

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
2017 INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR**



United Nations
Office



April 6th – 8th, 2017 in New York City

This annual intergenerational seminar brings together people from all over North America to work together and learn more about being global activists. Through interactive panel discussions, workshops, worship, and community building activities, participants will be equipped to understand and respond to today's pressing issues.

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Program Book v.1 – current as of February 15, 2017

About Intergenerational Spring Seminar 2017

Social justice is an integral part of our beliefs as Unitarian Universalists. Our seven principles revolve around the idea that every person both deserves and needs respect, and that it is our duty to ensure that those needs are met. Every spring, UUs and others from the United States and beyond come together for the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office's Intergenerational Seminar. Our goal is not only to learn about the injustices of this world, but also to figure out how to stop them.

Together, we can be a very strong force. Each year focuses on a different social justice topic. Past themes have included international criminal justice, sexual orientation and gender identity, indigenous rights, and most recently race and inequality.

This year's Spring Seminar, titled ***Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet***, we will consider interfaith engagement with issues such as reducing gun violence and the proliferation of small arms, nuclear disarmament and the abolition of other weapons of mass destruction, use of unmanned weaponized drones, racial implications and consequences of armed violence, and strengthening global peace and security.

Programming will be interactive, encouraging participants to reflect on how the topics addressed affect them in their lives, their spirituality, and how they are called to respond. Moving from ideas to concrete action, participants will learn tools and skills to help them with future collaboration and activism. Each person will participate in an intergenerational Collaboration Group, touching base periodically throughout the seminar to reflect on and process the issues discussed.

At the end of the seminar, participants will use new-found knowledge to collaboratively draft a statement to be delivered to the United Nations and to Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. We are committed to global equality and support the United Nations in this endeavor.

We hope to leave this year's seminar motivated and empowered to work with our communities and leaders to make a better world for both our generation and future generations to come.

We are proud to be partnering with the **Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice** (uucsj.org) in the planning and programming for this Spring Seminar! UUCSJ will be leading a program during the Seminar focused on sustaining spiritually-engaged social justice activism in this challenging political moment.



This project is funded in part by the Fund for Unitarian Universalism.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

| Time | Wednesday, April 5 | Thursday, April 6 | Friday, April 7 | Saturday, April 8 | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7:00 | * only for Youth & Sponsors ^ only for Ministers | Breakfast Served* 7:00 - 9:00 | Breakfast Served* 7:00 - 9:00 | | |
| 7:30 | | | | | |
| 8:00 | | | | | |
| 8:30 | | | | | |
| 9:00 | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | Collaboration Groups 9:30 - 10:00 | Morning Worship 9:30 - 10:00 | | Saturday Worship 9:30 - 10:45 |
| 10:00 | | Opening Worship 10:00 - 10:45 | Collaboration Groups 10:00 - 10:45 | | |
| 10:30 | | | | | |
| 11:00 | | Keynote Speaker 11:00 - 11:30 | Workshop 11:00 - 1:00 | | Workshop 11:00 - 12:00 |
| 11:30 | | Collaboration Groups 11:30 - 12:15 | | | |
| 12:00 | | Lunch Served 12:15 - 1:15 | | | Closing 12:00 - 1:00 |
| 12:30 | | | | | |
| 1:00 | | | Lunch Served 1:00 - 2:30 | | |
| 1:30 | | | | | |
| 2:00 | | | | | |
| 2:30 | | | Workshop 2:30 - 4:00 | | |
| 3:00 | | | | | |
| 3:30 | | Panel Discussion at UN 3:00 - 5:00 | | | |
| 4:00 | | | | | |
| 4:30 | | Collaboration Groups 4:15 - 5:30 | | | |
| 5:00 | Ministers' Reception^ 5:00 - 7:00 | | Activism Fair 5:30 - 6:30 | | |
| 5:30 | Dinner Served* 6:00 - 7:00 | | | | |
| 6:00 | | | | | |
| 6:30 | | | | | |
| 7:00 | Orientation* 7:00 - 9:30 | Evening Performance 6:30 - 8:30 | Night on the Town* 7:00 - 10:00 | | |
| 7:30 | | | | | |
| 8:00 | | | | | |
| 8:30 | | Evening Worship 8:30 - 9:30 | | | |
| 9:00 | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | | | | |
| 10:00 | | | | | |

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

*Unless otherwise noted, events are located in either the Ballroom or SoHo Room at Hostelling International

Collaboration Group Meetings

Thursday, 9:30 am – 10:00 am; 11:30 am – 12:15 pm, Ballroom

Friday, 10:15am – 10:45 am; 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm, Ballroom

The collaboration group meetings will be an opportunity for seminar participants to connect with each other on a smaller group basis throughout the conference. Participants will be divided up into groups of 9 or 10 participants and will have a space to share and discuss their thoughts and concerns on the topics of the seminar.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

For Ministers Only - Ministers' Welcome Reception

Wednesday, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, SoHo Room

Gather with your clergy colleagues for conversation, snacks and fun!

