



UUJEC Annual Report: June 2021

UUJEC envisions a world

that nourishes and sustains all living beings,
where all people share the riches of the planet,
where all voices are heard, where democratic process is practiced,
where the inherent worth and dignity of every person
is recognized and affirmed as set forth in our UU principles.

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ADMINISTRATOR

Rachel Bennett Steury
Paauilo, Hi.

Our History

UUJEC was founded in 1989, ever since concentrating on systemic problems of economic injustice. Early gatherings at the Rowe Camp and Conference Center in Massachusetts brought together a core group of clergy and activists who wished to inspire congregations to work for a more just society through study, teaching, advocacy, and direct action to address structures of national and global governance and society that buttressed economic injustice.

In our first year, UUJEC started a quarterly newsletter, *The Call*, and distributed an enhanced version of the UU Purposes and Principles in the language of economic justice (*see page 5*). The group held a conference in 1993 in Los Angeles focused on human rights. With more than 100 people present, the conference marked the emergence of UUJEC as a nationwide membership organization.

From the start, UUJEC has provided congregations with action-oriented materials through its General Assembly (GA) booth each year, as well as via engagement with local chapters and representatives, at national and regional conferences, and more recently through its Web site and regional conferences. As a response to growing inequality in wealth distribution, both nationally and globally, UUJEC helped organize marches countering the WTO in Seattle and the FTAA in Miami, and worked to develop and promote the Congregational Study/Action Issue, *Escalating Inequality*, adopted in 2014.

Subsequently, UUJEC developed its own curriculum for *Escalating Inequality* and used its Web site to help distribute alternative curricula and materials developed by several UU congregations across the country. We have also expanded our resources to include materials for engaging on the Statement of Conscience *Our Democracy Uncorrupted* and on healthcare justice and the Green New Deal.

This year, our proposed Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Healing. Justice. Courage.* (<https://bit.ly/3jQh787>) was accepted by the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) and passed by the delegates of the General Assembly. In addition, we hosted 3 workshops at General Assembly this year: *Reparations: Rooted in Repair; Mutual Aid, Congregations and Communities; and Socialism & Religion.*

In recent years, UUJEC has created an Economic Justice Leadership Award, last presented at our 2018 annual meeting in conjunction with the UUA General Assembly in Kansas City. We are looking to present an award in 2022, so think about nominations for those who have provided excellent leadership in this difficult pandemic year.

Annual Report Executive Summary

Achievements since 2020 Annual Meeting

1. Presented Webinars on 7 subjects related to environmental justice (*see page 4*).¹ Many recordings may be found at <https://uujec.org/webinars>.
2. Created a Green New Deal task force (*see page 5*)² to advocate for proposals that address economic inequality;
3. Began fourth-Thursday Web seminars on economic issues not related to environmental justice;
4. Supported the June 20 Poor People's Campaign "Virtual March on Washington".
5. Proposed and promoted the successful passage of a 2021 Action of Immediate Witness, *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Healing. Justice. Courage.*
6. Sponsored GA 2021 workshops: *Reparations: Rooted in Repair; Mutual Aid, Congregations and Communities; and Socialism & Religion.*
7. We are announcing an Economic Justice Leadership Award to be given at our 2022 annual meeting, at or around General Assembly.

Communications

UUJEC News & Views, our quarterly newsletter, provides articles on economic-justice topics, photos from our events, book reviews, etc.

Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report (by Treasurer Jane Bannor)

UUJEC reported \$7,659 in income for 2020 and expenses of \$2,798. Our bank balance is \$35,605 (*see pages 2, 8*).³

Green New Deal Task Force (GNDtf) Report (by Chairperson Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock)

Our monthly Green Webinars host amazing speakers month after month (*see page 4*).²

Healthcare Task Force (by Chairperson Rev. Judith Deutsch)

Our team wrote and obtained endorsers for an AIW that the GA passed (*see page 5*).⁴

General Assembly

We hosted a meet-and-greet session, three workshops, and proposed an Action of Immediate Witness that was passed (*see page 5*).⁵

Membership

With a simplified dues structure, we welcome new and returning members.

UUJEC Board of Trustees

The Board meets monthly. We ask you to consider joining.

We work toward justice with other organizations (*see page 6*)⁶

Superscript "footnote" numbers will be found at the point in the full report where details may be found.

