

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE | 2017 RESOURCE PACKET



United Nations Sunday Service

Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm
Our Planet

uua.org/unsunday

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Background Information

Find yourself in the Global U/U Story! With a UN Sunday Service, your congregation will learn about an important global issue and be inspired to take action in the name of justice. That's what the global U/U story is all about – Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists around the world engaging in liberal spiritual worship, compassionate acts, and doing their part to bend the arc of history toward justice. This packet includes various and plentiful resources for you and your UN Sunday planning team. It will take you through the steps of learning about, planning, and executing a successful and inspirational UN Sunday. Please read through as much as possible – you are encouraged to view each page as a resource for information and knowledge on the topic.

Please be aware of the requirements and deadlines for the Dana Greeley Award, Blue Ribbon Congregation Award, and procedures for collecting and sending donations. The UU-UNO is able to keep our doors open thanks to you! Our funding comes from the generous contributions of congregations and individual donors and we truly appreciate all your support!

Lastly, once you have successfully held your UN Sunday, please remember to complete the Envoy Report, which can be found online at <https://goo.gl/DkAczJ>. This report is the pre-qualifier for becoming a Blue Ribbon Congregation and helps us learn more about how we can improve our resources and support of initiatives and events.

Please contact the Envoy Coordinator at unenvoycoordinator@uua.org or 617-948-4366, with any questions or concerns. This complete packet is available for all at uua.org/unsunday.

Good luck and have a fantastic UN Sunday celebration!

About the United Nations

Below is a brief overview of the history of this international organization. You may choose to read the Purposes as opening words or as a reflection.

With the scourge of war heavy on hearts and minds following World War II, 51 countries met in San Francisco to create the United Nations, where they drafted and signed its Charter. When these 51 countries signed the Charter on 24 October 1945, they became *member states* of the United Nations and committed their governments and peoples to “maintain international peace and security” as well as the Charter’s other purposes and principles. When *states* become *members* of the United Nations, they agreed to accept the many obligations of the [UN Charter](http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml)¹.

Much of the UN’s work sets normative frameworks which governments must take upon themselves to implement. One of the most important purposes in the Charter to remember when thinking about the purpose of the United Nations is the fourth: “to be a center for harmonizing the

¹ *United Nations Charter:* <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.”

A common misunderstanding is that the UN is a director of action or change or that it has power over states. Much like elected or appointed officials in a city or province draft legislation in the interest of their local constituents, UN delegates from different countries deliberate law and legislation at the international level. Governments draft, debate, and vote for or against treaties, conventions, or action plans discussed at the UN.

The entirety of the budget for the United Nations is financed by dues and voluntary contributions from member states. There are 193 member states in the United Nations (the newest member state is the Republic of South Sudan, 14 July 2011). In addition, the Holy See and the State of Palestine have observer status, meaning that they have speaking rights, but no voting rights. Working with such a diversity of peoples requires a large full-time translation team; the UN works in six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, & Spanish.

PURPOSES

Below are four of the main tenants of the UN, which are similar to our Seven Principles:

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace;
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

United Nations Sunday

BACKGROUND

The United Nations was founded in 1945 as a global association of governments that facilitates cooperation in international law, security, economic development, and social equality. With aims to protect human rights and achieve world peace, it is a center for governments to communicate and develop strategies to reach these ends. Since 1947, October 24th has been called United Nations Day to commemorate the anniversary of the UN's creation. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending that the day be observed as a public holiday by member states. The history of Unitarian Universalist involvement in the United Nations

dates back to its very beginnings. Along with a number of other Unitarian volunteers, Elvira Fradkin was present in San Francisco at the founding of the United Nations on October 24, 1945. Fradkin went on to be a strong supporter and active throughout the UN system, including serving as the UN representative for the American Unitarian Association.

AT YOUR OWN CONGREGATION

In celebration of this annual event, the Unitarian Universalist UN Office invites congregations and individual UUs to engage with the story of our global U/U faith by deepening their understanding of the United Nations and devoting one service in October to reaffirming the connections between our UU principles and the vital issues dealt with at the UN. Usually, congregations organize a UN Sunday for the Sunday closest to UN Day, but any Sunday is better than no Sunday at all. The theme for the UN Sunday service follows the theme for that year's UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar. This year's theme is *Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet*. You may wish to focus on the topic of disarmament for your service, which is the focus of this packet. Collaborate with another faith or interfaith group as part of the action portion of your UN Sunday celebration. Suggestions for potential actions to take are on page 18.

We encourage ministers, lay leaders, and youth and adult Envoys to take advantage of our prepared materials and/or develop their own ideas for a UN Sunday service. Consider enlisting a UU-UNO Envoy or a special UN speaker to present the sermon. We especially encourage a multigenerational service, including children, youth, young adults, adults, and seniors working together in the preparation and execution of UN Sunday. Further, we urge congregations to organize related religious education sessions. Our UN Religious Education curriculum (UN Me) is available on our UN Sunday webpage: www.uua.org/unsunday. Also on our website is a short insightful history of UN Day and UU history at the UN which can be a great additional resource to use. This downloadable document, entitled, "They called it UN Day," is written by UU lawyer Frank B. Frederick, who was involved in the creation of UN Day and the UU-UNO.

Finally, we ask congregations to consider dedicating their UN Sunday offering or collection to the important work of the UU-UNO and to inform fellow UUs of the benefits of contributing to the UU-UNO. The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique Unitarian Universalist perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support, and we need your involvement, engagement, and enthusiastic contributions to help us bring our UU voice to the UN. You can help to change the world so that every person enjoys a safe and dignified life. Thank you for participating in UN Sunday!

2017 Global Rights Topic

Use these resources to educate yourself on this year's UN Sunday theme, Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet.

Disarmament Issues at the United Nations

The United Nations' commitment to disarmament is clear since its first inception at the close of the Second World War. The Preamble to the United Nations Charter is steeped in the language of disarmament - see the text of the preamble below, with key phrases in bold to highlight heavy emphasis on the UN's commitment to disarm our planet:

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- **to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind,** and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

- to **practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,** and
- to **unite our strength to maintain international peace and security,** and
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, **that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest,** and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.²

The UN Charter goes on to refer in Article 26 to the need for the newly created body to establish a system for the regulation of armaments. In 1982, the United Nations established a specific Office for Disarmament Affairs whose aim is to promote:

- Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

² *Charter of the United Nations*

- Strengthening of the disarmament regimes in respect to other weapons of mass destruction, and chemical and biological weapons
- Disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially landmines and small arms, which are the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) works through the UN General Assembly and its First Committee (which deals with disarmament and global threats to peace) to set norms in the area of disarmament. UNODA also “provides objective, impartial and up-to-date information on multilateral disarmament issues and activities to Member States,... departments and agencies of the United Nations system, research and educational institutions, civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, the media and the general public.”³

BROAD IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SMALL ARMS:

Our world is plagued by so many interconnected issues that appear in the news and in conversation daily, from climate change to racism, refugees, islamophobia, transgender discrimination, economic inequality, violation of indigenous rights, homophobia, reproductive injustice... All of these issues in some way either have resulted in or have been perpetuated by armed conflict, whether in the form of civil war, police brutality, gang violence, or a more personal conflict.

