

Minutes  
Monthly Envoy Conference Calls  
September 14, 1pm and 4pm Eastern

I. Welcome and Introductions

a. 1pm

- i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
- ii. Tanya Brothers (Winnipeg, MB)
- iii. Karen Mackey (Sioux City, IA)
- iv. Barbara Lacombe (Portland, OR)
- v. Peggy Montgomery (All Souls, NYC)
- vi. Mel Hardy (Washington, DC)
- vii. Janet Nortrom (Milwaukee, WI)

b. 4pm

- i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
- ii. Chris Polis (Ottawa, ON)
- iii. Bill McPherson (Seattle, WA)
- iv. Jo Paoletti (Silver Spring, MD)
- v. Suzanne Murray (UUA Stewardship & Development)
- vi. Anna Lynn (Beacon, MI)
- vii. Stephanie Thomas (South Jersey, NJ)
- viii. Malaika Walton (Fairfax, VA)
- ix. Mary Jean Pierson (Cincinnati, OH)
- x. Joanne Dufour (Mandeville, LA)
- xi. Vicky Demos (Salisbury, MD)
- xii. Eric Sivin (All Souls, NYC)

II. UN Updates

- a. United Nations Summit on Refugees and Migration is happening Monday, Sept 19 at UN Headquarters! Many groups and organizations are pushing member states to make this a meaningful summit with concrete action, not another summit that focuses just on discussing the problem. Alongside UUSC, the UU-UNO is hosting a side-event the following day in connection with that summit and the release of Ken Burns' new documentary "Defying the Nazis."

- i. Event: 3:30-5pm Tuesday, September 20 at Community Church in NYC, **also live streamed** – RSVP at [bit.ly/defyingthenazis](http://bit.ly/defyingthenazis)
- ii. Defying the Nazis Documentary: Directed by Ken Burns, broadcast 9/20 on PBS! Tells the story of (Unitarian minister) Rev. Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha (founders of UUSC) who spent years during World War II rescuing refugees from Europe. There's a book to accompany the film written by the Sharps' grandson Artemis Joukowsky, and published by Beacon Press:  
<http://www.beacon.org/Defying-the-Nazis-P1226.aspx>

1. Film DVD on Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/Defying-Nazis-Sharps-War-DVD/dp/B01HV9IPYA/ref=pd\\_bxgy\\_14\\_img\\_2?ie=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=T8DW3Z17APFYZQB3QX74](https://www.amazon.com/Defying-Nazis-Sharps-War-DVD/dp/B01HV9IPYA/ref=pd_bxgy_14_img_2?ie=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=T8DW3Z17APFYZQB3QX74)

iii. UU congregations and individuals are encouraged to watch this film and also take action as a way of living out the Sharps' legacy in response to our current refugee crisis and waves of Islamophobia in our communities. One way to do this is by using the Defying the Nazis Congregational Action Guide – check out [www.uua.org/sharpstory](http://www.uua.org/sharpstory) for more info and resources!

- b. The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted one year ago this month! Spread the word! This week (week of 9/12/16), the UNO will be publishing a blog post written by Director Bruce about how the SDGs are important for UUs – Please read it, and you are encouraged to share it with your congregation and consider how to make the SDGs an important part of your congregational life. Consider how the work of your congregation responds to each of the SDGs and you can even use the 17 SDGs to frame your congregation's different programs.
- c. The UU-UNO is co-sponsoring an event with All Souls Church in Manhattan – the Forrest Church Award for Humanitarian Service this year will honor the 3 founders of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Unfortunately it won't be live streamed, but Allison will share any videos/recaps available afterwards!

### III. Techniques to be an effective Envoy

- a. Goal: increase overall awareness and interest within congregation
  - i. Technique: Share more via social media/newsletter or other avenues through which information is spread in your congregation. Link up with whoever's responsible for publishing social media and newsletter for your congregation. Social media is especially great for spreading around important info because, unlike the newsletter, there's not a limit to how much can be shared. When you receive emails from the UUA International Office/ UN Office, read them carefully to see what parts might be interesting for members of your congregation and send those articles/blog posts/announcements/images etc. to the person who does your congregation's publicity.
  - ii. Janet: Milwaukee congregation has a monthly newsletter, including information to describe the Share the Plate for that month – Allison will send a description of the general work of the office to encourage people to donate which can be included in such a place. Congregation also has a Friday e-news – this would be a good place to share information about the live stream of the Defying the Nazis event on Tues Sept. 20 and the PBS documentary that evening.
- b. Goal: host more events etc. and have more support in the congregation
  - i. Technique: Plan ahead and get congregational leadership on your side. Meet with minister, board, worship committee, finance committee, etc. early in the year and check in periodically. Use the Envoy Timeline to plan ahead and stay in

communication with the congregation's leaders so that they're aware of your plans and goals and hopefully will be happy to help.