Accomplishments Since Our June 2020 Meeting

1. Green New Deal task force met monthly to evaluate GND proposals and advocate for those that seem most in line with eliminating economic inequality; planned and held second Thursday Webinars on green topics, inviting participation from members and friends of UUJEC and other UU climate organizations.
2. Our Green New Deal task force hosted a discussion of *The Story of Plastic* with members and friends who had watched the film on their own time.
3. Began fourth-Thursday Web seminars on issues of economic justice that are not specifically related to environmental justice, the most recent being May's discussion of the film *Healing from Hate*, led by board member Carl McCargo.
4. Proposed and promoted the successful passage of a 2021 Action of Immediate Witness, *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Healing. Justice. Courage.*
5. Sponsored GA 2021 workshops: *Reparations: Rooted in Repair; Mutual Aid, Congregations and Communities; and Socialism & Religion*, the first two of which had scheduled live discussion sessions.
6. We are announcing an Economic Justice Leadership Award to be given at our 2022 annual meeting, at or around General Assembly.

Our Board is continually reevaluating what we can realistically accomplish, how to build our membership, and how to organize ourselves to best serve our members, collaborate with other UU groups, and promote our Unitarian Universalist principles, even without major consistent funding. We know that grants, especially from the UU Funding Program and the Live Oak Endowment Fund, have made a huge difference in our reach, so we will continue to pursue grants for our future work.

Communications

UUJEC publishes a quarterly newsletter, newly redesigned and re-named *UUJEC News & Views*, with articles on economic-justice topics, reports and photos from our events, book reviews relating to our core topics, and the like. Past newsletters have covered our Webinar series, healthcare justice, UUJEC's involvement in GA, environmental justice, and similar subjects. It is circulated via e-mail to more than 1600 subscribers and distributed at all UUJEC events. Our Summer newsletter this year (which may be found at <https://uujec.org/newsletters>) contains the full text of our newly-passed AIW. Board member Ms Sally Jane Gellert is our newsletter editor.



Our Web site, <https://uujec.org>, is maintained by board member Terry Lowman. Our Webweaver, Karin Gates, has retired, and a new big project for us is updating our Web site to a modern WordPress site that will be easier for us to maintain. Our site contains a blog, recordings of our Web seminars, curriculum materials (videos and print), congregational economic-justice activities, links to allied organizations, social-media feeds, and UUJEC membership information. We encourage all to explore, enjoy, and learn. We welcome your feedback as to what works well, what could be improved, and what new features would be appreciated. If you are interested in being on our user-experience survey team., please e-mail uujec@uujec.org.



Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report³ (by Treasurer Jane Bannor)

UUJEC reported \$7,659 in income for 2020; we ended the year with a balance of \$35,605 after expenses of \$2,798. Our decrease in income and expenses and our positive cash flow for the year were due largely part to not having in-person events because of the pandemic.

We are considering the best use of our current balance going forward, beginning with hiring a part-time administrator in March, 2021. We are pleased to welcome the dynamic Rachel Bennett Steury back to our employ. Her commitment and enthusiasm are already showing positive results. As the pandemic winds down, we're also considering the possibility of an in-person regional conference, possibly in Texas or Florida, or perhaps another Washington, DC lobbying event in conjunction with UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ).

The Finance Committee, composed of Jane Bannor and Carl McCargo, has been meeting to both develop the group's annual budget and document our financial practices. We continue to monitor federal requirements to assure that we continue to qualify as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Our financial picture continues to look positive.

Since the pandemic interfered with plans for in-person gatherings, we still have remaining grant money, which we are planning to put to work supporting the main issues for which we were generously granted these funds: health equity and addressing climate change through an economic-justice lens. The latter topic includes helping to shape the discussion of what might be part of a Green New Deal—or what might be done outside of it; the former topic is the basis for *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Healing Justice. Courage.*, our Action of Immediate Witness that was passed at GA 2021.

Green New Deal Task Force² (GNDtf) Report (by Chairperson Lucy Hitchcock)

Inspired by the original FDR New Deal and the draft of a comprehensive (climate/environment and economic justice concerns), the GNDtf's mission is to engage UU individuals, congregations, social justice groups, and their community partners to educate on, encourage local and national legislation on, and work to implement The Green New Deal. Since inception, the GNDtf has had monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 P.M. ET, monthly Green-topic Webinars on most second Thursdays at 8 P.M. ET, and occasional movies to be watched on their own time with Webinar discussion to follow. Both board members and UUJEC members and friends have participated and contributed to our programs and discussion.