The proliferation of weapons both large and small is responsible for thousands of deaths every day. National governments are implicated in this devastation when military-grade weapons and even illegal chemical weapons are used by the state or agents of the state against civilian populations. If nuclear weapons were used in today’s world, it would not take many to not only cause absolute devastation of the areas where the bombs are dropped, but also result in widespread famine and displacement across the globe. With accidental shootings causing 3,800 deaths between 2005-2010 in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control⁴, and many of these victims under 25 years of age, there is so much we can and should be doing to make firearms safer and less accessible to people who should not have access to them.

The United Nations defines “disarmament” as the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the strict regulation of conventional arms. Disarmament has the potential to play an incredibly important role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding both locally and globally. However, in order for anything to happen, it is up to us as civil society to be active and keep this topic at the forefront of people’s minds.

DISARMAMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

In order to create a more peaceful and safe world, right now the UN is focusing on promoting

³ <https://www.un.org/disarmament/about/>

⁴ <http://www.aftermath.com/content/accidental-shooting-deaths-statistics>

sustainable development. The 2015 UN General Assembly adopted seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (also called “Global Goals for Sustainable Development”) as an action plan for the planet as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the recognition that no one country can achieve success alone, the UN is building on the principle of interdependence. Each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals relies on the others, just as each country in the UN relies on the others to be mutually supportive. The 16th Sustainable Development Goal highlights the importance of disarmament for sustainable development - target 16.4 states: “By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.”

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM & DISARMAMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office holds a prominent position within the United Nations community of non-governmental organizations. UU-UNO Director Bruce Knotts serves as the chair of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace, and Security. That committee was founded in the 1970s by Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Homer Jack. The committee is critical for coordinating the efforts of civil society organizations and their advocacy at the United Nations. Due to that position as chair of the Committee, Bruce Knotts also is a member of the NGO Security Council Working Group through which he has access to private meetings of the working group with ambassadors representing members of the UN Security Council.

CURRENT ACTION TOWARDS DISARMAMENT

As of mid-2016, the United Nations General Assembly has been taking major steps towards the establishment of a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Those Member States that do not have nuclear weapons are joining in close collaboration with civil society to convene a gathering to make nuclear weapons illegal under international law. The rhetoric is focused on the humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons use and testing, rather than on deterrence which has dominated the rhetoric surrounding nuclear weapons for the last several decades.

The “United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons” included 133 States and convened in March 2017 to begin the negotiations. Treaty negotiations continued at a conference also in New York at the UN Headquarters from June 15th - July 7th. After these months of negotiations, the treaty was adopted on July 7th following a vote of 122 in favor, 1 opposed (Netherlands), and 1 abstention (Singapore).⁵ The States Parties that have adopted this draft treaty have agreed “never under any circumstances” to “Develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons... or use or threaten to use nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices...”⁶ The treaty will be open for signature to all States at the UN Headquarters during the annual UN General Assembly in

⁵ https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/A.Conf._229.2017.L.3.Rev_.1.pdf

⁶ <http://www.undocs.org/en/a/conf.229/2017/L.3/Rev.1>

September 2017.

The adoption of this treaty does not authorize the United Nations to take nuclear weapons away from Member States who possess them (and who have boycotted the treaty negotiations). However, by making nuclear weapons illegal under international law, there is much greater potential for political, economic, and social pressure to be placed on those Member States. This groundbreaking treaty sets the groundwork for future advocacy and for a planet free of all nuclear weapons.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – DISARMAMENT

The following articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are particularly relevant to disarmament:

- Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and **should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.**
- Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status...
- Article 3: Everyone has the right to **life, liberty, and security of person.**
- Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to **cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment** or punishment.
- Article 7: **All are equal before the law** and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.
- Article 25: Everyone has the right to a **standard of living adequate for the health and well-being** of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control...
- Article 28: Everyone is entitled to a **social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.**

Disarmament and the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Here is a brief breakdown of UU principles and their connection to disarmament:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person:

Recognizing the value of each individual life is an essential step towards achieving disarmament. Armed conflict globally and locally perpetuates dehumanization of the Other. Particularly the utilization of unmanned drone strikes as a war tactic normalizes the act of killing, and disregards

the value of the lives being cut short.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations:

Disarmament commits the world community to a more compassionate and peaceful approach to conflict resolution. This will ensure more just outcomes to conflict. Justice, equity, and compassion are important tools to encourage peaceful and successful resolutions as opposed to violent confrontations. Disarmament depends on upholding these facets of humans relations.

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations:

Conflicts arise from lack of understanding and acceptance of one another. By increasing acceptance, violent conflicts decrease. Disarmament can thrive under an accepting society. Spiritual growth is necessary to practice acceptance of all people.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning:

In order to achieve just, peaceful, and inclusive societies (United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #16) we must educate our communities and ourselves on the consequences of nuclear war and the global proliferation of small arms, as well as what the global powers at the United Nations are and can be doing to create and maintain peace.

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in societies at large:

Every person has the right to voice their own opinions, and for those opinions to have as much weight as another person's. The threat of violence should never be a determinant for how decisions are made. The democratic process is not functioning properly when armed violence and threats can influence political power and global action.

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all:

The prevalence of armed violence in local towns and cities worldwide, as well as the continuous threat of nuclear war, prevents the achievement of a peaceful world community as millions of people live in constant fear for their lives. Disarmament removes the threat on individual life thus promoting peace, liberty, and justice for all. The goal of disarmament is to maintain peace in our world communities.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part:

All people are interconnected and dependent upon one another. An attack on the citizens of one country harms all other countries. Additionally, ceasing armed violence protects the environment on which we all depend. It is critical to remember that all issues are interdependent, but also that to solve them, all people must recognize our common humanity and band together. We must rely on each other.



2017 Intergenerational Spring Seminar

INTERFAITH ACTION TO DISARM OUR PLANET

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

UU United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar

Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet

Summary of what was discussed at this year's Spring Seminar:

Unitarian Universalists gathered in April 2017 for a whirlwind 3-day conference in New York City. The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office's annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar this year was centered on the theme "Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet." From the youth arriving in the evening on Wednesday, April 5th until the concluding activity and group departure in the afternoon on Saturday, April 8th, participants of all ages from high schoolers to senior citizens experienced the rich rewards of intergenerational dialogue and action-centered learning. The conference included workshops, panel discussions, worship, and small group conversations to allow the participants to explore the topic of disarmament from a variety of perspectives.

"LEFT OF BOOM: INTERFAITH ACTION TO DISARM OUR PLANET"

Keynote speaker Rev. Chris Antal

The Rev. Chris Antal, in his keynote address, introduced participants to the issues surrounding disarmament. He highlighted that the goal for our disarmament activism is to stay "left of boom." He showed an incredible video recreation from BBC of what happened in Hiroshima Japan on August 6th, 1945. The people who survived the blast are known as "hibakusha." Rev. Antal showed part of a video interview he recorded with Tomiko Morimoto West, a hibakusha he knows, who shared how she experienced the bomb dropping on Hiroshima as a thirteen-year-old. She told the story of how she lost her parents and her home in the explosion, and how she and her injured grandfather fled the city to the mountainside where she herself had to bury him when he died shortly after.

