

**Minutes**  
**Monthly Envoy Conference Calls**  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1pm and 6pm Eastern

- I. Welcome and introductions – what is your previous background or experience with disarmament?
  - a. 1pm
    - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
    - ii. Joanne Dufour (North Shore UU Society in Lacombe, LA)
    - iii. David Kimball (UU Fellowship of Vero Beach, FL) – In addition to nuclear disarmament work involved with other types of disarmament including board of directors for Nonviolent Peaceforce
    - iv. Jerry Ross (First Parish in Bedford, MA) – longtime involvement with justice advocacy and peace advocacy especially recently relating to banning nuclear weapons
    - v. Eryl Court (First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, ON)
  - b. 6pm
    - i. Allison Hess (UN Office, NYC)
    - ii. Joanne Dufour (North Shore UU Society in Lacombe, LA)
    - iii. Bill McPherson (University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA) – used to work in the state department, working on keeping controls on weapons
    - iv. Barbara Lacombe (First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR) – here to learn!
    - v. Harry Davis (First Unitarian Church of Dallas, TX) – took a college course in arms control before SALT 1 1972 and before SALT 2 strategic arms limitations law draw down specific weapons
    - vi. Ron Glossop (First Unitarian Church of Alton, IL) – retired college professor of peace studies at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, involved with many peace-related organizations. General outlook is need to talk about disarmament but also getting rid of war (Ron has a book! Confronting War – Mcfarland 4<sup>th</sup> edition 2001
    - vii. Ted Kusmierski (Pathways UU Church in Hurst, TX) – New Envoy, here to learn!
- II. Disarmament Presentation by Joanne Dufour
  - a. Joanne’s connection with disarmament began about 50 years ago when she was a social studies teacher in New York. One of her teacher mentors was a Unitarian and invited Joanne to the UU UN Office and introduced Joanne to her mentor, Rev. Homer Jack who was very active in disarmament efforts especially in the 80s. (Stay tuned for forthcoming post about him on the [Disarming Our Planet](#) blog!)
  - b. She continued being very involved with the Red Cross (focus on landmines) & UNA USA, and served on the Planning Committee for [last year’s Intergenerational Spring Seminar](#), particularly on the Theme Panel. Then in Jan 2018, Joanne came to NYC and volunteered for a month in the UU-UNO, working on disarmament and has begun writing a blog “Disarming Our Planet” which is now published every two weeks: <https://www.uua.org/international/blog/disarmament> While in NYC, Joanne had the chance to meet with so many inspiring individuals working in the area of disarmament, and will continue writing in the blog about the many things that they are doing.

- c. Programs with your Church on Disarmament –
  - i. What have people done so far in terms of disarmament programs through church?
    - 1. Jerry: has a variety of things through the church
    - 2. David: had a home party relating to landmines, not through the church though.
    - 3. Ron: Rather than focusing entirely on disarmament (eliminate nuclear & other weapons) we need to encourage positive building of peace, and encouraging people to think of themselves as world citizens. Weapons don't just appear on their own, we need to get out of the war system that makes weapons "necessary."
      - a. Ron's church will have a guest speaker in April, David Gallop from World Service Authority talking about world citizens – maybe some people have heard of Garry Davis who declared himself a World Citizen and there's a new film about him "The World is My Country". Beyond War has been promoting that too.
  - ii. Some resources from Joanne for church programs:
    - 1. [Rev. Chris Antal's keynote speech](#) (including interview with a Hibakusha (survivor of Hiroshima)) is online – see UU-UNO website about 2017 Seminar – Joanne used that video to show her congregation, and it was very powerful to hear the voice & story from a survivor
    - 2. [Theme Panel video](#) is also online (one of the panelists was one of the coordinators for the convention to ban nuclear weapons)
    - 3. Use the Disarming Our Planet blog series as a resource, can print them out and distribute as info:
      - a. ["Disarming Our Planet: An Introduction to Global Disarmament"](#) First post of the series, an introduction to the issue of disarmament
      - b. ["Listening to Our Neighbors"](#) Follow-up to one of Theme Panel speakers, Ray Acheson, talking about the important treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (could hand out this blog post in coordination with an event that includes screening the video/excerpt from the Theme Panel)
      - c. ["How the "Impossible" Became Possible"](#) – talks about the process for creating the convention to ban nuclear weapons. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, drew inspiration from land mines ban (that group was also awarded the Nobel Prize), and worked with over 400 organizations around the world to advocate on behalf of banning nuclear weapons
      - d. ["Amazing Grace: The Role of the Holy See in the Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons"](#) - Right after the convention was opened for signature it got the 50 nations that were needed to sign, and 3