The monthly GNDtf meetings encourage discussion of our “green” activities and our topics of concern; review of our past offerings with an eye toward improving participation and technical prowess with Zoom, planning future Webinars and locating excellent speakers on important topics, and identifying actions on what we learn. Members are involved in various national and local “climate” organizations and report on their activities, providing links to their offerings. As reported below in the Webinar list, the topics have been diverse and to date not narrowing to a particular goal or theme within the GND purview. So, the predominant action has been education. A side benefit has been developing camaraderie and a place to reflect and emote on an often disturbing topic: climate disruption and climate injustice. What can we do about it?

The GNDtf is considering sponsoring a climate-advocacy conference as climate/justice-related legislation to promote becomes clearer. We update each other when new legislation is submitted and reviewed. We encourage involvement with local groups and advocacy at the city and state level as well as personal actions to help save the planet, support those most affected by climate disruption, and build a movement among people of all ages and perspectives. The GND task force is always open to new members, suggestions of topics, questions or comments. Write us at greentf@uujec.org or uujec@uujec.org.

Webinars since our last annual meeting:¹

- ★ August 13, *En-Roads Climate Interactive Model*, Adam Wasserman
- ★ September 10, *Solutionary Rail* with Bill Moyer, Dick Burkhardt, host
- ★ October 8, *Roots of Justice*, Earl Korteen
- ★ December 10, *The Story of Plastic* (movie shown separately), Fran Sowa, Allan Lindrup, host
- ★ February 10, *Public Banking*, Sarah Manning, Rebeca Jasso-Laguilar, Melissa Pickett, Adam Wasserman, host

- ★ March 10, *Green Amendments for the Generations*, Maya von Rossum, Adam Wasserman, host
- ★ April 8, *The End of Ice*, Dahr Jamail, Cindy Piester, host
- ★ May 13, *Climate Disruption and the US Military*, Cindy Piester, Terry Lowman, host
- ★ June 10, *The Climate Diet*, Paul Greenberg, Terry Lowman, host

Upcoming:

- ★ August 11, *Cooperative Gardens Commission*, Nathan Kleinman, Sally Gellert, host
- ★ August 26, *Unemployed Workers' Union*, Terry Lowman, host

Healthcare Task Force⁴ (by Chairperson Rev. Judith Deutsch)

Our team (particularly Rev. Robert Murphy and Ms Sally Gellert), together with other UUJEC board members, wrote and obtained endorsers for an AIW that the GA passed.

The AIW ended this way: *BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly affirms its commitment to create a healthcare system that is accessible, comprehensive, equitable and culturally acceptable. We agree with the World Health Organization that health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.*

On March 17, 2021, Reps. Pramila Jayapal and Debbie Dingell introduced the The Medicare for All Act of 2021; we urge letters to Representatives to join the current 116 cosponsors of this landmark legislation.

Earlier this year, we asked members to write to their legislators, as the UUJEC had done, to stop the Indian Health Service (IHS) from reducing emergency services at Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Hospital. Those who did so attained some success. The IHS reached a court-approved agreement with the Acoma Pueblo to keep the hospital open until February 2022 while officials determine what resources will best meet the healthcare needs of the surrounding communities. Last Fall's closure was an example of the IHS moving to downsize smaller hospitals in favor of large centralized units. We must let the IHS know that many Pueblo residents cannot access the larger, centralized facilities to get care when they need it.

We have noted the work done by various Mutual Aid groups, both religious and secular, throughout the nation, and applaud and encourage such work.

We have supported HR 1976, Representative Jayapal's 2021 Medicare for All Bill. In doing so, we have emphasized that other industrialized countries have universal health insurance, and that the pandemic has shown how badly we need it. Provisions of the bill are attached at the end of this annual report. It is also more important to you to learn what you might save if Medicare for All were passed and implemented—you can find this by using the Medicare for All Calculator (which UUJEC helped to fund) that may be found at <https://www.mfacalc.com>.

Our members are Sally Gellert, Lucy Hitchcock, Terry Lowman, Bob Murphy, and Judith Deutsch, chair.

General Assembly: Pandemic AIW Redux, Workshops, Meet-and Greet⁵



At GA this year, we concentrated on our AIW and our 3 workshops. Our GA 2021 workshop, *Reparations: Rooted in Repair*, with speakers Mr. Woullard Lett, Rev. Ari Merretazon, Mr. Carl McCargo, and Jane Banner. Our other workshops were *Socialism and Religion*, led by Rev. Judith Deutsch, and *Mutual Aid, Congregations and Communities*, led by Rev. Robert Murphy and Mr. Terry Lowman. At our Wednesday Meet & Greet session, we had a good discussion with many suggestions for the future, and we look forward to working with those who attended our programs, our UU and nonUU organizational partners, and the CSW and UUA staff as we start to implement our AIW. We are constantly looking at intersections of socioeconomic class with racial and other identities as we strive for a better world.