Rev. Antal then demonstrated how nuclear weapons technology has developed since the time of Hiroshima. Using a website called NukeMap, he demonstrated the casualty count and reach of the bomb (nicknamed "Littleboy") that was dropped on Hiroshima, if it were dropped today in Manhattan, compared to the largest bomb in the US's current nuclear arsenal. The devastation

was horrifying to see in the map of a city we were familiar with, and this made the issue feel so much closer to home. Rev. Antal's keynote presentation is one of two events from the Spring Seminar that were recorded and are available to [watch on the UUA International Office's YouTube page](#).

“GLOBAL EFFORTS TO DISARM OUR PLANET”

Theme panel at Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center

The cornerstone of the 2017 Spring Seminar was a panel discussion at the Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center near the United Nations Headquarters. The discussion emphasized how various types of weapons have impacted the world and its populations in a variety of ways. While much of the panel focused on how we can come together to work for change, we also learned about the factors that have contributed to the rise in the number of arms present in our world, and how arms are tied to many other social problems.

The event started with an opening in which participants were warmly welcomed to the Buddhist Center and learned a bit about the close partnership between Rissho Kosei-kai and Unitarian Universalism. The former Ambassador representing the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations, Ambassador Caleb Otto, then painted a picture of an island ransacked by war. The island of Palau is still suffering from the effects of nuclear testing, and the remains of heavy artillery can be found in various spots across the island. Today, Palau is advocating for disarmament at a global level, but due to the island's limited size and influence, its voice is often lost amongst the crowd of diplomatic powers. Palau knows that the fight is far from over and promises to continue lending its voice to the effort.

The next speaker, Ray Acheson of Reaching Critical Will, proposed legislation that is being advocated for right now at the United Nations. Unfortunately, there is often political backlash and tension preventing disarmament from being achieved. Ray spoke of how civil society plays the biggest role in passing legislation; when organizers are able to pull off events such as rallies and marches, their voices are harder to ignore. Collective action and executing our right to vote is how we can make a difference.

As we sat in Rissho Kosei-kai, we were constantly reminded of how interfaith partnerships help to make our voice stronger and our actions more noticeable. Hiro Sakurai from Soka Gakkai International spoke of the imperative of the religious community to work together and engage youth, in order to keep the momentum high toward making change, and to foster the next generation of experienced advocates. Through intergenerational mobilization, we are able to showcase how nuclear and small arms impact everyone, rather than a select grouping. As we continue to advocate for change, it is necessary that we understand the power of education and personal connection.

Bringing the issue closer to home, Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout focused his remarks on gun violence and systemic racism. We learned about the high percentage of people with small arms and how

cities with high economic inequality and poverty are consistently facing higher numbers of firearm-related deaths. He reminded us that amidst our efforts to draw attention to the need for disarmament, we cannot forget about other major issues and about people whose voices are being silenced by society as a whole.

The final panelist was Chris King from the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs. He gave an overview of the work his office is involved in and the obstacles they encounter. The United Nations defines “disarmament” as the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and the strict regulation of conventional arms in accordance with the UN Charter. Chris King began by sharing a number of alarming facts and statistics about the impact of weapons such as that detonating just 100 of the existing 15,000 nuclear weapons would create enough smoke to block out the sun and cause a famine that would kill 2 billion people. He went on to explain how, as we have observed the devastating impacts that access to weapons in conflict has on civilian populations, it is key to recognize how important disarmament and arms control can be as a method of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Many of the global issues we are facing today exist because we’ve forgotten the important role that disarmament can play. He ended by highlighting how important civil society is to the fight for disarmament, whether through demonstrations in the streets, taking action online, or making a statement through the ballot box.

This panel discussion was one of two events from the Spring Seminar that were recorded and are available to [watch on the UUA International Office’s YouTube page](#).

Read more about the Spring Seminar at UUA.org/UNSpringSeminar – Including summaries of additional activities that were part of Seminar 2017.

2017 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Statement

ARM IN ARM: INTERFAITH ACTION TO DISARM OUR PLANET

Whereas:

We recognize the value of human life and the fragility of existence.

We affirm values of justice, mercy, and compassion, and seek to promote equity and peace throughout our interconnected web of existence,

We acknowledge that the Unitarian Universalist movement consists largely of individuals with privilege in regards to access to education and socioeconomic status, and we also know there are those in our movement who do not have those privileges,

We recognize and name the intersectionality of oppressions stemming from white privilege and white supremacy, such as race, poverty, gender, sex, and marginalization of indigenous peoples,

We remember that the United States developed and used the first nuclear weapon, and is a leading global distributor of arms,

We know there are more than 15,000 nuclear weapons remaining in the world. And each of these weapons has the capacity to destroy millions of lives and wreak havoc on the environment,

We believe that cooperation between and among nations can be a bulwark against violence, and the United Nations is the organization which most effectively facilitates this cooperation,

We recognize that:

Much of our world community suffers from systemic oppression and lack of access to basic needs, and that violence stems from that inequality and lack of opportunity,

Dehumanization of the Other perpetuates violence while disconnecting us from our common humanity,

Violence has been normalized, glorified, and desensitized in our society,

Militarism plays a key role in contributing to racial, social, and ideological discrimination on the mass scale,

Drone usage in current warfare results in high counts of civilian casualties,

Any use of nuclear weapons could lead to planetary suicide,

We Therefore Resolve to:

Deepen understanding in our congregations and youth groups about the function and importance of the United Nations.

Advocate for the United States' full involvement in the United Nations process including financial support and ratification of critical UN treaties.

Urge all 193 member states of the United Nations to complete the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty and put it into force.

Promote international condemnation of the use of drones as weapons, as we have done for biochemical weapons.

Affirm the need for the United States to adopt universal national gun control laws.

Educate our faith communities about the destructive toll of nuclear weapons, small arms, and state-sponsored violence.

Remind UU congregations to recognize their roles in systemic oppression, while using our own privilege and power to create solutions in partnership with affected parties.

Ask our congregations to dedicate at least one worship service each year to recognize victims of armed violence, and to use that service to initiate sustained dialogue and action.

Commit to lift up the voices of people who are directly impacted by armed violence.

Encourage our members to write letters to our elected officials and other individuals in positions of power.

Promise to continue to educate ourselves and advocate for disarmament at a personal level, societal level, and governmental level.

Use this education and advocacy to collaborate with the UU-UNO to effect systemic change and the recognition of the power of the world's citizens to create peace.

Affirmed by the participants of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar, New York City, 8 April, 2017.

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

As part of the Global U/U Story, Unitarians and Universalists around the world work for social justice causes they care about. Here are just a few examples of the many issues related to disarmament that you can incorporate into your congregation's celebration of UN Sunday to promote Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet.

RALLY TO BAN THE BOMB

Promote nuclear disarmament through a rally with your congregation. Join with groups representing different faith traditions to raise awareness and action to ban nuclear weapons that could have devastating effects to all aspects of our planet's environment. Call to redirect the money and effort that goes into the creation of nuclear weapons toward furthering social and economic justice for all. Find a march or rally in your community, or hold your own.