nations ratified it – Guyana, Thailand, and the Holy See. Now 5 nations have ratified – need 45 more for it to officially enter into force. The Pope was instrumental in providing the moral voice in making this convention happen. (Int'l Committee of the Red Cross provided the humanitarian voice – more on them in a later blog). The countries in the conference voted in the Holy See and they were able to vote in favor and ratify it (even though not normally a voting member of the General Assembly).

4. Local UNA or peace groups could provide speakers if you're looking to plan an event about disarmament.
- d. When the UN Charter was written, the atomic bomb had not yet been detonated, but The very first General Assembly resolution, entitled "Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy", was adopted on recommendation by the First Committee on 24 January 1946.
    - i. [The First Committee](#) works on all issues of Disarmament, peace, and security. If trying to learn more about the UN's actions, that's one place to look for. There were special sessions during the early 80s, bringing out a million people to march in New York: before those sessions & demonstrations, there were 80,000 nuclear weapons - now reduced to "only" 15,000. That's why we're now working to *ban* nuclear weapons. When x number of countries (specified in the treaty itself, for Prohibition on nuclear weapons it's 50 countries) sign on to the treaty and ratify saying it's part of their national law, then that convention becomes official international law! – the third blog ("How the Impossible Became Possible") talks about that process.
    - ii. Track the progress towards entry into force by following on the ICAN website – they have a [running list of each country's position](#), including whether they're a "Signatory" (have signed) or a "Party" (have ratified) to the treaty. They don't have a running total, you have to count them, but there's a list.
    - iii. 133 nations wanted the convention (2/3 of countries in the UN!) so it happened, even though the nuclear powers are boycotting and are working on "modernizing" and miniaturizing their arsenals...
  - e. Ron: most important of all nuclear weapons treaties is the Non-Proliferation Treaty (a total of 191 States have joined the NPT, including the five nuclear-weapon States) but the countries with nukes have not done what they promised to do. This was a compromise between the non-nuclear and the nuclear states. The non-nuclear states pledged not to develop, and the nuclear states pledged to negotiate to get rid of their weapons little by little – but they haven't done that! (even though they signed and ratified it.)
  - f. Upcoming blog post relating to the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs. UNODA is located in New York City and are very helpful to the NGO community. Joanne got a special briefing on disarmament from an ODA publicity person – pointed towards their website [www.un.org/disarmament](http://www.un.org/disarmament) which is another amazing resource that overviews the scope of disarmament, covering a huge range of weapons (small arms, conventional weapons,

tanks, chemical weapons, etc.), tracking trading patterns, money spent by countries on arms, etc.