Membership

Our membership includes both individuals and congregations. We work in partnership with groups both within and outside the UU world, including Unitarians for Social Justice (UUSJ) and UU Ministry for Earth (UUMfE). UUJEC currently has 93 active members with more than 1600 additional supporters who subscribe to communicate with us via e-mail. Members and friends receive a quarterly newsletter, *UUJEC News & Views*, and attend our Webinars, conferences, and workshops. Others attend our events at General Assembly, including our annual meeting.

With a simplified dues structure, we welcome members and nonmembers to most events. We welcome new members to join us; check out details and sign up here: <https://uujec.org/membership>.

UUJEC Board of Trustees

The UUJEC Board has been involved with both policy and implementation of programs. There is no way to track all the hours of contributions they have made.

The Board meets monthly, as does its Executive Committee, both by phone and by video conference. We held a virtual board retreat in August 2020, and are due for another strategic planning retreat, though we have not yet set a formal date.

We have been consolidating our efforts in the last year, focusing on our periodic Web seminars (our 2nd-Thursday Green New Deal seminars have become consistent monthly, and we are adding some seminars and discussions on other economic-justice topics on 4th Thursdays). With our newly passed AIW, we are looking toward implementation, supporting both Medicare for All and the PRO Act. We will connect with interested UUs on those topics, and may propose a Congregational Study/Action Issue titled *Health, Safety, and Justice: Communities and Individuals Together*. Our on-line Web site maintenance and communications have been a bit more difficult this year without dedicated staff support, but with Rachel Bennett Steury's return and plans to move to a more up-to-date content management system, we expect this to improve. We will also consider our capacity for providing CFS (congregation/fellowship/society) members with short items that they could republish in their own newsletters. We are always interested in attracting dedicated economic-justice advocates to join our working board!

Current Board Members come from various regions of the country

Jane Bannor (Evanston, Ill.) ★ Dick Burkhart (Seattle, Wash.) ★ Rev. Judith Deutsch (Corrales, N.M.) ★ Ms Sally Jane Gellert (Woodcliff Lake, N.J.) ★ Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock (Salem, Ore.) ★ Terry Lowman (Ames, Iowa & Miami, Fla.) ★ Carl McCargo (Springfield, Mass.) ★ Kit Marlowe (Cape May, N.J.) ★ Rev. Robert Murphy (St. Petersburg, Fla.) ★ Cindy Piester (Ventura, Calif.) ★ Dean Wanderer (Springfield, Va.) ★ Adam Wasserman (Santa Fe, N.M.)

The board will continue to invite UUJEC members into broader participation in its work for economic justice. We appreciate hearing from members and friends to let us know how we can most effectively communicate with them; please e-mail uujec@uujec.org or Tweet at @UUJEC_COM to start the conversation. We would like to expand our working groups and better coordinate with compatible organizations. In addition, we have a few board seats open through retirements and will be looking for nominees. We also work to earn members' support and thank you for your continuing generosity that allows us to engage UUs and partners in vital and effective justice work.

Partnerships & Alliances⁶

- ★ UUSJ, Write Here, Write Now
- ★ Climate Crisis Policy, Adopt-a-District, Faith Contingent
- ★ Public Banking
- ★ Green Amendments for the Generations
- ★ Drawdown UU Ecochallenge



UUJEC Supports the Coalition of Immokalee Workers

The year 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the Fair Food Program developed by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. The Fair Food Program provides humane wages and working conditions for many farm workers. The Fair Food Program has been initiated and sustained with the leadership of BIPOC people.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Statement of Conscience titled *Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice*. The early work for the Statement of Conscience was inspired by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. The discussion began in Florida with a request that Unitarian Universalists work for the ethical production, distribution, and use of food. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and economic injustice, our congregations are reminded, again, of the need to develop a food economy that is just and sustainable.

The UUJEC is grateful for what has been accomplished by the Fair Food Program and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. We affirm our support and we ask all Unitarian Universalists to assist the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and similar organizations that promote food justice.

We will bring food-justice themes into programs for racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice. Food justice is not an issue of charity. It is an issue of justice that is essential for all people in all places. The UUJEC, and all of us, work for justice when we help to empower workers and consumers in the food economy.