GUN CONTROL

We need to adopt new laws to make sure there are protections against guns being used improperly. There have been too many tragedies that could have been prevented with regulations of gun safety, distribution, and rules against open carry. Urge your local elected representatives to introduce (and help them promote) legislation to make guns safer and keep them from those who should not have access to them. Communicate information among your communities about the real potential for change and lives saved by the proposed reforms. Implement education plans about gun violence for all ages.

DRONE QUILT

Host a square of the drone quilt in your congregation to honor the lives of people killed in US drone strikes. Come together as a community and submit a 10'x10' square of fabric that artistically commemorates the lives taken by drones to the drones quilt project and help create a quilt. To learn how to do so, visit the Drones Quilt Project at dronesquiltproject.wordpress.com.

DISARMAMENT WEEK

October 24-October 30th, 2017 is Disarmament Week. Plan something within your congregation to raise awareness and discussion about disarmament. Visit the United Nations website to learn what is going on during disarmament week and share it with your congregation.

Documentaries, Films, and Videos on Disarmament

- Lucy Walker: *Countdown to Zero* (2010, documentary)
- Peter Anthony: *The Man Who Saved the World* (2014, documentary)
- Robert F Frye: *In My Lifetime: A Presentation of the World Nuclear Project* (2011, documentary)
- Meera Patel & Wolfgang Matt: *Beating the Bomb* (2010, documentary; also on YouTube)
- Stephanie Soechtig: *Under the Gun* (2016, documentary)
- TED Talks:
 - Erika Gregory: *The world doesn't need more nuclear weapons*
 - Samantha Nutt: *The real harm of the global arms trade*
 - Jody Williams: *A realistic vision for world peace*

Books, Websites, and Articles on Disarmament

- Atef Abu Saif *The Drone Eats With Me* <http://www.uuabookstore.org/The-Drone-Eats-with-Me-P17908.aspx>
- Dennis A. Henigan *Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People* <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Guns-Dont-Kill-People-People-Kill-People-P18007.aspx>
- Eboo Patel *Interfaith Leadership* <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Interfaith-Leadership-P17952.aspx>
- The Acronym Institute for Disarmament <http://acronym.org.uk/>
- John D'Agata *About a Mountain* February; 8th, 2010.
- UN Office for Disarmament Affairs: *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do*.
- Nuclear Weapons Primer, Nuclear Reduction/Disarmament Initiative <http://www.ipjc.org/links/NuclearWeaponsPrimer.pdf>
- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation <https://www.wagingpeace.org/>

More Resources on Disarmament

- Learn more about the UN's push towards disarmament at <https://www.un.org/disarmament/>
- Nuclear Disarmament Resource Collection <http://www.nti.org/analysis/reports/nuclear-disarmament/>
- Move for a world w/ zero nuclear weapons: Global Zero www.globalzero.org

Planning your UN Sunday Service

Brainstorming UN Sunday

The following guide to planning a United Nations Sunday at your congregation is adapted from the work of Sylvia Heap (longtime Envoy at All Souls UU Church in Watertown, NY), who has been planning these services for over 40 years. The UN Sunday theme follows our Spring Seminar theme which this year is global disarmament.

UN Day every year is October 24th. UN Day also kicks off Disarmament Week, October 24th through October 30th. First you'll need to set a date for your service with the church, preferably around October 24th. The 2017 suggested date is October 22nd. If you are unable to book this date for a service, consider having a post-service event in October and hosting the service on another date*. Alternate dates connect with UN international observance days:

- July 30th is World Day Against Trafficking in Persons & International Day of Friendship
- August 12th is International Youth Day
- August 19th is World Humanitarian Day
- August 29th is International Day Against Nuclear Tests
- September 21st is International Day of Peace
- September 26th is International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- October 2nd is International Day of Non-Violence
- October 10th is World Mental Health Day
- October 24th to October 30th is Disarmament Week
- November 6th is International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- November 16th is International Day for Tolerance
- December 9th is International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
- December 10th is Human Rights Day
- December 18th is International Migrants Day
- December 20th is International Human Solidarity Day
- February 20th is World Day of Social Justice
- March 8th is International Women's Day
- March 20th is International Day of Happiness
- April 29th is Day of Remembrance of All Victims of Chemical Warfare*

*If aiming for Blue Ribbon status, be sure to have your UN Sunday service prior to March 31st which is the deadline for meeting all the requirements to become a Blue Ribbon Congregation.

DEVELOP THE THEME AROUND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ISSUES

(See section on Spring Seminar or Think Globally, Act Locally for some assistance)

- Decide on Guest speaker(s) - consider someone from the UU-UNO, Envoys, representatives of your local UN Association, congregants, yourself etc.
- Pick out some options for readings, hymns, opening and closing. (Keep in mind the connection that economic inequality issues have with our UU principles)
- Consider including a presentation of some kind (i.e. show a video, give more information about economic inequality, have a discussion on local action, etc.)
- Plan on further organizing a reception for after the service (perhaps an international potluck) with special decorations, celebratory cake/food, more information on the theme (try to connect it to local or international economic inequality)

UN Sunday Checklist

What you'll need to pull off your UN Sunday service with success! Keep track of this checklist throughout the planning process.

- People to speak/perform during the service:
 - o Worship associate
 - o Music
 - o Sermon (discuss ahead of time what you'd like them to specifically speak about)
 - o Additional performance (Music? Skit?), Photographer?
 - o Story for All Ages
- Order of Service:
 - o Finalize readings, hymns, other music, etc.
 - o Design Order of Service
 - o UU-UNO Donation Envelopes
 - o Print, fold, and stuff Order of Service
- Worship script (how will Worship Associate introduce each section?)
- UN flag, any other special décor for the UN Sunday service
- Food/drinks for coffee hour
- Display table with UU-UNO promotional materials
- Follow up with UU-UNO about how your service went

Timeline for UN Sunday Service Planning

This is a general timeline to help you plan and prepare for your UN Sunday service. (Guidelines are for an October service – if your service is at another time, just adjust the month!)

JUNE-JULY

- (ASAP) Settle on a date for your UN Sunday service. Inform UU-UNO of the date you've selected.
- Read thoroughly over the UN Sunday packet and educate yourself on the UN and this year's theme.
- If you don't already have youth in your Envoy team, reach out to your congregation's youth group and invite them to help you plan a multigenerational service.
- If you plan to invite a guest speaker to give the sermon, reach out to potential speakers to check their availability. (UU-UNO staff members are available to speak at your congregation! Invite them ASAP, as their schedules fill up quickly!)
- See if your congregation can have a special collection for the UU-UNO during the UN Sunday service (or during October if your congregation has month-long plate recipients).

AUGUST

- Reconvene your UN Sunday Service planning team and check in on progress.
- If speakers/musicians haven't confirmed yet, follow up or find an alternative.
- Brainstorm music and a story for all ages for your service.
- Develop a plan to advertise the UN Sunday service so you can get good attendance. *(e.g. post on social media/congregation's website; tabling during coffee hour; mention in announcements prior to services; place a notice in newsletter, local newspaper)*
- Talk with Director of Religious Education about using UN Me curriculum to help the children learn about the UN in lead-up to UN Sunday. Suggest the RE curriculum for UN Sunday as recommended on page 23.

