

Minutes

Bi-Monthly Envoy Conference Calls

June 17, 1pm and June 18, 5pm Eastern

- I. In attendance:
 - a. Wednesday
 - i. Allison (UN Office, NY)
 - ii. Tesa (Washington, DC)
 - iii. Martin (Kansas City, MO)
 - iv. Ahti (Thunder Bay, ON)
 - v. Eryl (Toronto, ON)
 - b. Thursday
 - i. Allison (UN Office, NY)
 - ii. Andrienne (Fitchburg, MA)
- II. Office updates:
 - a. Preparing for General Assembly
 - b. Every Child is Our Child: working to increase targeted outreach to different congregations to get them involved (especially RE & youth groups) and re-energize the ECOC penpal program
 - c. LGBT: connecting with churches for both short-term and long-term solutions for LGBT asylees and refugees in NYC
 - d. Women: developing program this summer to focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights
 - e. Climate Change: Very happy to hear about the Pope's statement Thursday urging everyone to take serious action on climate change – maybe this will have an effect on climate change deniers? Plans are moving forward to set up a parallel event in Paris for the Climate conference in November – goal is to co-sponsor an interfaith panel discussion on addressing climate change from a faith perspective.
 - f. Seminar next year will be on Income Inequality. After consulting with the UUA's office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry on our most recent visit to Boston, we have revised our safety policies and will be changing some of the procedures to make the seminar safer for young people and more enriching for everyone involved.
 - i. QUESTION: Is there financial support for young people interested in attending?
– Yes. We do have scholarships available for which people of any age may apply. Each year our funding for seminar scholarships depends on the success of our fall fundraiser. Scholarship information will be available probably starting in December.
 - ii. We are looking for people to participate in seminar planning committee, especially youth to serve as deans. Don't have to be in the NYC area! Application will be available soon on our website (keep an eye out in June Envoy News) – If

you know of any youth who may be interested in serving as deans, let them know about it and have them connect with me!

III. Getting ready for UN Sunday in the fall

- a. Planning a UN Sunday service – Summer is a good time to be in touch with your congregation's worship committee or whoever is in charge of Sunday worship to see about scheduling a time in the fall. United Nations Day is October 24th, so UN Sunday this year is Oct. 25th. We recommend having your UN Sunday on that day, but if not possible, any other day is perfectly fine.
- b. UN Sunday Packet – currently working on it. Hope to finish it this summer and will send it via email to Envoys as soon as it's ready (it will also be available for download on our website). It contains sample readings, order of service, background info on this year's topic (international criminal justice), and other resources. I hope that it will be very useful for you.
- c. QUESTION (Ahti) : Is the theme of Criminal Justice necessary for a UN Sunday service?
 - i. No, just make sure you talk about the UN/global engagement and mention the UU-UNO!
- d. (Eryl) First Unitarian in Toronto will have their UN Sunday Oct 19th. Rev. Shawn Newton will be heading the service

IV. QUESTION (Ahti): Do congregations have Envoy committees, rather than just one Envoy?

- a. Yes! Envoy committees or teams are *encouraged* especially multigenerational ones! This makes your job easier and it's easier to connect with more of the congregation!
- b. Ahti hopes to set up an Envoy Committee at Thunder Bay
- c. Income inequality – interfaith working on affordable housing in DC –international

V. Tesa shared some info about action being taken for LGBT refugees in the DC area that Allison will share with our LGBT intern Ian – we'll see about how to share experiences.

VI. QUESTION (Eryl): How can Envoys communicate with each other and share experience with other congregations, other than on these phone calls?

- a. Use the UU-UNO Envoys Facebook group! I will be more active about posting in there and encouraging others to, also making sure new Envoys know about it.
 - i. All Envoys should feel free to share any info in the Envoys Facebook group that may be of interest/help to other Envoys/me.