

Minutes
Monthly Envoy Conference Call
Thursday, April 25, 2018 7pm Eastern

- I. In attendance:
 - A. Allison Hess (UNO, New York City)
 - B. Lisa LoPiano Moskowitz (UU Fellowship of Huntington, NY)
 - C. David Kimball (UU Fellowship of Vero Beach, FL)
 - D. Harry Davis (First Unitarian Church of Dallas, TX)
 - E. PJ Deak (Unitarian Society of New Haven, CT)
 - F. Shari Loe (Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, NJ)
 - G. Rev. Ben Meyers (UUs of San Mateo, CA)
- II. Introductions & how long you've been an Envoy
- III. Brief updates from the UU-UNO
 - A. Blog post "[Sowing Seeds of Change at the United Nations](#)" by UU-UNO intern JoAnne McClure - her speech introducing panel at Commission on the Status of Women. Talks about getting to understand how the UN works vis-a-vis local grassroots organizations.
 - B. Great intergenerational Spring Seminar earlier this month "When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All"
 - 1. [Spring Seminar Statement](#) is up online. Use this as a starting point to guide action! In Envoy News next week, Allison will share print-able statement that can be posted at congregation during coffee hour etc.
 - 2. Also read about experience from Bedford group in a [blog post](#)
 - 3. Will have an overview blog post in the coming week or so
 - 4. Comments from those who attended?
 - a) PJ: Presenters were great, kids were great, Jerry's write-up (from Bedford) was great and will be in USNH's newsletter with a little paragraph from PJ.
 - b) Great idea - share blog post in newsletter to spread the word.
 - C. UN Sunday Packet coming early June - theme is same as Seminar topic!
 - D. Mark your calendar now for 6pm Eastern May 31st! We'll have a conference call led by Shari Loe about how to plan a great UN Sunday service (will be recorded)
 - E. UU-UNO events coming up soon:
 - 1. Refugees panel next Thursday "[Refugees, Migrants, & Resettlement in the Trump Era: What's Next?](#)"
 - 2. [UU-UNO Spring Fundraiser](#) next Saturday in New Jersey
 - 3. Later in May Bruce is going to Hamilton, Ontario for the Canadian Unitarian Council's national conference and will lead a multigenerational workshop along with one of our former interns on Education for Global Citizenship.

4. UUA General Assembly coming up at the end of June - contemplating how to make UU-UNO (/ the UN) prominent at GA, since we didn't get a workshop approved.
 - a) Will have Envoy Brunch! On Friday 6/22
 - b) Also - the UUA international office has an International Networking room available to us 24/7 throughout GA, so if people have other ideas for activities/meetings to hold in that room during GA - let Allison know!

F. Also, Allison is on Twitter now so if people are Twitter users, please follow @snalsnal (no need if you otherwise don't use Twitter - the key info will also be shared via email & Facebook)

IV. What were your expectations when you signed up to be an Envoy and how have they not been met? (How have they been met?)

A. David: Brand new Envoy & congregation is new to UU-UNO generally. Would like network of UU-UNO Envoys in Florida, but uncertain how to contact them. Tried contacting the Google Group but no responses.

1. PJ: Local networking piece would be great. For PJ it's a win either way. There are congregations nearby, so if they have Envoys great, but if they don't PJ could do 5-min piece at congregation about the UU-UNO to try to stir up enthusiasm.
2. Idea for **web map of which congregations have Envoys** (and hopefully a way to contact the Envoy!).
 - a) Could even be a Word document or PDF just listing the congregations that have Envoys. (Allison is concerned about sharing people's contact info without their consent, but if at least the congregation is listed, people can contact the congregation to get in touch with the Envoy)
3. David: UUMFE, Green Sanctuary, UU-UNO Climate database CreateClimateJustice.net - set up groups within them. Can we set up a group there for communicating individually as well?
 - a) Allison will discuss with colleagues to see if/how Envoys might link in with climate database.