SEPTEMBER

- Finalize order of service, special collection for UU-UNO, and list of people to speak/perform during the service.
- See if you can get a photographer to take pictures of your service and check with your congregation's administrator if the photos may be shared and used by the UU-UNO.
- Begin advertising UN Sunday service so you can get good attendance.
- Prepare for a table during coffee hour following the UN Sunday service (or during the

whole month!) to educate congregants about the UU-UNO. Flyers to display can be downloaded and printed from www.uua.org/un/envoys.

- o Ask UU-UNO to send you donation envelopes for Order of service/display table.
- Follow up with whoever will give the sermon to make sure they're familiar with the UU-UNO and will talk about the topics you'd like them to address
- Talk with treasurer or church admin about check processing protocol
 - o Can they provide you and/or the UN Office with a list of the names of donors?
 - o Should checks be made out to UU-UNO or to the congregation who will send a composite check?
 - o Review donation protocol for congregations. (Instructions available for download from www.uua.org/un/envoys)

OCTOBER

- Finalize the worship script for the worship associate.
- Meet up with your UN Sunday Service planning team to run through the service.
- Make sure donation envelopes for the service have been procured a week ahead of time
- Continue advertising UN Sunday service so you can get good attendance!
- After the service, make sure to follow up to thank your guest speaker(s) and check in with the UU-UNO to report how it went!

UN SUNDAY: THE DAY OF

- Be there early to:
 - o Get water for the speaker(s)
 - o Test microphones; (if recording) Set up tape recorder, video camera
 - Ensure the camera(s) are fully charged and have memory available
 - o Make sure the Religious Education participation is ready
 - o Greet guests as they arrive
 - o Help stuff donation envelopes into the orders of service (if applicable)
- If a collection is being taken for the UU-UNO, encourage people to write their information on the donation envelopes included in the orders of service so that you can get the Supporters needed to become a Blue Ribbon Congregation (See sample language below!)
- After the service, enjoy coffee hour; Introduce speaker(s) to members of the congregation
- Collect checks made out to the "UU-UNO"
 - o Mark checks from donors who want to be sustaining friends of the UU-UNO
 - o Make a list of individuals who made donations, to qualify for Blue Ribbon Award
 - o Use the UU-UNO's [Donation Instructions sheet](#).

- Work with treasurer to add up the cash from the collection plate (if the collection plate isn't for the UU-UNO, be sure to remind people we are supported by their donations).
- Email the office (unenvoycoordinator@uua.org) with your total money count and how many individuals donated.

UN SUNDAY: FOLLOW-UP

- Please send (email is fine) the following to the UU UN Office:
 - o A few photos (if you can, get permission from the congregation for photos from the service to be used by the UU-UNO)
 - o The number of individual checks (include names, *if you have permission*)
 - o Total amount donated from collection plate (if applicable)
 - o The Order of Service/ Program & any additional information you'd like to share (or, share this online – see below)
 - o The UN Sunday Envoy Report (online!)
- Complete the UN Sunday report online (<https://goo.gl/DkAczJ>) in order to qualify for the 2017-2018 Blue Ribbon Congregation Award
- Head to www.UUA.org/UNSunday/Services and post an action share about your UN Sunday so others can read about it and be inspired. Include pictures if you want! While you're there, take a look at what other congregations have done.
- Upload /develop pictures of the service – if on Facebook, tag the UU-UNO!
- Write thank you notes to speaker(s), committee chairs, and others who contributed to the service. You can also enclose copies of photos of participants in the service
- Confirm with the Board about donating the offering to the UU-UNO
- Submit the sermon to the 2017 Dana Greeley Award by Feb. 1, 2018 (www.uua.org/justice-programs/awards/greeley)

Celebrate! You did a wonderful job.

Sample Order of Service:

We recognize that each congregation has its own routine for Sunday morning gatherings, and we encourage you to use and modify the resources in this packet to fit your own congregation's needs. If your congregation is unable to hold a service, hold an event and/or fundraiser about the work of the UU-UNO on UN Sunday. For further inspiration, throughout September and leading up to UN Sunday keep an eye on the UN Sunday portion of our website: www.uua.org/unsunday.

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements: Use this time to introduce UN Sunday and the UU-UNO. Possibly have an Envoy introduce the service.

Call to Worship: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #429 or #475 (UN Charter preamble)

Opening Words/Chalice Lighting: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #453, or #455 by UN Secretary-General (1953-1961) Dag Hammarskjöld

Opening Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition #163 (For the Earth Forever Turning) or #137 (We Utter Our Cry) or #399 (Vine and Fig Tree)

Story for All Ages: "Enemies" by Rev. Christopher Buice (from [UUA Worship Web](http://UUAWorshipWeb))

Joys and Concerns: (if your congregation normally has them)

Reading: Singing the Living Tradition #584 "A Network of Mutuality" by Martin Luther King, Jr. or unison reading of the UN Charter preamble (#475)

Sermon/Homily: Some congregations choose to invite a guest speaker from a local university or local United Nations Association (UNA) Chapter, show a short film or clip, or have an Envoy or the Minister deliver a sermon about the UN Sunday theme. Many invite UU-UNO staff to speak. This is where to go into further detail about disarmament.

Offering: The UU-UNO is supported financially by individual, family, and congregational contributions. We suggest holding the offering after the sermon so people will be excited about helping the UU-UNO. (see below for sample language)

Closing Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition #162 (Gonna Lay Down My Sword and Shield) or Singing the Journey #1026 (If Every Woman in the World)

Chalice Extinguishing

Closing Words: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #698 or #692

Collection to Support the UU-UNO

The UU-UNO is supported financially by individual, family, and congregational contributions. Some congregations choose to dedicate their offering on UN Sunday to support our vital mission, while others choose to contribute in their annual budget. We encourage you to decide the best

way to support the UU-UNO. See below for sample language to introduce a collection. There is also an option for people to text “UNO” to 51555 to donate via mobile phone. It’s easy to include that information as a small note in the Order of Service.

SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR A COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE UU-UNO:

“Today’s collection is for the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office. The UU-UNO has held a prominent place at the UN since 1962, advocating for UU values on the global stage. Within our lifelong quest for a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, the UU United Nations Office is one way that we are getting closer to that goal. By engaging every day with Member States, organizations, and agencies and speaking out in defense of human rights for those who are oppressed, the UU United Nations Office’s advocacy made LGBTQ human rights become a priority throughout the United Nations system. Recently, the UU-UNO was instrumental in bringing the Movement for Black Lives to the international arena as the UN engages more closely to combat worldwide systems of institutional racism. With discrimination on the rise around the world, having our UU voice represented at the UN is more critical than ever, and the UU-UNO relies on congregations and individual donations to continue their work.