For Youth & Sponsors Only - Orientation and Covenanting Session

Wednesday, 7pm – 9:30 pm, Ballroom

As we come together for our time of work, we will be challenged personally and collectively. In order to hold each other in a safe space to explore and grown, we create a covenant – A set of promises of how we will behave with one another and support one another in our work. This will be created collaboratively as one of our first acts as a group.

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Opening Worship – “United We Stand”

Thursday, 10:15 am – 10:45 am, Ballroom

Join us for opening worship as we bring our minds, spirits and hearts together in preparation for our days together. Praise, testimony, ritual and song will all be part of this communal worship. Leaning into the power of our diverse faiths and experiences we will build bridges to our common vision of a world without weapons of destruction and filled with the transforming power of justice and love.

Keynote Speaker – Rev. Chris Antal

Thursday, 11:00 am – 11:30 am, Ballroom

What is going on? Why is it going on? What ought to be going on? What do we do next? Our inquiry into these question will build the capacity of participants to respond to armed violence with religiously grounded public witness. This includes sanctuary –creating safe space for

veterans and victims of armed violence—and resistance—confronting structures and systems that perpetuate armed violence. We will consider the situation through various lenses including theology, psychology, history, and technology.

Panel Discussion on Global Disarmament

Thursday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, TBD

This panel discussion will introduce participants to the global action being taken towards abolishing nuclear weapons and decreasing gun violence. Presenters include Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and representatives from the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, Reaching Critical Will, and Soka Gakkai International.

Evening Performance/Activity

Thursday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Ballroom

The Thursday evening activity will allow participants to explore the Seminar theme from a different perspective – through art and music. This engaging evening activity will be interactive and bring new light to the ideas of peace and disarmament activism explored throughout the day. An informal dinner will be served.

Friday, April 7, 2017

Friday Morning Worship – “Activating Hope”

Friday, 9:30 am – 10:15 am, Ballroom

This service will serve as a bridge-- moving us from the deep learning of Thursday’s program-- into Friday’s program, which is focused on activism and collaboration. The service will acknowledge the experience and feelings of the past day, while activating our collective power to respond.

Workshops on Spiritually-Engaged Activism

Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, Ballroom & SoHo Room

Led by UU College of Social Justice – Two simultaneous workshops, one for youth and one for adults, led by the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, will focus on sustaining spiritually-engaged social justice activism in this challenging political moment.

Ministers’ session 1: “Worship and International Engagement”

Friday, 11am – 1pm, Location TBA

For ministers only. Led by Rev. Eric Cherry – This will be a participatory session that will address how to incorporate international engagement into congregational life, particularly through worship. Effective Unitarian Universalist worship services address international realities, including how those intersect with domestic policy.

Racial Justice Workshop

Friday, 2:30 pm – 4pm, Ballroom

This workshop looks to broaden participants' knowledge about the various implications of armed violence in communities that historically are subject to racial discrimination, particularly highlighting the effects of state-sponsored violence against people of color globally. Following a presentation, we will break into identity caucus groups to discuss and process what was learned, then return together through creative expression.

Ministers' session 2: "Ministerial Leadership Confronting Armed Violence"

Friday, 2:30 pm – 4:15 pm, Location TBA

For ministers only. Led by Rev. Chris Antal – A presentation and conversation about the issues at stake in our current political climate and how ministers can be active in responding to them. The workshop will particularly address the seminar's theme of disarming our planet, but it also presents an opportunity for activist ministers to learn from each other and share experiences in any number of areas.

Action Fair

Friday, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, Ballroom & SoHo Room

A new featured event for the 2017 Seminar, the Action Fair will offer an array of opportunities to put into action and get some meaningful practice with the ideas and skills learned throughout the Seminar. Activist-oriented activities will include: practicing elevator pitches, role-playing discussions of controversial positions, creating wearable buttons and signs for actions or issues, promoting actions and issues on social media, and more.

Youth Night on the Town

Friday, 7pm – 10pm, Meet in the Ballroom

For Youth & Sponsors Only. We are in the big apple - why would we miss the chance to see some of the sights?! This evening is a time to let our hair down and explore the big city in smaller groups. We will have choices from the Staten Island ferry ride to see the statue of liberty to walking the High Line to take in the floating gardens above the city, checking out some famous eateries or big city shopping and more.

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Saturday Morning Worship

9:30 am – 10:45 am, Saturday, Ballroom

Join Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Worship Leader and dynamic Music Director of First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor in our closing worship service. Ritual and music will allow us to integrate the learning of the week with a call to action as we return to our individual homes.

Conclusion

11:00 am – 12:45 pm, Saturday, Ballroom

Final activity and Closing ceremony.

Of those programs.....

