

Minutes
Monthly Envoy Conference Calls

Tuesday, July 18, 2017 1pm, 6pm, and 7:30pm Eastern

- I. Welcome and introductions
 - a. 1pm
 - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
 - ii. Sooky Dunton (Ottawa, ON)
 - iii. Barbara Lacombe (Portland, OR)
 - b. 6pm
 - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
 - ii. Nancy Nowak (Duxbury, MA)
 - iii. Jamie Capach (Rock Tavern, NY)
 - iv. Janet Nortrom (Milwaukee, WI)
 - c. 7 :30pm – Youth call!
 - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
 - ii. Jane Wilson (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
 - iii. Andrew Mickle (State College, PA)
- II. UN Trivia Game!
 - a. On what date was the United Nations established?
 - i. October 24, 1945
 - b. How many main organs are there in the United Nations?
 - i. Six! (But the Trusteeship Council is not active anymore, since 1997)
 - ii. General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice, Secretariat
 - 1. Nancy: How does the ICC relate to Int’l Court of Justice? ICC’s jurisdiction is over individuals, whereas the ICJ’s jurisdiction is over UN member states (i.e. national governments) – turns out they’re both based in The Hague, Netherlands (on the call, Allison incorrectly said one was based in Geneva).
 - c. How many countries attended the first UN General Assembly?
 - i. 51
 - d. What do the initials UNESCO stand for?
 - i. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
 - e. In more recent trivia, what was the only country to vote in opposition to the recent nuclear ban treaty?
 - i. The Netherlands
 - 1. Congrats to Andrew, the only one to answer this one correctly!
- III. UN & Office Updates
 - a. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted on July 7th, 2017! It will be signed during the 2017 UN General Assembly September 20th. This is the first legally-binding international agreement to actually ban nuclear weapons, eventually leading

towards their total elimination. Long way to go still before they're all gone, but this is a huge deal. Great [daily coverage of the negotiations](#) from Reaching Critical Will!

- i. Look for a blog post tomorrow looking at the treaty through a racial justice angle! www.UUA.org/international/blog
- b. Gender Equality and Violent Extremism event held last week at the UN Church Center, put on by one of our Women's Rights Initiative interns. Very impressive speakers examining different angles of how gender equality and women's empowerment intersects with violent extremism around the world – the event is available for viewing on the UUA International Office YouTube page:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JDgKvAx6GI>
 - i. Janet mentioned Gender Equity article in National Geographic (not sure, but maybe it was [this one?](#))
- c. If you're in NYC you can attend the NGO DPI committee event August 1st "[Intergenerational Dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals](#)" contact Allison to get registered. If NOT in NYC, you can watch the main sessions live on UN Web TV! (webtv.un.org) during and after the event. In August after the event happens, we'll have a blog post recapping it with links to any videos that are available.
- d. UN Sunday happening soon! The packet is online at www.UUA.org/UNSunday and as a reminder this year's theme is Disarmament, and the recommended date for UN Sunday is October 22nd.

IV. Envoy programs recent or coming up:

- a. Barbara's congregation is doing a UN event on Sept 21st (Int'l Day of Peace) as part of a worldwide "Poems for Peace" event. The church's Peace Action Group and the Subud Cultural Center are jointly sponsoring this UN event and will focus specifically on nuclear disarmament & the UU-UNO. Any poems recommended related to nuclear disarmament???
- i. They'll also have a collection for the UU-UNO and say something in the service on UN Sunday, but this event is instead of a whole UN Sunday service.
- b. Jamie is leading a monthly conversation group at the UU Congregation at Rock Tavern on "Examining Whiteness" which is a curriculum offered by the UUA. Link to the curriculum: <https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/curricula/whiteness>
- c. Nancy's congregation in Duxbury is getting closer to getting on board with various justice initiatives. No UN Sunday on the calendar yet, but Nancy's trying her hardest and is hopeful that a UN Sunday service might be possible soon.
- d. Janet's congregation is very involved with trying to become a sanctuary church and work with the climate committee. Janet wrote an article for her congregation's recent newsletter about receiving the Blue Ribbon Award at GA and urged people to continue support.
 - i. Janet came to the international reception at GA and felt it was too hectic and didn't have enough time dedicated to recognizing the UU-UNO & Blue Ribbon Congregations. Allison agrees and will report this feedback back to the staff team for consideration in next year's reception planning.

- e. Allison had a meeting this afternoon with someone from the CVSA (Commission on Voluntary Service & Action) about their current campaign to get people active on the Sustainable Development Goals! They have a toolkit to help people hold their own workshops. Someone from CVSA is going to be a guest speaker at September Envoy Conference calls! Stay tuned!
- f. Nancy: Applauds UU-UNO working with other UU organizations. That can only serve the denomination & our values! Any promotional stuff that can go to ministers and others in the congregation would be good. Allison will send Nancy 25 donation envelopes and some leftover handouts from GA. And will look into designing a poster!
 - i. Nancy saw a really great Jeff Sachs article in the Globe in the beginning of June/end of May about how important the United Nations is. (Note: Unable to find/share the specific article online because of the Boston Globe's uber strict policy of no reading w/o subscribing)
- g. Nancy: any recent news re: Decade for People of African Descent?
 - i. Here's their website: <http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/>
 - ii. There was an event recently focusing on [African Diaspora food sovereignty and land retention](#) which was associated with the Decade.
 - iii. [Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent](#) (see esp. their Country Visits)
- h. Andrew's congregation is planning to do a UN Sunday service for October 22nd; he and Peg have been busy, but will get together at some point to work on the actual planning.
- i. Jane asks what are some recommended projects for Envoys (especially Youth Envoys) to do?
 - i. Take a look at the Envoy Resources page on our website (start at www.uua.org/un/envoys and click on the Envoy Resources webpage). On that page you'll find a whole bunch of action guides for each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Choose one of the SDGs that speaks to you and plan a project with your congregation using the suggested actions in one of the guides! The Envoy News is also a good place to look for project ideas. Each month's "Time to Act" section gives specific suggestions for things you can do. Allison recommends doing *at least* two projects/actions/or events per year.