4. Lisa: Can have a checkbox for when new Envoys register to allow them to give/deny permission to share their contact information

B. Harry: came in with no expectations but a hope that he would learn some things that would be helpful to the social action group in Dallas (concentrating largely locally and at the state level). So far haven't gotten anything that can be used at the local level - maybe because UN Office is working on international issues.

1. Even though largest congregation in the State of Texas, only 1200 people. Have strategic partnerships with NGOs and organizations - have a big effect on the local level but don't have an effect on the international level
2. Shari: UU-UNO can punch above our weight at the UN in particular such as involvement raising profile of LGBTQ issues at the United Nations.

Talking about the issues and see the connections between international trends/etc. and local issues (such as immigration, causes) - Easy plug-in via the growing social media presence of UU-UNO including live-streaming Seminar panel at the UN. Office provides great educational tools that can transcend local issues. It's helpful to understand the global picture as a way to address more local issues. Shari will often share UU-UNO posts on congregation's private Facebook group.

3. PJ: What works with the UU-UNO is getting young people involved. Many young people perceive the UN as an accessible place where they can get involved on a micro level and see how those things relate in the huge macro scale.
 4. Ben: Presence makes a difference. Friends took him to the UN at 16 years old - part of the path is thinking of the UN and honoring it. Happy to instill that in the Youth now.
 5. Passions and motivations are so divergent from the folks on the rest of the call so doesn't feel it's appropriate to be involved with the
- C. David: has found when you mention UN, 99% of the people think of the UN as just governments, not at all the civil sector. People don't know about the other agencies or other NGOs that are so critical to what the UN is/does. UU-UNO could work on identifying a market where people don't know about the UN's work with NGOs in the civil sector and market the information to them (A lot of what we're doing is preaching to the choir!) - need to market to the people inside fellowships who don't have that basic understanding about the UN.
1. Lisa - 8 years as a Blue Ribbon Congregation but still a lot of people don't understand what that means! Had a fundraiser for youth to go to the Seminar - it's an ongoing educational process for the Fellowship to have a sense of how and why we're connected to the UN. Lisa's goal for the year is to continue educating - not just UN Sunday but other fundraisers, information in the flyer, get Youth together to do something outside a Sunday service regarding the UN that the Fellowship has some knowledge/interest in.
 2. PJ: got ahold of bulletin board space in fellowship hall and every couple weeks changes out the announcements - makes sure it's clear that things are happening at the United Nations & through UU-UNO
 - a) Film screenings relating to issues the UU-UNO is working on
 - b) Speakers - Rev. Chris Antal is coming this Summer - partnering with Peace Task Force to bring him (he was keynote speaker at last year's Seminar)
 - c) Keep saying "UU United Nations Office" - everyone wants to believe that someone is doing great things in their name.
- D. David: Has UU-UNO ever thought of sponsoring model UNs in local high schools. UNA-USA sponsors model UN in colleges. Have any Envoys done such a thing before?

1. PJ: if you're driven to do a thing, go do it! As much as possible, Allison & Bruce are here to empower Envoys to do projects they think of
 2. (As far as Allison is aware, there've been no prior efforts by Envoys to do this - sorry, no helpful resources to use as guideline)
- E. Shari - It can be very difficult to hold a UN Sunday service each year. Frustration & hostility building in congregation regarding about finding a Sunday every year to do UN Sunday. Not a lot of understanding amongst clergy/lay leaders about what UN Sunday is. Perhaps have a way to allow congregations to still qualify for Blue Ribbon status without doing a service every year & on the other end, doing more at the UU-UNO level to get the UUA to promote the idea. Should be supported by UUA & ministers & lay leaders as to why it's important.
1. As far as Blue Ribbon status, congregations can do a UN event rather than service.
 2. UU-UNO is working on making UUA more generally understand and talk about UU-UNO programs, including UN Sunday, Blue Ribbon, Seminar, etc. so that it is clear these things are priorities.
- V. We'll continue talking about these ideas. For next time: What kind of project could Envoys work on together?
- A. Allison will follow up on some of these things discussed today and will share info in Envoy News & future calls.
- VI. Adjourn