



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

Staff Updates – Gender and Reproductive Justice

UUA Board of Trustees – March 2023

Updated March 17, 2023

uua.org



Goals

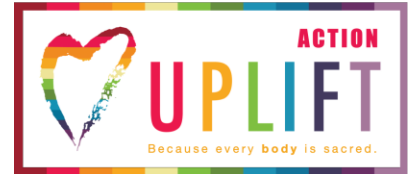
As anti-trans, anti-abortion and other hateful laws grow in dozens of states across the country, what is the UUA's role?

- Strengthen partnerships with local, statewide and national justice organizing groups, e.g. state action networks and SACReD, to fight laws and policies against UU values
- Support UU's most directly impacted through pastoral support and connection
- Be a prophetic faith voice for our values in the public square
- Follow up on 2021 Action of Immediate Witness "Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities ", and 2015 Reproductive Justice Statement of Conscience



UPLIFT and UPLIFT Action

- New staff position - LGBTQ and Gender Justice Program Coordinator
- Monthly hosted virtual gatherings of trans/NB UU's
- Regular email newsletter and blog
- Trans Day of Remembrance and Trans Day of Visibility services
- Welcoming Congregations annual refresher program
- UPLIFT Action - New campaign in 2022 for bodily autonomy, public prophetic ministry component of UPLIFT LGBTQ programs, in collaboration with Side With Love
- Pilot pastoral care program in partnership with TRUUsT for folk from UPLIFT community
- UPLIFT Collective – monthly trans-supportive messages and social media content





Side With Love – Trans Rights

- [The Body Politic: Faithful UUs Showing Up for Trans Justice](#) – March 22, 2023, 8 pm ET
- [Spokesperson Training: Speak Up for Trans Lives](#) (April 2022)
- [Combating Anti-Trans Legislation 101 training](#) (March 2022)
- Direct outreach to clergy and lay leaders in states fighting anti-trans legislation (e.g. AL SB184, Spring 2022); ongoing coordination with UU State Action Networks fighting anti-trans bills; consultation with congregations in states without SANs
- Hired Clara Barton LGBTQ and Gender Justice fellow (January 2023);
- Week 2 of 30 Days of Love, including affirmations, prayers, blessings on the intersection of the themes of LGBTQ/Gender/Repro Justice (January 2023)
- Ongoing coordination and support with trans movement partner orgs such as Trans Resistance Network, Equality Federation, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights
- Direct support for people who have lost healthcare access in their state



Side With Love – Reproductive Justice

- Reproductive Justice Congregational Organizing Series – 500+ congregations have participated so far
- Published Congregational Reproductive Justice Action Guide
- Community of Praxis gatherings for congregational reproductive justice teams
- Heart to Heart Train the Trainers series for values-based conversations on abortion, in partnership with National Network of Abortion Funds
- Plan to hire bodily autonomy strategist as part of Side With Love team
- Hired first ever Clara Barton Reproductive Justice Intern
- GA 2022 rally after the Dobbs decision
- Ongoing collaboration with SANs and movement organizing partners, include NNAF, Catholics for Choice, SACReD, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Faith Choice OH, Sister Song
- Supported UU's as plaintiffs in MO case; multiple amicus curiae brief sign-ons
- Direct support for people who have lost healthcare access in their state



Congregational and Pastoral Support

- [March 9 UUA Leaders Message from President Susan Frederick-Gray](#)
- Personal outreach to religious professionals with marginalized identities (ongoing by regional staff, focused in the Southern Region)
- Pastoral Care Spaces provided by Hope 4 Us conflict engagement team for professionals, LGBTQ folx, lay leaders and BIPOC folx (April 2023)
- Pastoral messages from Side With Love, UUA



Public Witness & Statements

- March 2023 - [UUA responds to Growing Legislative Attacks against Trans Kids and LGBTQIA+ Community](#)
- November 2022 – [Wrote and submitted amicus brief in Alabama case on gender-affirming care](#)
June 2022 – Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray [Op Ed in Religious Dispatches](#) on multiple state bills as violation of religious freedom
- April 2022 – [UUA/President statement against Alabama's law](#)
- April 2022 – [Side With Love statement on Alabama bills](#)



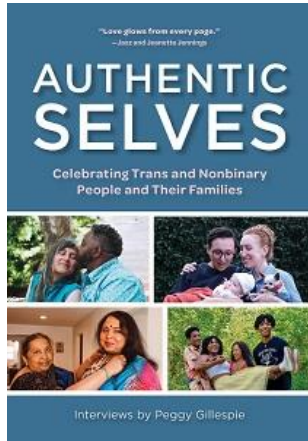
Our Whole Lives

Lifespan Sexuality Education Curricula

- Increased engagement, communication and continuing education (Taking Flight webinars) with OWL facilitators
- Growing number of trained OWL facilitators, 300 attended 18 online Taking Flight trainings in 2022 (22 planned in 2023)
- Developed new publishing approach to ensure curricula content and activities are easily updated going forward
- Hiring a project manager to update Sexuality and Our Faith illustrations to ensure gender and body diversity (Spring 2023)
- Diversifying OWL authors and editors, and engaging accountability reviewers on AR/AO/MC impacts and intersectional approaches



Health Plan, Publications



UUA Health Plan

- Made changes to our UUA Health plan (through partnership with staff and Health Plan Board) to create travel reimbursements for those having to leave the state for medical care for themselves or dependents, as of January 2023.

Publications

- Skinner House is publishing the landmark title [Authentic Selves](#), supported by PFLAG. Groundbreaking in its depictions of joy and community, [Authentic Selves](#) celebrates trans and nonbinary people and their families in stunning photographs and their own words. Edited by Peggy Gillespie. Foreword by Jazz and Jeanette Jennings. Available for pre-order, ships in May 2023.



<https://fb.watch/j8zTtVXV4Y/>

Rev. Sean Neil-Barron (he/him)
Foothills Unitarian, Fort Collins, CO

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SIDEWITHLOVE.ORG

Blessing for Love and Solidarity with Trans and Nonbinary People

[Learn more](#)

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