

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO)

777 United Nations Plaza 7G
New York, NY 10017
(212) 986-5165
FAX (212) 983-5498
Office@uu-uno.org
Executive Director: BKnotts@uu-uno.org
www.uu-uno.org

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office serves UU congregations as the center of information, advocacy and action at the United Nations and its affiliated agencies in New York City. The UU UN Office provides UUs a locus to join hands with the international community to build world community with peace and justice. Faith and action intersect for UUs in the global arena of the United Nations and its affiliated non-governmental organizations. The UU UN Office joins about 400 other faith-based organizations with consultative status at the United Nations; each exercising influence to foster the values of their faith. The UU UN Office has succeeded in helping to set up the International Criminal Court and to ensure that the rights of women and the GLBT community are on the UN agenda. The office has partnered with other NGOs to advocate ending the war in Iraq and preventing war with Iran. The UU UNO has worked with others to lobby all the diplomatic missions of the UN Security Council to ensure that the UN peacekeeping operation to end genocide in Darfur, Sudan is properly mandated and equipped. The UU UN Office is vigilant and active in looking for ways to implement the principals of our faith at the United Nations and around the world.

A network of more than 450 UU UN Office envoy members in congregations across the U.S. and Canada fulfill their commitment to the 6th UU principal of world community by conducting programs and workshops about the work of the United Nations. Via e-mail, Action Alerts are sent to over 2,600 UUs on what the UU UNO is doing and how congregations can help to ensure a better world. In 2008 action alerts have gone out to engage UUs in the fight to end genocide with an emphasis on Darfur, Sudan and to ensure that everyone's human rights are respected with an emphasis on women, the GLBT community and those affected by HIV/AIDS. The UU UNO also keeps members informed of current UN Resolutions and information of where and how the UN System is intervening in international crises around the world. The www.uu-uno.org website offers up-to-date UN news, the calendar of the UU UN Office events and projects, UN conference opportunities, and organizational information about the UU UN Office. "Windows on the World," this UU UNO newsletter is published three times a year (on-line twice a year with one hard copy). "Windows on the World" includes articles on the activities of the UU UNO, especially the unique work it does with young people in intergenerational programs. This publication also highlights the work the UU UNO does to promote the United Nations Millennium Goals, especially those to improve human rights, ensure education for all our children, end genocide and war.

The UU UN Office Internship Program offers a unique opportunity for young people to have direct work experience at the United Nations. The UU UN Office provides these experiences to students attending or graduates of senior high school, college, and post graduate programs. UU UN Office interns learn skills in international affairs. Gaining a global perspective at a young age serves to inform future career choices. One proud mother recently told the Executive Director, "My daughter went to Law School because of her internship with the UU UNO."

Every Spring, the Annual Intergenerational Seminar brings together Canadian and U.S. UUs of all ages to the United Nations for a UN-focused three-day conference. UN staff, diplomats, lobbyists, media political commentators, interfaith experts and leaders from the NGO community lead study and discussion on important UN issues. In 2008 the topic was, "Picking up the Pieces, Building a Culture of Peace." An Action Plan is created by conference attendees is implemented in the weeks and months following the conference.

In the area of education and international community development, the UU UN Office is partnering with a community group from the Manya Krobo District in southeastern Ghana. The UU UN Office program in Ghana insures 10 years of primary and junior-secondary education to 160 girls (in the majority) and boys who have been orphaned by AIDS. The program is a model of partnering with local communities in ways that help without imposing.

As an Associate Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the UU UN Office is an independent, non-profit organization, funding by individuals, congregations, task force groups, and occasionally grants from foundations.

Executive Director: Bruce Knotts

UU UNO Board President: L. Marilyn Mehr, Ph.D.