtreaty.org/>
 5. Here is a good press conference that explains why we must address animal ag to solve climate change. <https://unfccc-cop26.streamworld.de/webcast/abibimman-foundation-4>
- III. UU@UN Updates
 - a. Nov. 17 at 7:30pm Eastern "Beyond COP26: Takeaways from the UN Climate Summit" <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/events/beyond-cop26>
 - i. Hear from UUA reps and others who were at COP26
 - b. Dec. 7 at 7pm Eastern "Climate Crisis: Act Now" <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/events/climate-crisis-act-now>
 - i. Cosponsored by: Fourth Universalist Society NYC, New York UU Justice, Beyond Plastics, UU Ministry for Earth, and UU@UN
 - c. Intergenerational Spring Seminar – preview of current plans
 - i. Theme: "Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice"
 - ii. The planning committee is still figuring out how to describe our plans, so this info is not yet on our Seminar website but hopefully will be shortly. It's also not secret, so feel free to discuss with fellow congregants.
 - iii. Unfortunately, it still feels unsafe to ask people to travel to NYC for a multi-day in-person gathering. For that reason – alongside our aim to keep the event's climate impact to a minimum – this year's Intergenerational Seminar will take a completely different format: a combination of online, fully-virtual content, as well as local in-person gatherings.
 - iv. Right now we're still in the imagination stage of detailing what and where these gatherings will be. The hope is that some congregations will volunteer to host these local gatherings (we provide a box of materials), which would offer local Seminar participants a chance to connect around what they're learning and do some arts and activism locally. We expect the Seminar to include small chunks of online programming during the week, with the local in-person gatherings for a few hours on one or two weekends in April. The host congregation would encourage congregants to attend the Seminar and invite nearby UU church members to join them.
 - v. Note: We don't yet have specific schedule yet so the exact dates and times are still to be determined. Still planning to center this around Earth Day, April 22.

- vi. Initial reactions and responses?
 - 1. Jeannie: Not sure if SMUUF could host because unknown what in-person programs will be like next year. Doing first in-person service in December. (Will also be in a brand-new location)
 - a. Dana: An idea: for people who are participating on Zoom, during fellowship hour afterwards, have a laptop set up at the church so they can jump into the camera to join the conversation. Very fun!
 - 2. Dana: CCNY has been doing hybrid events and it's working wonderfully; some can attend in person with distancing and masks, and people can still participate well via Zoom.
 - vii. Please talk with your congregation's leaders about if you might be able to serve as a host congregation.
- IV. Additional things to share?
- a. Janis: This Sunday at 2pm Eastern we're hosting an event called Tree Songs about how many trees are being cut down. Country-wide concert/art/poetry event devoted to supporting trees, Janis is coordinating it in Toronto! All are welcome to participate: <https://treesongs.ca/>
 - b. Markly: I was asked to join a long-term planning committee and discovered we don't have a membership committee. So the Committee created a questionnaire for congregants to get feedback about what people like, don't like, and suggestions.
 - c. Terry: I feel like I'm missing a way to politically address the issue – UUSJ is doing it more directly. UUSJ learned our senator was receptive to immigration reform. They contacted us to get together with their staff in taking action. Want a way to hold politicians accountable for climate change.
 - d. Mandy: you may want to check out this: <https://sidewithlove.org/actioncenter>
 - i. They do periodic huddles with sub groups – look at what your strength areas are and they help you plug in.
- V. Envoys Slack Workspace!
- a. This space was created so that Envoys have a place to share resources with one another and communicate outside of monthly calls. Use it as much and however feels useful to you! Don't hesitate to contact Allison if you have any issues using it.
 - b. Check out the Instructions document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hP3J3S7OrZUZ0cq-2hang4KyI2lecTtr/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105050842047325432640&rtpof=true&sd=true>
 - c. The instructions includes Community Guidelines for participating; be sure to read carefully before participating.
 - i. Particularly important: Abide by [UUA Youth Safety Guidelines](#) for electronic communications. When communicating electronically with youth, adults must include a second adult on the message or communication. If a youth contacts an adult one on one, the adult has the responsibility to redirect the conversation to add a second adult to the communication and/or redirect the conversation to the appropriate platform.
- VI. Adjourn

