

Report to the UUA Board of Trustees April 2016

The UU Women's Federation remains involved in women's justice issues as they emerge in the culture and in our awareness. Our Board recently held our Spring in-person meeting, in Milwaukee, WI. We currently have many "irons in the fire" and I will attach a recent summary of these, prepared by our Communication Vice President, Gretchen Ohmann. We are proud of the many changes and updates that Gretchen has been initiating on our web site (www.uuwf.org) and we invite you to check us out that way. Our projects include:

- **Advocacy Work**, spearheaded by Affiliated Minister, Rev. Marti Keller. Rev. Keller posts frequent blogs on the state of affairs for women these days. Reproductive justice remains a constant focus as women endure renewed congressional and state-wide legislative attacks on their ability to make their own decisions about their bodies according to their own religious beliefs and conscience. We raise our voices often to oppose those who wish to impose their own religious beliefs on others by removing legal protections and access to contraceptive and reproductive health services.
- New Plans for UUWF **archives** to be created at Meadville-Lombard School of Theology in Chicago. Since the UUWF has existed in one form or another for more than 150 years, there are many historical artifacts, writings and other items which we would like to see not only preserved, but made available to a wider audience. Currently we are beginning negotiations with Meadville-Lombard about how to do this. ;
- The UUWF **Clara Barton Internship for Women's Justice**, a position currently filled by Shaya French is under review. This internship has existed since 2004 and has been a major vehicle for aspiring women to be introduced to women's justice policy work as envisioned by the UUA and the UUWF.
- A plan for increasing the number of UU women ministers joining the **New Prophetic Sisterhood**, a program, funded by the UUA and the UUWF last year. It is dedicated to more emphatically leveraging these ministers' parish and community ministry roles on behalf of women's justice. We have created a website and a facebook page intended to capture and archive the work of our current female identified professional ministers in the areas of women's justice and religious feminisms.
- We are also looking forward to September 2017 when we will host a **"Badass Convergence of Women"** to discuss future concerns and directions for female-identified UU women. Jessica Halperin, a prior Clara Barton Intern and current theological student has been commissioned and given financial support through the Margaret Fuller fund to develop plans for this 2 or 3-day multigenerational, multicultural invitational event.
- In the meantime, our on-going work includes recruiting new board members and creating two meaningful and "au courant" workshops for the upcoming GA in Columbus. Please see the attached summary for more details.

Submitted on 4/21/2016 by Kirstie Lewis, Ph.D., UUWF Board President



Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation



CURRENT PROJECTS AND NEWS

March 9, 2016 — Reverend Marti Keller, the affiliated minister with the UU Women's Federation, was elected as chair of the coalition council of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) at a meeting held in Washington D.C. earlier this week.



ACTION ALERT:

As the US Supreme Court is hearing arguments about the constitutionality of the Texas law which has imposed draconian regulations of abortion providing clinics that has led to shutting most of them down, UUWF President Kirstie Lewis is quoted in an interfaith letter opposing this and other laws that effectively shut down this reproductive choice.

http://www.ncjw.org/content_12484.cfm?navID=218

Pictured above are some of the women (many of whom are from Texas) who participated in the National Weekend of Prayer for Reproductive Justice at the SW UU Women's Conference in Lawton Oklahoma.



Sign up for Reproductive Justice Action Alerts!

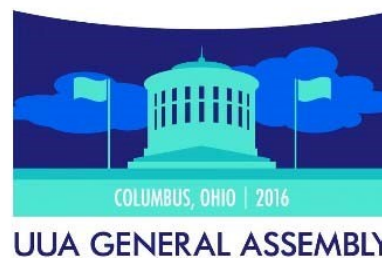
<http://www.uua.org/reproductive/action>

The **New Prophetic Sisterhood** initiative (NPS) is a new network of fellowshipped Unitarian

Universalist women ministers who will covenant to affirm and promote justice and equity for women and girls and promote their spiritual growth.

We commit to using our voices in the pulpit and public square to speak out on issues that affect women and girls, e.g.

reproductive justice; economic and racial concerns; gender based violence; women and aging and the status of women in



UUism. We will be Engaged, Empowered and Energized by our work together.

Join Us in Columbus

UUWF will have a booth in the General Assembly Exhibit Hall – #104, right next door to UUW&R and The Red Tent, and across the aisle from the UU Humanist Association. We're looking forward to talking with you there!

UUWF-Sponsored Workshops:

Building Bridges from Reproductive Choice to Reproductive Justice

During this centennial year marking the first birth control clinics opened in America, women are experiencing devastating losses of access to reproductive health services. The leaders of Planned Parenthood and SisterSong will dialogue about the history, opportunities and challenges facing the reproductive choice and reproductive justice movements in this country.

Thursday 6/23/2016, 3:00:00 PM – 4:15:00 PM in Convention Center — Battelle South

The Future of Women

Join a few young adult leaders for a wide-ranging conversation about the future of gender justice, on topics including economic equity, families and relationships, multiculturalism, queerness, healthcare, and more. How might the Unitarian Universalism of the future be different if it were fully committed to, and practicing, gender equity? Ranwa Hammamy, Rev. Marisol Caballero, Jessica Halperin, and UUWF president Dr. Kirstie Lewis.

Saturday 6/25/2016, 3:00:00 PM – 4:15:00 PM in Hyatt — Union E

Economic and Reproductive Justice Top Priorities for UU Women

In late summer of 2015, the UUWF invited UU women at GA and online to respond to nine survey questions. When asked which of the issues affecting women are most important to them, survey participants focused on economic and reproductive justice. Equal pay, abortion, and contraception were ranked the highest, followed closely by gender-based and domestic violence. Other issues that are front-of-mind currently include insurance, environment, and human rights. It is encouraging that the UUWF already has a broad focus on a wide range of issues that impact women and girls, and yet the survey also gives us scope for broadening our work.

Over 225 responses were received. We have summarized the [results](#). The complete [tabulation](#) is also available. We wish to thank all those who participated.

Read all the details on our website, www.uuwf.org