- i. UNODA publishes incredible well-researched studies about the many different topics relating to disarmament. Joanne's mentor must have got her name to UNODA so Joanne kept getting booklets from them about different topics being researched there and now live in the library in Washington State. A lot of those studies are available on the UNODA website.
  - ii. They have poster contests each year and have calendars with the entries
  - iii. David: UN sends out resources to one library in each state – got to research which library it is for each state. Does Allison have a way? Contact chief librarians in UN building.
- g. It's important to remember that disarmament is *so much more* than just nuclear weapons - can see the young people organizing in Florida now are showing up for one piece of that.
- h. Another upcoming blog post will focus on a student-led initiative in Japan in response to Hibakusha survivors' stories getting lost because they were shunned by society and the overall society had so much reluctance to talk about it. So the kids asked them to share their stories and they made a book of all the stories, published by the Soka Gakkai Youth Division. [Hiroshima and Nagasaki: That We Never Forget](#) – Kindle edition available on Amazon, just \$4.
  - i. David knows someone who made a documentary about the Hibakusha. Do you know the status of a clause added to the constitution that declared Japan would not go to war? (May have been rescinded? This may become a new blog post!)
  - ii. Nuclear weapons 8,000x more intense now than in 1945, so it's important to share this information about personal stories so people (esp. elected officials!) understand what's at stake.
- i. Some inspiring voices right now in the area of disarmament come from the [UN Secretary-General](#) (focuses largely on disarmament and banning nuclear weapons), [the Pope](#), and Peter Moir, the [head of the International Committee of the Red Cross](#).
  - i. If you have any catholic friends, send out message on the pope and priests can start preaching about nuclear disarmament! The Mission of the Holy See to the UN was very helpful to Joanne's blog research.
- j. Books: Here are some suggestions for good topics for book discussions:
  - i. [The Internationalists](#) – Oona Hathaway & Scott Shapiro
  - ii. [Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#) – Soka Gakkai
  - iii. [The Doomsday Machine](#) – Daniel Ellsberg – a bit tedious reading, but his heart is in the right place, he kept asking "how many people are being killed?" rather than "how many more weapons do we need?" Dispels myths about how the button pressing actually takes place
  - iv. [Confronting War](#) – Ron Glossop!
  - v. [GlobalSolutions.org](#) – among other things there are book reviews about how to think about the problem of war and peace. Important to note that more people died in firebombing of Tokyo than Hiroshima & Nagasaki – focusing on nuclear weapons is important, but got to think of weapons both nuclear and non-

nuclear as something that needs to be done away with. Security Council with the veto power makes real change in that body very difficult, which is why they did the nuclear ban treaty through the UN General Assembly instead.

1. Same with the Rome Statute through the GA to establish the International Criminal Court – which is great but a problem of enforcement
- vi. [World Beyond War](#) has a website and a book too: “[A Global Security System – an Alternative to War](#)” – also sponsoring a conference at the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (David Swanson)
- vii. Joanne: Time Magazine cover story for February 12<sup>th</sup> “[Making America Nuclear Again](#)” Talks about Trump rhetoric (esp. wrt North Korea) - very scary...
- k. David: Very strong believer in home parties. New Envoy, won't be able to do much at church beyond having an info table, but hopes to have different home parties on different issues. Some groups offer a whole package including video, data sheets, discussion questions... how about putting together a package of materials to host a home party on disarmament with about 6-10 people!
- l. Also: Guy Quinlan at All Souls Church in NYC heads up the Disarmament and Peace group there – Guy creates response letters to send around to legislators. To be added to Guy's action list and receive these resources for immediate action, contact [gcquinlan@aol.com](mailto:gcquinlan@aol.com)

### III. UN & Office Updates

- a. Current big focus at the UN is the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women
  - i. This year's topic is Women and Girls in Rural Areas
  - ii. UU-UNO hosted two workshops, one on community-based organizing and connecting community-level organizing to larger UN-level issues and goals, and the other one was on FGM (female genital mutilation) and how to end that as a practice both locally (much more prominent in USA than you'd think) and around the world.
  - iii. UU-UNO women's rights program intern is working on writing something up to put on our blog about those two events.
- b. Most of UU-UNO energy right now is focused on preparing for our upcoming Intergenerational Spring Seminar April 5-7<sup>th</sup>! Theme this year is *When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*.
- c. UN Sunday packet will be available in May or early June with lots of information relating to this year's theme (same as Seminar) – will host a special Envoy conference call in May to talk about how to plan an awesome UN Sunday service. Stay tuned for more on that!
- d. Following the Seminar, April 9, the UU-UNO is hosting another panel discussion on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a panel discussion in early May on refugees
- e. Mid-May is the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council)'s National conference in Hamilton, ON where UNO director Bruce Knotts will be co-leading a workshop on education for global citizenship
  - i. David: identifies with the idea of global citizenship rather than as US citizen

- ii. Joanne: one of mentors, Robert Muller, has a global education [World Core Curriculum](#). His blog: [Good Morning World](#). 7000 ideas for a better world.

IV. Other items:

- a. Joanne: Allison wrote a great blog post about attending the ICUU conference in Kathmandu – [here it is](#).
- b. Ron: encourage everyone to look into the concept of [Humatriotism](#), sort of like patriotism (Ron preached a sermon on July 5<sup>th</sup> about “Moving from Patriotism to Humatriotism”)

V. Adjourn