

Minutes
Bi-monthly Envoy Conference Calls
February 9, 1pm and February 10, 5pm Eastern

I. In attendance

a. Tuesday, 1pm

- i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
- ii. Tanya Brothers (Winnipeg, MB)
- iii. Debby Poljanowski (Toronto, ON)
- iv. Carroll Webber (Greenville, NC)
- v. Barbara LaCombe (Portland, OR)
- vi. Joanne Dufour (Mandeville, LA)
- vii. Dave Chapman (New Jersey)
- viii. Ron Glossop (Alton, IL)

b. Wednesday, 5pm

- i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
- ii. Karen Mackey (Sioux City, IA)
- iii. Janet Nortrom (Milwaukee, WI)
- iv. Nancy Nowak (Duxbury, MA)

II. Office Updates

- a. [LGBTQ human rights](#) – Two of our LGBTQ program interns attended the Creating Change conference in Chicago. This is the biggest LGBTQ rights conference in the US every year and this year's was especially large and incorporated international LGBTQ issues as well as domestic. UU-UNO hosted a workshop about how places of worship can provide support to LGBTQ asylum seekers. A blog post about the conference will come soon.
- b. [Women's Rights](#) – Our Women's Rights initiative is working alongside our LGBTQ rights program to preparing for the NGO CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) Forum in March. We will be hosting an event addressing challenges and successes faced by lesbian, bisexual, transgender women.
- c. [Racial Justice](#) – In addition to preparing to participate in the UN General Assembly Special Session on global drug policy in April, we are starting to plan an event to address violence against women of African descent worldwide. We hope to start a dialogue around this issue, as a lot of the conversation at least in the US recently has been largely focused on young men of color – but violence against women of color is a huge issue as well all across the globe. Hoping to have a video of this event that can be shared with those unable to attend the event in NYC. Date tbd.
- d. [Climate Justice](#) – We're working on a lot of interfaith projects with the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, especially around ethical eating and in preparation for Earth Day. A representative from the Tzu Chi foundation will be speaking at our interfaith climate action workshop at General Assembly! We'll be talking about what action we can take as a religious community to achieve (and exceed) the goals set out in the Paris Agreement.

- e. [Every Child is Our Child](#) – Many girls in the ECOC program do not have access to sanitary pads so they often must skip school due to their periods. We're seeking funding for sanitary pads for girls in the program so they don't have to miss school. We're also preparing materials (slide show, handouts) to allow Envoys and others to give presentations on the ECOC program in their congregation/community. More info on that coming soon!
 - i. (Janet) Would love to present about the ECOC program. Email Allison and she'll pass along resources as soon as they're ready!
- III. Spring Seminar is coming up April 7-9. This year's theme is income inequality, and we have a really great list of speakers lined up to address the issue from different vantage points. Our keynote speaker will be Dale Jamieson who is an expert on environmental ethics and the interconnected-ness between climate change and inequality. More speakers will be profiled as we get closer to the event in the [Seminar Facebook event page](#).
 - a. Important to mention: One change this year is that any youth who will be coming must be accompanied by an adult sponsor. The youth and sponsors will all lodge at All Souls Church and need to arrive on Wednesday April 6th for orientation. (maximum of 5 youth per sponsor)
 - b. We will have an Envoy Breakfast meeting on Saturday morning before the worship service at All Souls Church so that Envoys can get to know each other and prospective Envoys can hear about the program.
 - c. Tanya & Nancy hoping to attend, Dave will *probably* attend, Carroll has registered already. Dave will be happy to provide information on local affordable housing options. You can reach him at david.r.chapman@hotmail.com or on his cell: 908-938-1830.
 - i. (Janet) Congregation is raising funds to sponsor some youth to attend this wonderful and inspiring conference.
 - d. One panel will be taking place at the UN headquarters, in the morning of Friday April 8th. It will be live streamed (and viewable online afterward) for people unable to attend the Seminar. The topic will be consequences of economic bias on various groups (based on sexual orientation, gender, felony status, etc.).
 - i. (Joanne) Suggestions: Someone from UNDP to talk about the SDGs. Jeffrey Sachs would be a good speaker.
- IV. District Assemblies – Allison is planning to attend the district assembly in the Pacific South West (being held this year in Santa Barbara, CA), and UU-UNO staff will try to go to as many local ones as possible, but there's no way that someone from the UU-UNO can make it to all of them. It would be great to have Envoys represent the office at District/Regional Assemblies if possible. Allison can provide materials for you to put out at a table and put you in touch with local Envoys to organize a get-together.
 - a. Nancy is hoping to go to the New England Regional meeting – would like to get in touch with other Envoys in Massachusetts to coordinate attending that.
- V. Blue Ribbon deadline is coming up on March 31st! As a reminder, to qualify as a Blue Ribbon Congregation, you must meet the following four requirements: 1) Have an Envoy or Envoy team, 2) Hold a UN Sunday service, 3) Have at least 5% of your congregation's membership

- donate to the UU-UNO (or 15 individuals for large congregations), 4) Congregational donation: congregation assigns a special collection or line in the budget to the UU-UNO.
- a. Recommended dollar amount (this is not strict, all amounts are accepted) for congregational donations is \$1 per church member.
- VI. (Ron): What are requirements for congregational membership in UU-UNO?
- a. We don't have *member congregations* per se. We encourage congregations to become Blue Ribbon congregations, but beyond that, your congregation can be a donor, but we don't have any other designation.
- VII. (Dave): Are there printable materials to share at church?
- a. Allison will send flyers with these minutes and will put pdfs of each on the website, with a link in the February Envoy News.
- VIII. Adjourn