We are hoping to become [*or “to retain our status as”*] one of a few Blue Ribbon Congregations that help to sustain this crucial work into the future. There are Supporter envelopes included in your order of service with details on Supporter levels - to qualify as a Blue Ribbon Congregation we need at least 15 individuals to become Supporters through a gift of \$60 or more. Please write your information on the envelopes so that we can qualify [*again*] this year. You can also text UNO to 51555 to donate via mobile phone. I ask that you please be generous and consider the global impact your support of the UU-UNO can have. Thank you so much.”

UN Sunday Religious Education

Please work with the Religious Educator in your congregation to craft a lesson that will work well:

MEET WITH THE RE COMMITTEE

- To get the children involved
 - Processional – for example use “Let There Be Peace on Earth” banners, or flags representing different countries in the UN
 - Include a Children’s Story
 - Other involvement: passing out pencils, etc.; taking collection
- Email the parents about what the children are doing and when
- Invite teachers to incorporate sections from our “UN Me Religious Education Curriculum” into their classes a Sunday or two prior as well as on UN Sunday

- Contact the Youth Group advisors to ensure Youth are aware of their opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of this event.

CONSTRUCTING A LESSON INVOLVING DISARMAMENT ISSUES:

We encourage all congregations to fully engage all of their members in UN Sunday. Please refer to our Religious Education Packet, “UN Me” available on our website. Below, we have some suggestions specifically based around our 2017 theme of Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet.

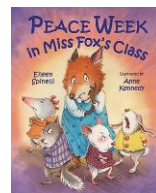
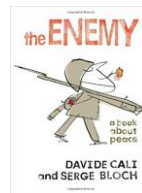
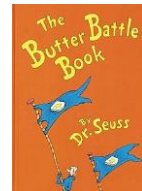
RE teachers should start by educating themselves through our resource section on current work of the UN on disarmament. Use some of the text or resources to draft a brief lesson that will work for your class. After the lesson, engage the children in an activity/ craft. An activity to connect children with disarmament issues is suggested below. Possible suggestions for the craft are in the UU-UNO RE packet (*UN Me* – see www.uua.org/un to download).

Following the craft, we suggest reading a book. Please feel free to choose from the list below. (This is often a good time for a snack.) A powerful way to end the class is to prompt the children to connect what they have learned to the seven UU Principles. With the UU Principles, children can identify which ones are directly related to the issues that different groups of people are facing today in America and throughout the world. Perhaps you can have guest speakers in October from the congregation (consider youth, young adults, adults, and seniors). See Part II: 2017 Global Rights Topic for more ideas and suggestions.

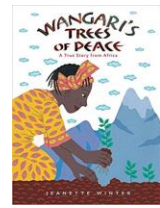
SUGGESTED BOOKS:

A few children’s books related to the subject of disarmament (peace/conflict resolution) or the UN:

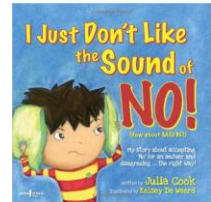
- *The Butter Battle Book* by Dr. Seuss, Random House, 1984: Two communities engage in an arms race over cultural differences, The story ends with both groups preparing to drop a devastating bomb on the other, but unsure of who will go first.
- *The Enemy: A Book About Peace* by Davide Cali and Serge Bloch (Illustrator), Schwartz & Wade, 2007: Two soldiers learn compassion when they discover the enemy that they were told to hate is not a monster or beast, but rather a person like themselves with a family and life outside of their foxhole.
- *Peace Week in Miss Fox’s Class* by Eileen Spinelli, Anne Kennedy (Illustrator), Albert Whitman Company, 2009: Miss Fox wants her students to stop fighting so she declares a peace week where the students learn how impulse control & kindness can help them be friendlier & create more amity.



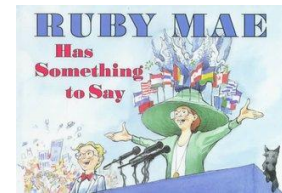
- *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story From Africa* by Jeanette Winter, Harcourt Children's Books, 2008: The story of Wangari Maathai as she tries to replant forests that had been destroyed while she was away at school. Throughout her struggles she learns how to peacefully and successfully advocate for change.



- *I Just Don't Like the Sound of No!* by Julia Cook, Kelsey De Weerd (Illustrator), Boys Town Press, 2011: RJ learns how to appropriately disagree with people in order to come to a mutually satisfying resolution.



- **(Book related to the UN, not specifically disarmament)** - *Ruby Mae Has Something to Say* by David Small, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 1992: Miss Ruby Mae Foote, governor of Nada, Texas, has a big ambition: to deliver a message of universal peace and understanding at the United Nations. Problem is, she's tongue-tied. To help her out, her nephew Billy Bob invents the "Bobatron." When Ruby Mae puts it on she becomes eloquent--and successful.



ACTIVITIES/CURRICULUM:

For Grades K-5 RE classes: Try the UN Me "Peace and Conflict Resolution" activity. (The full unit curriculum including a teacher primer can be downloaded at http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/un_me_re_curriculum_unit_3.pdf). Acting as the Security Council, the kids will be prompted to react to a conflict between two different cultural groups. The activity is suggested to help guide discussion and help children process and connect conflict resolution to the concept of peace. Following the activities, reflect as a class on how the way people and countries act can have an effect on their relationships and can control conflict. This activity is adapted from the UN Me Curriculum, Unit 3, Activity 5 (the full curriculum is available for download at http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/uu-uno/curricula/me_unit_all.pdf).

Activity and Discussion: Read this to the class: *News flash! At a recent trading session of Starburst and Jolly Ranchers between the Suls, who are very affectionate, and Ickthalonians, who are very formal, an Ickthalonian got scared when a Sul tried to shake his hand. The Ickthalonian jumped backward and ended up stepping up on another Sul's toe. The Sul thought that this was an attack and started hitting the Ickthalonian. A little while later all the Suls and Ickthalonians were fighting with each other. Now the Suls and Ickthalonians have declared war on each other.*

Explain to the class that they are the Security Council. They will be voting on what to do about the Suls and Ickthalonians. Begin by asking some questions. How did the fight start?

What could happen if the Suls and Ickthalonians fight with each other? Could the Security Council help if the Suls and Ickthalonians meet and talk to each other? What should the United Nations do to help? How could the importance of Starbursts and Jolly Ranchers influence whether the two groups fight?

Then have a vote on these ideas. If the participants came up with their own suggestions, vote on those instead. -*The United Nations should not get involved.* - *The United Nations will hold a meeting on neutral ground between the Suls and Ickthalonians.* - *The United Nations should not send Jolly Ranchers or Starbursts to either of the nations until they stop fighting.* - *The United Nations will send peace troops to demand they stop the war.*

Before dismissing class, review the day's lessons and activities. Ask the participants to go over how they felt during the conflict discussions and what they think about the UN's role in helping people resolve conflicts. What about the role of UUs in resolving conflicts? Did all of the conflicts start for good reasons? How should people decide how a conflict is resolved? What does compromise mean, and how should that be used in conflict resolution?

For Grades 6-8 (or older) RE classes: Explore ideas about disarmament with the Disarmament Continuums: Start off by asking the group what they think "disarmament" means. (Simply put, it means a reduction or elimination of weapons.) Explain that in this context we are specifically talking about the elimination of nuclear arms and the reduction and regulation of small arms. This activity is adapted from the UUA's 6th grade Tapestry of Faith Religions Education program, Riddle and Mystery.

