

Minutes
Bi-monthly Envoy Conference Calls
October 13, 1pm and October 14, 5pm Eastern

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Tuesday, 1pm
 - i. Allison (UN Office, NYC)
 - ii. Barbara (Portland, OR)
 - iii. Monica (Frederick, MD)
 - b. Wednesday, 5pm
 - i. Allison (UN Office, NYC)
 - ii. Ahti (Thunder Bay, ON)
 - iii. Ben S. (Huntington, NY)
 - iv. Martin (Kansas City, MO)
- II. Upcoming events
 - a. Tuesday, Nov. 3: [Confronting the Silence](#) – Event at the UN addressing the structural racism that people of African descent face worldwide as a human rights issue, (Black Lives Matter, on a global scale) the event will feature some big names including Harry Belafonte and statements from the families of Tamir Rice (killed by police at age 12), John Crawford III (killed by police at age 22), and Emmett Till (murdered in 1955). The event will be streamed live for those unable to attend.
 - b. Thursday, Nov. 5: [Fall Fundraiser](#) – The UU-UNO's opportunity to raise funds for the Spring Seminar and other office programming, featuring a live auction, music, food, wine, and more. If you're near NYC, we hope to see you there! The office could really use some more auction donations, if anyone has anything you can contribute, please fill out an auction donation form (link above).
 - c. Friday, Nov. 6: ECOC site visit – Anne, Allison, plus 4 interns will be travelling to Ghana for one week to visit the Every Child is Our Child program. (more details below)
- III. Office updates
 - a. Racial Justice – Preparing for the upcoming Confronting the Silence event. Will continue addressing discrimination faced by people of African descent in the coming years, including the ways in which racism intersects with our other program areas.
 - b. Every Child is Our Child – Preparing for visit in November. The ECOC program was created to advance girls' education, so at the beginning it admitted 2 girls to every 1 boy. However, over the years, many girls have dropped out of school and now the ratio is closer to 1:1. While there, we will focus on finding out why girls are dropping out and consider modifications to the program that will ensure that girls can stay in school. We will also be collecting a lot of media such as photographs and videos.
 - c. LGBTQ – We do have an [event coming up](#) related to [LGBTQ asylum seekers](#) at the UN Church Center which will feature a panel of two LGBTQ asylees who have fled their home countries due to persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The panel will also feature specialists who provide legal or other services to

asylum seekers, who will discuss the issues that LGBTQ face as they apply for asylum and how we can help. ALSO, keep an eye out for a blog post about UN support for an end to violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity!

- d. Women's Rights – Working with other progressive religions and other NGOs at the UN to form a working group in support of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- e. Climate Justice – The UU-UNO's proposed side-event at the Paris Climate conference in December has been approved! A multi-faith panel will be discussing the need to consider ethics and human rights in the creation of each country's INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution) (what that country commits to do for mitigation of climate change).

IV. UN Sunday

- a. Many people have already had or at least planned their UN Sunday service
 - i. Barbara: One great component planned for First Church in Portland's UN Sunday service is a testimony from one member about why the UU-UNO is important to them and how they've been involved over the years. At their service, the Social Justice Minister will talk about her recent fact-finding trip to Palestine. They will also have a table with UU-UNO promotional materials downstairs.
 - ii. Monica: The UN Sunday service in Frederick was this past Sunday, including a split-plate for the UU-UNO. A few days previously, she had spoken about the work of the UU-UNO at the congregation's Friendly Forum. On Sunday, she set up a table with the brochures and the minister let her give a short talk prior to the offertory about why congregants should continue to support the UU-UNO. Very pleased afterwards to have several new volunteers and members interested in going to the Spring Seminar next year. One will take over as Envoy once Monica's retired. The minister is fairly new, and gave a great sermon on indigenous peoples' rights, which was especially timely as it was the day before Indigenous Peoples' Day.
 - iii. Allison: (UU-UNO Director) Bruce Knotts gave the sermon at 4th Universalist in NYC where Allison is a member – she and the 4th U Envoy Shirvonne were co-worship associates. Bruce spoke about the criminal justice and mass incarceration. One youth was so enthusiastic, she is going to become a Youth Envoy at the congregation.
 - iv. Ahti: Congregation had a Blue Ribbon Picnic during the summer at which Ahti talked about the UU-UNO's work on climate change, and about the upcoming UN General Assembly and the sustainable development goals. The congregation also had a UN Sunday service on Oct. 11 which Ahti was unable to attend. Doing a good job keeping up awareness about the UN and the UU-UNO.
 - v. Martin: Hopes to meet soon with the minister to talk about UN Sunday plans!

V. Sustainable Development Goals

- a. As you may have seen in the most recent Envoy News, there are the Sustainable Development Goals and there are “Global Goals”, and they’re actually the same thing. The Global Goals stem from a campaign to make these goals more accessible and understandable to a wider range of people. In order for the SDGs to be achieved, the entire world needs to get involved and join together to support them. However, especially in some areas of the United States, there are people who are very resistant to everything connected to the United Nations. The website www.globalgoals.org contains a lot of great videos and action steps, but contains no mention of the UN. You may want to share these with people in your community who might be unsupportive of the UN. They’re also really fun videos and great suggestions for how to take action to achieve the goals, so go ahead and share them with all your friends!
- VI. Much appreciation to everyone for joining the call – please remember to stay in touch with other Envoys via the [Facebook group](#). Our next conference call will be in December.