- c. Bill: December 12<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the Paris Agreement – Ban Ki-moon will be holding an event at the UN on the ratification of the Paris Agreement w/ 55 countries etc. Would be great to plan events at congregations on how the Paris Agreement is relevant to your city. Will anyone be going to COP22 in Marrakech? Yes, so far one person is confirmed: Salote Soqo from UUSC will be representing UUs. Up to 4 additional people will join the delegation as well.
- d. Joanne: Each month Joanne does a UN Moment at her congregation – she gets 5 minutes to talk about something relating to the UN. Last month she spoke about human rights and she would be happy to share her script with other Envoys. She'll send it to Allison who will put it in the Envoy Resources page on the website.
- e. Peggy: How many congregations have a UN Flag – there's not one at All Souls, but Barnstable, MA has one and they make a big deal of the UN. It would be great to get UN flags as a permanent part of more congregations.

#### IV. UN Sunday plans and good ideas

- a. Janet: Plans for Bruce's visit to Milwaukee this UN Sunday include: Bruce arrives on a Saturday, visit the art museum. Staying at the home of a church member close to the church. Will be holding a reception from 5:30-7pm Saturday night. Sunday morning Bruce is speaking at the 9am and 11am service. In between services, Bruce is doing a forum on gay rights. Later that afternoon, a community nearby is holding a UN event at which Bruce will be speaking. Monday morning Bruce is speaking at a raising the flag ceremony at City Hall w/ a UN group there and the Mayor of Milwaukee.
- b. Peggy: At All Souls Church in Manhattan, they don't have UN Sunday b/c worship services are all under the auspices of the clergy. Instead they hold a UN-related event most years, often co-sponsored by the UU-UNO. For Blue Ribbon purposes, it is possible to have an event rather than a service. All Souls has a small budget that goes to the UU-UNO each year and a small budget for the Envoy team's activities. All Souls had 2 youth Envoys.
  - i. Barbara: First Unitarian in Portland, OR faces similar problems regarding scheduling a UN Sunday church service. It's not usually possible to do an entire service dedicated to the United Nations, but they include an element on the UN in the service and a collection plate for the UU-UNO. Will consider doing an outside event.
- c. Tanya: Congregation in Winnipeg hasn't done a UN Sunday in a while and Tanya is very thankful for the conversation and glad that the formal relationship has finally been re-established between the CUC and the UU-UNO.
- d. Stephanie: Bruce will be speaking at UN Sunday in South Jersey March 12<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Marsh has asked Stephanie to lead worship that day since he will be in Ottawa.
- e. Joanne: When Bruce visits the New Orleans area at the end of October, he is speaking at the Women's Center, will give an intro to the UN, and will go on a tour of the area with members from Community Church in New Orleans.

- f. Mary Jean: Would be great to have Bruce or Allison as a guest speaker but would need time to make plans and raise money to bring someone out. May be a good idea to team up with local congregations to pay bring a guest speaker out
  - g. Anna Lynn: Because it's essentially a pre-made service, my committee has decided to hold UN Sunday in reserve should a guest speaker cancel or we can't find a speaker (we don't have a regular minister). So it won't have a scheduled date until the last moment.
  - h. Vicky: have used UN Sunday packet in the past and supp
  - i. If you are interested in showing a film on U.S. diplomats on UN Sunday you can apply for a screening at <http://americasdiplomats.com/?gclid=CJuj6NbQj88CFUiRfgodW3QM4g>
  - j. one more thing about UN Sunday... Rev Marsh asked me to lead service that Sunday since he will be in Ottawa.
- V. New Membership system – Stewardship and Development at the UUA is handling donations for the UU-UNO. They will be sending around a letter to everyone who's made a donation in the past. The letters will be sent at the end of September so should arrive in time for a convenient reminder on UN Sunday.
- VI. Spring Seminar Update
  - a. Seminar will be April 6-8, 2017, with youth & sponsors arriving April 5 for orientation.
  - b. Topic: Interfaith Action to End Armed Violence
    - i. Mel: Has worked with Pax Christie and discussed nuclear weapons abolition. Catholics are concerned about not getting enough traction on nuclear disarmament – want to push for an encyclical from the Pope about non-violence. Would be great to lift that up in interfaith context and work with them. Allison will put Mel in touch with leaders of Seminar programming committee!
- VII. Upcoming things:
  - a. Allison's going on vacation to India so will be out of touch the next couple of weeks – anything urgent during that time can be directed towards Bruce (Allison will return on Oct. 1)
  - b. UNO Fundraiser in Arlington, VA October 21<sup>st</sup> – if you or anyone you know is in the DC area, let them know about this, it's going to be a lovely evening reception! Honoring the Kingdom of Norway for their support of LGBTQ human rights advocacy at the United Nations.
  - c. Int'l Women's Convocation – February 16-19 in Monterey, CA. Allison will be there the whole week including speaking at some local congregations.
- VIII. Adjourn