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FAQ For Youth and Sponsors

What should you expect from your Youth Sponsors?

- Sponsors must attend a required orientation training prior to the start of the Seminar.
- The sponsor is responsible for the safety, health, and well-being of the youth at all times throughout the Seminar. The UUA strongly recommends that the sponsor be approved by the youth's congregation and complete a background check.
- Sponsors should be in close touch with parent/guardian and know what to do in case of any issues relating to the youth. Please make sure to inform your youth sponsor of any medical conditions you might have prior to arriving in New York City. Take time to talk things through so that your expectations of each other are clear. We recommend that youth, sponsors, and parents/guardians create and sign their own written "Agreement" together, with expectations for youth and sponsor roles, responsibilities, and limits. Download our [PDF Sample Agreement](#) (this is just an example – make it your own).
- Sponsors should be reachable by phone at all times during the Seminar.
- Sponsors will accompany youth to location of Spring Seminar and supervise them throughout.
- Follow Spring Seminar safety guidelines and abide by the Seminar Covenant (as included in required Seminar Participant Forms)

Who do Youth Sponsors report to or call during an emergency?

- Any incident should be reported as soon as possible to Seminar leaders, which includes Seminar Staff (Deans & Chaplains) and United Nations Office Staff.
- As noted above, before traveling to the Seminar, Sponsors should discuss with parent/guardian what is expected in case of an emergency.
- Two Youth and two Adult Chaplains are available as a resource throughout the Seminar, should issues arise.

When do Youth arrive with their Sponsors in New York City?

- The Youth along with their Youth Sponsors will arrive for orientation by 6pm on Wednesday, April 5th.
- The Youth and Sponsors will lodge at Hostelling International NYC; this is also where the majority of Seminar programming will take place. The address is below:

HI New York City Hostel
891 Amsterdam Ave
New York, NY 10025

What are the expectations for youth behavior?

- Youth are expected to respect their fellow peers and adults at all times, including other residents and staff at the hostel.
- Respect the venues by cleaning up after each activity and meal.
- Follow Spring Seminar safety guidelines and abide by the Seminar Covenant (as included in required Seminar Participant Forms)

How will sleeping arrangements work in the hostel?

- HI New York City Hostel policies require that rooms be gender exclusive. The Spring Seminar Registration Form gives Youth and Sponsors the chance to indicate their preference for which room they will sleep in.
- Youth and Sponsors will be assigned to rooms based on their indicated preferences. Seminar Staff will aim to lodge Sponsors as near to their sponsored Youth as possible. At least two adult Sponsors will be in each dorm room in the hostel.
- Dorm rooms in the hostel contain twin-sized bunk beds with between 8-12 beds per room. In the hall there are gender-specific bathrooms that are shared with all hostel residents on that floor. The bathrooms contain private showers. Check out [the hostel's virtual tour](#).

How will people travel between the hostel and the United Nations and other venues?

- Travel will be done via NYC subway. Youth will travel in Travel Squads with their sponsors. Each Travel Squad will include at least two adult sponsors, one of who will be the assigned leader who is familiar with NYC and can lead the group.

What to do to best prepare for the Spring Seminar?

- Make sure to read over all materials on the website in detail. A list of everything required to bring with you/prepare for will be included. The materials can be found at www.UUA.org/UNSpringSeminar

Is there required or recommended pre-reading?

- Yes there will be required pre-reading for the seminar. It will consist of 2-4 articles which will be sent to all registered Seminar participants via email in February, 2017.

Are there any dress code requirements when attending the Spring Seminar?

- Business-casual attire is needed for the panel at the United Nations Headquarters (Thursday, April 6th, 2017).
- We ask that all participants maintain respectful dress throughout the Seminar.

2017 Spring Seminar Planning Committee

Planning Committee Members

Alex Zane, Brycen Greco, Clara Kraebber, Joanne Dufour, Jonah Goodman, Kelly Diaz, Linnea Nelson, Liz Roper, Martin Tomlinson, Max Solomon-Frye, Rebecca Bryan, Sage Drake, Terri Pahucki, Tom Zeller, Tui Menning-Torrie, Willow Crisovan

Seminar Chair

Allison Hess

Adult Dean

Liz Roper

Youth Deans

Martin Tomlinson and Max Solomon-Frye

Chaplains

Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Jonah Goodman, Brycen Greco, Terri Pahucki

UU United Nations Office Interns

Kwanique Andrews, Emma Langsner, Mengxi Zhao

UUA Staff

Bruce Knotts (UN Office Director)

Allison Hess (International Engagement Associate)

Aseem Kulkarni (International Programs Administrator)

Seble Alemu (UN Office Intern Coordinator)

Special Thanks

UU College of Social Justice

UUA Office of Conference Services

UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Standing on the Side of Love

UUA Faith Development Office

UU Funding Program

Isaac Humphrie