

Minutes
Monthly Envoy Conference Call
Tuesday February 19, 6pm Eastern

- I. In attendance:
 - a. Allison (UN Office, New York City)
 - i. Phyllis (UU Church of North Hatley, QC)
 - ii. Bill (University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA)
- II. Office Updates
 - a. Planning for several upcoming big events:
 - i. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) conference is at the UN in mid-March. We're hosting a panel on March 11th on structural misogyny in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Human Rights.
 - ii. Intergenerational Spring Seminar in NYC April 10-13
 - 1. Keynote Speaker: [Ericka Hart](#)!
 - 2. Working on getting a room at the UN for the Theme Panel on gender on the global stage
 - a. The theme panel will be streamed live on UN Web TV and the recording will remain accessible online
 - b. Many congregations hold a special screening and discussion of the Theme Panel for folks who were not able to make it for the Seminar
 - i. (Probably screen the recording as the live event takes place on a Thursday afternoon! 3-5pm EST April 11)
 - 3. Registration ends next Monday Feb. 25
 - 4. Envoy Dinner Thurs evening for at the UN Church Center
 - iii. UUA General Assembly in Spokane, WA June 19-23
 - 1. The International Office is hosting a workshop called "Achieving our 6th Principle Goal of World Community" (date & time tbd)
 - a. Talk about ways congregations and individuals can connect with our world community and take inspiration and learnings from the world community to make a difference. E.g. UN SDGs, Paris Agreement, international UU partners, etc.
 - b. Bill: Such as working for the Green New Deal! Proud constituents: Allison's and Bill's congressional representatives are both cosponsors of the Green New Deal (Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez & Pramila Jayapal)
- III. UN updates
 - a. Lots of focus in the UN is on the humanitarian situations in Syria and Yemen:
 - i. Syria: recently UN aid workers were able to make the biggest ever aid delivery to a hard-to-reach camp <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1032851> but attacks on civilians continue. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1033041>
 - ii. Yemen: near-famine continues with grain mill unable to be accessed, despite some progress in negotiations. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1033101>
Sweden & Switzerland are holding a High-Level "Pledging Event" for the

Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen later this month.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1032811>

- b. Holiday coming up: March 21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
 - i. Justice Goals for the Int'l Decade for People of African Descent:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/justice.shtml> Discuss working on these as a congregation in conjunction with that decade
 - ii. Some good UN resources here: <http://www.un.org/en/letsfightracism/> for conversations about eliminating racial discrimination

IV. Envoy programs coming up?

- a. Bill: Bruce will be coming in March to visit Seattle and share insights about Climate issues & the UN Climate Change conference in Katowice.
- b. Phyllis: February is CUC month in Canada – a time to focus on “Sharing our Faith” services with a collection for the Sharing Our Faith fund. CUC has this grant (funded by individuals & congs) congregations can apply for money for certain projects. The North Hatley church has gotten grants from this fund in the past. The last one was for doing nonviolent communication work. This year the CUC's theme is water & water justice. Phyllis has been working on a sermon for this coming Sunday: learning from the [David Suzuki Foundation](#) & [Council of Canadians](#). Both organizations do a lot of environmental work & water is a big component of their work. One of the things Canadians have been working a lot on is Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation. Many First Nations communities have issues with access to water; often their water has been contaminated by industry or otherwise is not safe. There's a recent law from Ottawa that if an industry pollutes, they have to clean up after themselves. There are also lots of issues with fracking. Nestle is a big culprit vis-à-vis water issues: buying up huge amounts of water for hardly anything and then reselling it <https://canadians.org/nestle>.
- c. Bill: Dam and pollution are really harming orca population near Seattle. Because of dams, salmon population has gone down which is the orcas' main food source.
- d. Bill: First Nations in BC & American Indian tribes are working together in a big alliance to fight the pipeline.
 - i. Phyllis: Huge convoy of big trucks driving from Alberta to Ottawa are pro-oil and are protesting the Canadian gov't's delay in building it. Also there is opposition to a carbon tax that the federal government wants to impose. (Got an election coming up this fall. Say slow processes are slowing the economy)
 - ii. David Suzuki Foundation has great projects that have positive things happening; Phyllis hopes to present some of this hopeful message on Sunday at church

V. Blue Ribbon deadline is coming up March 31! Add UN Sunday description to the online map: <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/sunday/services> (If having trouble with the online system, just send a description to Allison and she can add it for you.)

VI. Adjourn