Invite the youth to stand. Indicate one side of the room to represent "yes" and the other to represent "no." Ask them to move to the answer that they think is best, or stand somewhere in between if they have reasons to answer both yes and no. When they have taken their positions, you will ask them to explain why they are there.

1. Peace means that there are no conflicts between countries.
2. It is possible for all conflicts between nations to be worked out with negotiations and a dialogue about the issue.
3. I am concerned about a nuclear war breaking out in my lifetime.
4. It is ok for the United States to have nuclear weapons if our enemies do.
5. Nuclear arms are an important tool for keeping this country safe.
6. Since the United States was the first and only country to use a nuclear weapon, it is the responsibility of the United States to stop other countries from obtaining nuclear weapons.
7. Nuclear weapons should be the only type of weapon that is regulated internationally.
8. The United Nations should set limits on what types of guns and other small arms that can be used in international conflict.
9. Gun control laws are prohibited in the USA by the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution.
10. Drones strikes are an acceptable way to engage in combat.

11. Disarmament should be the top priority of the United Nations.
12. I believe that global disarmament is essential to ensure the safety of all people.

After conversations about why each person stood where, take some time to read to the class the preamble to the UN Charter and ask how that relates to the issue of disarmament. Ask the class who they think should be responsible for trying to achieve global disarmament, the United Nations, the governments of individual countries, or people like you and me. Ask if any of their answers from the continuum have changed and why.

Activity and Discussion: Project objective: Explain how peace comes through disarmament, and how arms races work.

RULES:

- Divide the class into two teams (countries)
- Mark the center of the room with a line (imaginary or tape...)
- Each team stands on opposite ends of the room
- Flip a coin to decide which team makes the first move
- Each team takes turns and can either move one step forward (increase arsenal), or stay where they are
- Each country has to decide as a team to move forward.
- Goal is to be the closest to the line than the other team while saving your country; you don't want to engage in war because that puts your country at risk
- First country to pass the line launches their nuclear weapons and declares war on the other country.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How does this game relate to any historical events?
- If the other team had declared war on you would you retaliate?
- What could have been done to decrease tension and prevent the war?
- How would negotiation help the situation?
- How could peace have been achieved between the two countries?
- What would have happened if neither team had had weapons?

Lesson plans from Tapestry of Faith related to disarmament:

For Grades 2-3 RE classes: Lesson on Fair Group Decisions from the Signs of Our Faith: Being a UU Everyday program. <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/signs/session14>

For Grades 4-5 RE classes: Lesson called "The Power of Place" from the Sing to the Power Program on connecting to people from different places to achieve effective social justice and compassion for people who you do not know.

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/sing/session4>

For Grades 6-8 (or older) RE classes: The "Nonviolent Communication" activity from the Heeding the Call program can be incorporated to address issues of peace and disarmament.

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop3/171761.shtml>

Blue Ribbon Congregation: Requirements

Each year we celebrate Envoys and their congregations with our Blue Ribbon Awards. The following is needed for a congregation to qualify for this honor:

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. An Envoy or Envoy Team
2. Host a United Nations Sunday service
3. Submit a donation from the congregation (such as collection plate) or have an annual budget line dedicated to the UU-UNO
4. 5% of the congregation's members become Individual Supporters of the UU-UNO (or 15 members for large congregations). Supporter levels are as follows:
 - a. Global Equality Supporter* = \$250
 - b. Family/Household Supporter* = \$150
 - c. Individual Supporter = \$60
 - d. Retired/Student Supporter = \$30

*Global Equality and Family/Household Supporter levels can count as two individuals towards your Blue Ribbon status.

The 2017-18 **deadline is March 31, 2018** for Blue Ribbon qualification (including donations!). It is the responsibility of the Envoy, when submitting the donation, to have a record list of names, emails, and amount. If the Envoy is not allowed to see or share the amount, they must still send the list of names and include the total number of donations (the amount is important because our office needs to be able to cross reference data in the database despite anonymous donations). Donation instructions are available at UUA.org/UNSunday. In order to track Supporters, it can be helpful to include UU-UNO donation envelopes as an insert in your UN Sunday order of service. Please contact unenvoycoordinator@uua.org for envelopes!

Dana Greeley Sermon Competition

All UUs are invited to submit a sermon (or address) to the UU-UNO. The purpose of this annual award program is to encourage and to recognize UU principles, thought and action on a wide range of global issues as well as the role of the UN and our own UU-UNO. Each year, the Greeley Award's theme pertains to the theme of that year's Intergenerational Spring Seminar, which for 2016 is economic inequality. (Hint: a sermon given during your UN Sunday Service would be perfect!) While all submissions will be considered, those highlighting the work of the UN and the UU-UNO will be given priority consideration.

The winner will be recognized at the next CUC National Conference or UUA General Assembly and a video of the sermon will be published on our webpage. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission. www.uua.org/justice-programs/awards/greeley

Deadline for submission is February 1st, 2018.

About the UU United Nations Office

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) is engaged in international advocacy work at the UN based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) values.

From involvement in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the UU-UNO has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level through UN consultative status.

The UU-UNO is part of the UUA's International Office. The International Office assists congregations in finding ways of answering our sixth principle call to reach out beyond church walls and borders by providing resources and guidance within the wide milieu of international UU programs and causes. www.uua.org/international

Through close coordination with a UU International Joint Working Group (JWG) involved in international engagement and maintaining and developing linkages with historic and new U/U communities around the world, we share the Global U/U story and help you find your place within it. The JWG is a partnership between the UUA's International Office, the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) and the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC).

The Global U/U Story: Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists (U/U) around the world are connected through a story of bold, compassionate faith that we've been creating together for centuries. Struggling for human rights alongside those that demand it, influencing governmental policy in the name of justice, passionately promoting a message of interfaith peace and solidarity, and building faithful worshipping communities—each of us has a part, and a stake, in the story we share.

Also part of the International Office is the UUA's Holdeen India Program (UUHIP) which has been advancing justice and equity in India since 1984. UUHIP partners with organizations that stand with the country's most vulnerable citizens as they seek dignity and empowerment. Translating UU values into bold action, UUHIP supports long-term organizational partnerships in a spirit of solidarity and global community.

