

**Minutes**  
**Monthly Envoy Conference Calls**  
October 12, 1pm and 6pm Eastern

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. 1pm
    - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
    - ii. Karen Mackey (Sioux City, IA)
    - iii. Ahti Tolvanen (Thunder Bay, ON – calling from Finland)
  - b. 6pm
    - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
    - ii. Bill McPherson (Seattle, WA)
    - iii. Chris Polis (Ottawa, ON)
    - iv. Joanne Dufour (Mandeville, LA)
    - v. Tui Torrie (Kitchener, ON)
    - vi. Ben Testa (Huntington, NY)
    - vii. Janet Nortrom (Milwaukee, WI)
- II. UU-UNO Reception on October 21, 2016 in the Washington DC area! (Specifically, at UU Church of Arlington, VA) Even if you aren't going to be in town at that time, maybe you have friends or family near DC who may be interested in attending! Please let them know about it. Tickets available at [www.uua.org/un-reception](http://www.uua.org/un-reception)
- III. Summit for Refugees and Migrants: Sept. 19. Result of the Summit was not as effective as many had hoped, but it did result in the creation of the [New York Declaration](#) which reaffirmed a commitment to certain principles pertaining to refugees and migrants, including preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, ensuring education for refugee and migrant children, and supporting a global campaign to counter it.
  - a. The campaign is called "Together: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All," and it will focus on highlighting the economic, cultural, and social contributions that migrants and refugees make to countries of origin, transit, and destination – also aiming to counter misinformation and misperceptions about refugees and migrants and encouraging interaction within countries where these migrants end up. Hopefully the Together campaign will include resources for congregations to use in alignment with the Defying the Nazis resources created by UUA & UUSC. More on the [Together campaign here](#).
  - b. Neither the campaign nor the New York Declaration makes specific reference to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Not sure why not.
- IV. UN Secretary-General = Antonio Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (2005-2015). After being selected in the last of six straw polls by the Security Council, his name is being presented to the General Assembly for approval. Prior to this, many had hoped the next Secretary-General chosen would be a woman (6/12 candidates were women), and probably would be from Eastern Europe, since there has not yet been an S-G from that region.
  - a. Secretary-General's term is for five years and they can be reelected.

- b. The UN Charter calls for the Secretary-General to be “appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.” This vague process has in the past led to incredibly non-transparent elections, taking place entirely behind closed doors in the Security Council before a name is presented for endorsement by the General Assembly. Because the recommendation of the new S-G is up to the Security Council, this means it is subject to veto from the 5 permanent members of the Security Council (“P5” countries: US, UK, France, Russia, China). The P5 are entitled to veto any resolution at the Security Council that they don’t support.
- c. Joanne: How many times each country has used the veto? [Here’s an article](#) about that.
- d. NGO Working Group on the Security Council (of which UNO Director Bruce Knotts is a member) includes a number of NGOs working to encourage the abolition of the veto. France has expressed an interest in abolishing the veto, but in order to change that power in the UN Charter, all 5 would need to support it, which is *very unlikely* (esp. Russia, US, and China!)
- e. How is Antonio Guterres on LGBT issues? Unknown, but Allison will look into it.
- f. Joanne: Helen Clark from New Zealand was a promising prospect for S-G, she was head of UNDP & development goals, but didn’t make it to the final straw poll. Unfortunate.

#### V. UN Sunday

- a. Ben: Huntington congregation is having their UN Sunday on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – Very proud to be a Blue Ribbon Congregation for 6 years running!
  - i. Recently had a weekend of events led by Chris Crass, starting with a Friday evening panel discussion with the local police and Black Lives Matter people, a Saturday workshop on what white America can do to support the Black Lives Matter movement, and a worship service on Sunday morning
- b. Janet in Milwaukee is really excited about Bruce coming to visit next weekend – plans include a private reception on Saturday, then 2 services with a community forum in the middle on LGBT rights, then out in the community that afternoon to give a presentation at the library, then Bruce will give the keynote at a UN Day event with the mayor at City Hall raising the UN Flag. Also the congregation has the Share the Plate for the UU-UNO the whole month of October. Hoping to become a Blue Ribbon Congregation this year!
- c. Tui’s congregation in Kitchener, ON is having a later UN Sunday this year, on November 27<sup>th</sup> and Tui will be speaking.
- d. Bill will be speaking with a Sunday school class K-5 talking about the UN, using the “UN Me” RE curriculum. Then on UN Sunday he will be doing the sermon, speaking about his experiences as a diplomat at the UN.
  - i. December 12 will be speaking about the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Paris Agreement – going into effect Nov. 6 then COP22 will be the first CMA (Conference of the Members of the Agreement)! Now that 55 countries with 55% of the world emissions have committed, it’s going into effect.
  - ii. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is monitoring, and there are satellites that can monitor them. Not up to UNEP to monitor – it’s separate.

There are some TED Talks on the ability from Satellite to monitor emissions – can pick up fine details on how the earth's atmosphere is being effected.

- e. Joanne will have four sessions planned for Bruce's first trip to Louisiana; He's addressing women's issues at the Women's Center public forum, then speaking at each of the UU churches in the NOLA area. Speaking to North Shore about the issue of Slavery, then repeating at another church. At the Social Justice center he'll be talking about global Black Lives Matter issues.
  - i. Joanne continues to present a UN Moment for 5 minutes each month, each time on a different topic.

#### VI. Other topics

- a. Ben: UU Fellowship of Huntington member Helen Boxwill has done some amazing humanitarian work in Africa – Maybe Envoys might consider the idea of creating an award for humanitarian (of the year, perhaps?). Would be nice to be able to raise up some of the outstanding work people do in congregations. Does UU World do anything like this? Or ICUU? Allison will poke around and see about this.
  - i. Seconded by Joanne – As a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, she participated in an award like this. Reading about each of the candidates was a marvelous experience. The UUA or whoever considers this award might think of awarding an individual award and a congregation or group award.
  - ii. Tui: Helped bring about the Elaine Harvey International Justice Award (presented by the CUC & UU-UNO to a Canadian UU justice activist). This kind of award not only highlights the winner, but also brings more awareness about the organization that's offering it – a great motivation for people to act when they read about what other ordinary people have done.
- b. Janet: Can we buy UN Flags through the UU-UNO? No, but you can get one from the UN Headquarters if you or someone from your congregation is attending the Spring Seminar (always have one panel at the UN Headquarters, so there is an opportunity to purchase all sorts of UN-branded paraphernalia (bags, mugs, jewelry, etc.) from the UN Gift shop).
- c. Allison had a great vacation in India at the end of September! Spent two days at the end of the vacation visiting with Holdeen India Program staff & partners in Delhi and learning more about their work.