



## **Report to the UUSC & UUA Boards of Trustees, January 2017**

Greetings, and Happy New Year! Here are highlights of our work from the last quarter:

### **New Collaborations**

We have initiated a number of important collaborations in recent months, stepping into new opportunities as they arose. These include:

-- With the Pacific Western Region of the UUA, CSJ undertook a complete revision of the popular leadership training for high school youth known as *Goldmine*. We were asked to make the justice track of this week-long training more central and robust; we offered the pilot version in Edmonds, WA this summer, and will present a further iteration in Denver this spring.

-- Again with the Pacific Western Region, we participated in a three-day *Youth Ministry Revival* in September, attended by 130 youth and adults, offering two youth-focused, intergenerational workshops on spiritually-centered social justice activism, as well as two sessions on spiritual practices to strengthen our work for justice.

-- Working intensively with UUA regional staff and the local UU minister in Bismarck, North Dakota, CSJ helped mobilize and support faith communities in solidarity with the Standing Rock pipeline resistance. CSJ revised our existing First Nations Study Guide (<http://uucsj.org/first-nations-toolkit>), created and disseminated a toolkit for with solidarity resources (<http://tinyurl.com/UUsolidarityStandingRock>), and administered registration for 200 faith leaders to respond to Chief Arvol Looking Horse's Call to the Interfaith Day of Prayer on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We also convened a webinar conversation on UU Solidarity with Standing Rock, in which more than 300 people participated live; another 110 have watched the recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6U2x1igWVU&feature=youtu.be>

-- In the wake of the election, CSJ has helped craft a proposal with UUSC and UUA staff for how we can support our constituents especially in solidarity with Islamic and refugee communities. As part of meeting this new challenge, we are re-writing and updating the UUA Sanctuary Toolkit, to help our congregations expand their capacity for active resistance to the most unethical dimensions of the new administration.

-- We are lead presenters for the UU-UNO Spring Seminar this spring, bringing the UUUCSJ training expertise into workshops focused on resisting and reducing violence in our communities through integrating spirituality and social justice activism. We will also be helping to train small group facilitators, designing an “Action Fair” for participants, and supporting racial identity caucus work.

### **Immersion Learning Journeys**

-- We have led two Border Witness programs to the Arizona/Mexico border so far this fall, with three more planned. Winter programs will include training in helping congregations consider Sanctuary.

-- In November, our first seminarian immersion program in Nicaragua brought thirteen participants from six different seminaries to learn about the intersection of liberation theology and climate justice. Our robust enrollment was supported by new funds made available as travel grants from the UUA Panel on Theological Education.

-- The Portsmouth, NH congregation travels with us to Nicaragua in January, and two interfaith journeys with Equal Exchange are planned for February and May, focused on fair trade and climate justice.

### **Youth and Young Adults**

In addition to the collaborations noted above for expanding youth justice curricula and training:

-- We have enrolled our first youth service journey to Immokalee, FL, focused on the intersection between economic and immigrant justice (it pilots in the spring)

-- We have successfully enrolled two youth service journeys to the border this spring, which will merge elements of our *Activate* training with hands-on learning about the consequences of current immigration policy.

-- We have just launched our Summer Justice Internships for the coming summer, and will be receiving applications over the next six weeks for as many as 21 internships for young adults (ages 19-26).

-- In collaboration with UUA staff, we are in the planning stages for two large programs at GA in New Orleans: both *Activate Racial Justice* (for youth) and *Grow Racial Justice* (for adults 18-30) will have intensive pre-GA components as well as programming throughout GA.

### **Program Leader Update**

In October we brought together our team of 21 Program Leaders for our annual retreat and training, which included an opportunity for them to meet with UUA President Peter Morales and our new UUSC President Tom Andrews. In addition to their pivotal role leading our trainings and immersion journeys, our Program Leaders are primed to help with some new post-election initiatives, particularly in supporting more UU congregations to become Sanctuary Churches. You can find photos and brief biographies of our Program Leaders here: <http://uucs.org/programleaders/>

Please visit [uucs.org](http://uucs.org) for details on these and all of our programs!

-- Kathleen McTigue, Director