Here are some of the program areas the UU United Nations Office works on year round:

Every Child is Our Child

The Every Child is Our Child (ECOC) Program is an initiative begun in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established by world leaders in 2000. ECOC directly contributes to the Millennium Development Goals of achieving universal primary education,

promoting gender equality, and combating HIV/AIDS. The UU-UNO provides grant funding to the Manye Krobo Queen Mothers' Association in Ghana in support of ECOC which works to empower this local women's organization to care for children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The program offers essential resources and health care assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to attend primary school in the Manye Krobo District in Ghana. Our partnership with the Queen Mothers Association and Queen Mothers of the district is essential to our success. Additionally, ECOC gives priority to girls, in order to help promote gender equality. Finally, the program contributes to the fight against AIDS, since children are taught about HIV/AIDS prevention in school, starting in Grade 2. www.UUA.org/ECOC

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) and Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity (SOGI) Human Rights

Over the past 40 years, UU congregations have become more aware and supportive of LGBTQ constituents. However, even members of the North American LGBTQ community and their allies are largely unaware of the dangers faced by LGBTQ individuals outside of North America. In over 80 countries, people can face criminal prosecution based on presumed sexual orientation or gender identity – sometimes with fatal consequences. Our program is dedicated to advocating at the UN for decriminalizing homosexuality around the world. Using its unique position at the UN as a leader within the ecumenical community, the UU-UNO works to garner support among the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), especially the faith-based community, to end criminal sanctions based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, the UU-UNO holds UN ECOSOC consultative status, allowing it to build consensus and coalition among other NGOs with consultative status to support decriminalization. www.uua.org/lgbtq/witness/international

Women's Rights Initiative

The UU-United Nations Office supports and advocates for the global implementation of key international agreements such as Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Our Women's Rights Initiative promotes awareness and action through education and advocacy in key areas of women's rights especially in relation to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including:

- Ensuring access to safe, effective family planning methods.
- Promoting a woman's right to decide if, when, and how often to give birth.
- Preventing sexual violence, child marriage, and unsafe pregnancies.

Commission on the Status of Women: Every year, representatives gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to promote women's empowerment worldwide. The Commission on

the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a global policy-making body dedicated to the advancement of women. The UU-UNO hosted an event this year that examined how reproductive justice affects economic empowerment for women. We hope to continue these important conversations throughout the year and leading up to next year's CSW Forum.

www.uua.org/reproductive/international

Climate Justice Initiative

As part of Commit2Respond (a UU-led coalition of people of faith and conscience for climate justice) the UU-UNO advocates for change on a global scale by raising awareness and inspiring climate change mitigation initiatives at the community & congregational levels. As stewards of the planet, we must act to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and heed the call to respect and promote the interdependent web of existence. Each of us has the potential to be leaders, inspiring action to keep our earth sustainable for all people now and in future generations. The Unitarian Universalist UN Office supports the landmark Paris Agreement adopted at the COP21 UN Climate Change Conference and feels an even more ambitious agenda is a moral, ethical, and survival imperative to ensure ecosystem health, livelihood, peace, and justice for us and for future generations. www.uua.org/environment/climate/initiative

Racial Justice Initiative

In light of the United Nations declaring 2015-2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office's (UU-UNO's) racial justice program is committed to expanding the United States' Movement for Black Lives to address anti-black racism on an international level. People of African descent worldwide experience racist oppression at alarming rates. It is crucial that we begin the conversation to build international awareness, specifically surrounding the impact of structural anti-black racism. The UU-UNO is committed to addressing this issue by engaging with the UN community regarding countries and the state of their race relations, developing respectful and fair communities, and partnering with domestic and international organizations to dismantle structural racism in favor of justice and equity. www.uua.org/racial-justice/history/un

Further Interest in the UU UN Office

Here are some ways to stay involved with our office in NYC:

Include an International Perspective in your Congregation:

Does your congregation currently have a group focused on climate change? How about one

working for immigrant justice? Between our advocacy programs and UN Non-Governmental Organizations committees, chances are that whatever your congregation's passion is, the United Nations Office is engaged with these issues as well. Throughout the research, education, and advocacy that your social action/ justice group engages in, keep track of action being taken at the UN related to those issues. www.uua.org/un unitednations@uua.org

Become a UU-UNO Envoy for your Congregation:

Envoys are extremely valuable to the UU-UNO because they are the link between the Office and the UU community. As an Envoy, you represent the UU-UNO within your local congregation while also letting us know what global issues your congregation is most passionate about and wants us to focus on. You connect your congregation to the UU-UNO and relay important information on current UN activities. You engage your congregation members in UU-UNO program initiatives and then plan events such as UN Sunday to promote UN education. www.uua.org/un/envoys

Embrace Leadership as a Youth Envoy:

The Youth Envoy Program is a way for youth around the United States and Canada to incorporate personal, congregational, and UU beliefs in the worldwide efforts of the United Nations. The responsibilities include raising awareness of UN events within your congregation and planning discussions, fundraisers, and other international events to connect your youth group to the UU-UNO. In partnership with adult Envoys, Youth Envoys raise visibility of the UN and our office so we can work together to make the world a safer and more just place. We highly recommend having youth as part of the Envoy Team. www.uua.org/un/envoys

Participate in the Intergenerational Spring Seminar:

Every April, youth and adults gather in New York City for our exciting and educational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deeper understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun. Past seminars have focused on poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, race, LGBT rights, indigenous peoples' rights, and criminal justice. The 2016 Seminar topic was economic inequality. Both youth and adults attending the Spring Seminar take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. Contact our office and download the leadership application for more information on how to participate in the 2018 Seminar on refugees and the global migration crisis. www.uua.org/unspringseminar

Consider the Internship Program:

The Internship Program provides people with an exciting opportunity to learn about the United Nations and to work in support of UN efforts to eradicate injustice, armed conflict, and intolerance around the world. Interns at the UU-UNO conduct research, write blogs, participate in conferences, and much more. Their contributions are invaluable. Contact unitednations@uua.org.

UU Community Involvement

Listed below are ways to get your UU congregation more involved with our UN Office:

ENTER THE ANNUAL GREELEY SERMON COMPETITION:

All UUs are invited to submit a sermon (or address) to the UU-UNO. The purpose of this annual award program is to encourage and to recognize UU principles, thought and action on a wide range of global issues as well as the role of the UN and our own UU-UNO. While all submissions will be considered, those highlighting the work of the UN and the UU-UNO will be given priority consideration. The winner will be recognized at the next CUC National Conference or UUA General Assembly and a video of the sermon will be published on our webpage. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission. www.uua.org/justice-programs/awards/greeley

HOLD AN INTERGENERATIONAL UU-UNO FUNDRAISER:

The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique UU perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support. We ask for your involvement, your engagement and your enthusiastic financial support to help us change the world so that every person can enjoy a safe and dignified life. Consider holding a coffee house, dance, spaghetti dinner, international food fair, or craft sale to support our work. We also have our “FUNdraising Packet” we can send you per request or you can download on our website (www.uua.org/un/envoys). This can be a fun opportunity to learn about an issue, build intergenerational community and raise necessary funds.

BECOME A BLUE RIBBON CONGREGATION

United Nations Sunday is a great opportunity to increase support for the UU-UNO by helping your congregation achieve Blue Ribbon status. In order to do this, a congregation needs these qualifications by March 31st:

1. An Envoy or Envoy Team
2. Host a United Nations Sunday service
3. Submit a donation from the congregation (such as collection plate) or have an annual budget line dedicated to the UU-UNO
4. 5% of the congregation’s members become Individual Supporters of the UU-UNO (or 15 members for large congregations). Supporter levels are as follows:
 - a. Global Equality Supporter* = \$250
 - b. Family/Household Supporter* = \$150
 - c. Individual Supporter = \$60
 - d. Retired/Student Supporter = \$30

*Global Equality and Family/Household Supporter levels can count as two individuals towards your Blue Ribbon status.