

**Minutes**  
**Monthly Envoy Conference Call**  
September 13, 2017 at 6pm Eastern

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. 6pm
    - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
    - ii. William McPherson (University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA) Bill is president of what's currently UU Voices of Washington State but will merge very soon with a different organization to form "JUUSTICE Washington"
    - iii. Lynda Wilson (Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham, AL) Lynda heads up congregation's refugee interest group which is very active
    - iv. Astrid Trefzger (Unitarian Fellowship of Kingston, ON) Congregation has a new DRE & Minister!
    - v. David Vita (The Unitarian Church in Westport, CT) Working a lot on immigration issues
    - vi. Eryl Court (First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, ON)
    - vii. Marietta Tanner (Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA)
- II. UN & Office Updates
  - a. United Nations General Assembly is starting next week. Watch the proceedings on UN Web TV (<http://webtv.un.org>) FYI:
    - i. New High Commissioner for Human Rights – Michelle Bachelet (former prez of Chile)
    - ii. New President of the General Assembly – Maria Fernanda Espinosa (from Ecuador)
    - iii. Bill: Speaking of which, Patricia Espanosa, another Latin American woman, is now executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. They will meet in Poland in December.
  - b. Sept. 26 is the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. UU-UNO is co-hosting an event at All Souls Church on Sept. 23rd (Sunday) featuring Chris King, Deputy Chief of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Section of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.
    - i. The UN has launched an initiative pressing the nuclear powers to meet their treaty obligation (within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, NPT) of good faith disarmament negotiations.
    - ii. UN disarmament community is invited and expecting a good turnout.
  - c. NGO DPI Conference was a great success a few weeks ago – brought together huge numbers of people at the United Nations to talk about the importance of multilateralism (amidst all the nationalism and populism on the rise around the world). The Outcome Document has been finalized – [you can read it here!](#)
  - d. Bill: Paris Agreement 3-yrs on

- i. Member States just met in Bangkok Thailand. During the conference they encountered several roadblocks towards implementing the Paris Agreement – working on putting certain things within the Agreement into a rule book for implementation. Getting ready for the upcoming COP24 in Poland this December – some may be peeling away from the Paris Agreement (Why should we worry, if the US is gone?)
  1. Though Trump “withdrew” the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, about 16 States are “Still In” – including most of the North East and West Coast. Last year the coalition of states, cities, and businesses in the American “We’re still in” contingent was more involved and got more attention at COP23 in Bonn, Germany (hosted by Fiji!) than the official U.S. delegation which got booed for trying to talk about increasing use of fossil fuels.
  2. Poland is heavily dependent upon coal – will be interesting to see how they steer the conversation at the conference...

### III. Joining the Envoys Map!

- a. Walk-through instructions for how to create a profile on UUA.org and add your Envoy program to the map so that others know.
- b. Recorded. Here’s the video: <https://uuacdn.s3.amazonaws.com/videos/tutorial-on-adding-program-to-uu-uno-envoys-map.mp4>
  - i. *Quick note to follow-up from video:* Your email address *does not* show automatically on your user page! The only reason it did on the tutorial video was because I was logged in w/ my UUA staff account which has special permissions re: that kind of thing. It should just show “Contact: Send a Message” when someone (who’s logged in & isn’t UUA staff) clicks on your account name.
  - ii. Using the “Contact: Send a Message” form gives the person a notification via email that they have a message (it also shows the message itself in the email) and they’ll need to log into UUA.org to reply within the system.

### IV. UN Sunday plans

- a. Reminder: 2018-19 theme is “When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All” and abundant resources can be found at [www.uua.org/unsunday](http://www.uua.org/unsunday)
- b. Giving a sermon...
  - i. Lynda will have 15 minute slot & will invite refugee family the congregation is sponsoring to talk
  - ii. Bill: Potential Resource for UN Sunday – report from UU Service Committee [“Community-Led, Human Rights-Based Solutions to Climate-Forced Displacement”](#)
  - iii. A few tips from Allison
    1. Start off with a personal/relatable/intriguing story
    2. Connect to theme, why should people care? What is spiritual grounding in UU response to the theme?

3. Can include some stats/info but do not overload. Should be a sermon, not a lecture. Get at heartstrings more with *stories* rather than *statistics*.
  4. Where's the hope? What's the call to action?
  5. Connect back to the story at the end (and maybe during the middle too)
- c. Marietta: Can do a UNICEF collection at UN Sunday – kids go around and do trick or treat for UNICEF. (Gets them learning about this at church since they don't learn about the UN much at school)
- i. Allison: Another amazing way to support UNICEF that's focused on younger people is the [Kid Power App](#)!
    1. Connect the app with your smartphone's fitness app (Google Fit or Apple HealthKit) or you can get the UNICEF Kid Power Band
    2. As you take steps, dance, run, move around and get active, you go on the app, push the button to redeem the steps you took, and unlock RUTF (Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food) Packets for UNICEF to feed malnourished children around the world!
    3. Allison's been using the app since the end of June and has unlocked 34 RUTF packets already! It's so great, and (if you don't buy the actual wrist band) doesn't cost any extra money but can help save lives. Plus as you go along the app teaches you a bit about different countries and about UNICEF.
  - d. Eryl: Getting ready for UN Sunday on Oct. 21, working with someone at Toronto congregation who is very involved with social justice. Assistant minister will be preaching.
- V. Bill: Washington State initiative on Climate Change
- a. Initiative is on the ballot in November to put \$15/ton tax on carbon to go to fund renewable energy projects as well as forest & water projects – Gas will go up 15cents/gallon, hopefully encourage people to get out of gasoline cars >> mass transit, electric cars; plus industries use more renewable energy etc. Feeling good about its likelihood of being approved by voters!
- VI. Blue Ribbon reminder (see <http://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/blue-ribbon>)
- a. Mobile donations: For UN Sunday, let people know they can text to donate! Just text UNO to 51555 to donate via mobile phone.
- VII. Spring Seminar update:
- a. Still accepting applications for Chaplains and planning committee members! Due September 25<sup>th</sup>. (Youth and Adult positions) learn more and find applications at [www.uua.org/unspringseminar](http://www.uua.org/unspringseminar)
- VIII. Adjourn