We offer our congratulations on this important anniversary!



UUJEC & Allies:

Web Seminars

UUJEC Annual Meeting

R.I.P. Medical Debt **SAT. July 10**

For the Generations

TUES. July 13 Green Amendments Day

Coöperative Garden Commission **August 12**

August 26 Unemployed Workers' Union

Financial Report for Calendar Year 2020³

UUJEC 2017-20 Annual Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	Rev'd 4/16/2021
Opening Balance	\$22,722	\$25,801		\$24,697		\$30,744		
Income								
Individual Donations	\$7,558	\$6,955	\$8,200	\$7,312	\$7,200	\$5,833	\$8,000	No 2020 Appeal, Reinst '2
Congregational Donations	900	1,246	1,400	1,935	1,600	1,451	1,600	
Donations for books/tapes/t-shirts etc	455	653	400	195	150	0	0	
Other Income, Ann Meets Contribs	877	290	400	437	450	375	100	
Conference Registrations	9,621	928	2,000	9,073	0	0	2,500	
Grant Income	15,350	7,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	0	6,000	New Grant (Budget)
Grant Transfers from Earlier Years	0	0	2,000	0	6,000	0	9,108	(LVOak=\$2024,UUF = \$87084)
	\$34,760	\$17,072	\$20,400	\$28,952	\$21,400	\$7,659	\$27,308	
Expenses								
Bank/credit card fees	40	\$99	60	1	50	\$16	50	
Internet Security, hosting (Karin, GoD)	0	120	180	530	400	797	500	
Website fees (Brinkster, Zoom)	0	111	50	0	0	0	100	
Annual MA State filing fee, duplicatin	211	315	350	35	50	35	50	
Postage	49	31	50	14	50	0	108	
PO Box rental	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	PO Discont'd
Fundraising, Letter Printing, Mailing	356	462	500	506	600	0	600	
Other fundraising Expenses	0	250	0	90	100	0	100	
Brochure Printing, Publicity	145	16	450	0	450	0	400	
Printing/Copying for GA/other	245	154	300	68	400	0	50	
Other Office Expenses	144	78	150	16	100	0	100	
Board & Staff GA, Conf Travel Reimb	1,321	1,741	1,800	1,284	1,800	0	1,800	
General Assembly Booth, Wkshops	855	0	760	375	500	950	1,200	
Speakers, Reg'n Fees for GA	658	600	2,000	0	3,000	400	1,800	
Webinar Honoraria	0	0	0	0	0	250	2,000	
Conference Expenses	17,601	3,168	2,000	13,903	6,000	100	6,700	
GA Annual Mtg - Lunch, Rm Rent, Sf	1,178	1,137	1,200	358	1,200	250	800	
General Assembly Shipping To and F	124	57	100	50	75	0	0	
Staff/Webmaster @ 10-12 Hours/Wk	6,499	7,802	7,900	3,915	4,250	0	7,500	9 mos staff exp
Employer's FICA Payment	1,631	1,269	1,500	1,200	1,450	0	900	9 mos FICA
CPA/Legal consultation for non-profit	0	0	250	0	125	0	150	
Retreat Expenses	625	767	800	358	800	0	2,400	In-person Retreat?
	\$31,681	\$18,176	\$20,400	\$22,703	\$21,400	\$2,798	\$27,308	
*Staff hours 10hr/wk thru Jun'18, 12hr/wk thereafter								
	\$3,079	-\$1,105		\$6,249				
Ending Balance	\$25,801	\$23,547		\$30,744		\$35,605		

Provisions of The Medicare for All Act of 2021

- ★ better health care and reduced costs;
- ★ no private insurance premiums, co-pays, or deductibles (private insurance companies will be allowed to offer policies for which recipients will pay premiums for non-medically-necessary cosmetic surgery and private rooms);
- ★ long-term services and supports for older Americans and people with disabilities;
- ★ negotiated lower prices for prescription drugs;
- ★ health care for veterans and Native Americans;
- ★ a just transition for workers displaced from the previous system—at least 1% of the budget will be allocated to programs providing assistance to displaced workers, including job replacement, retirement benefits, job training, and education benefits. The transition will last up to 5 years after the act's enactment.

The program will be paid for by

- ★ keeping current federal funding for Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program;
- ★ negotiated prices on prescription drugs and approved medical devices and equipment;
- ★ creating progressive tax revenues to replace all current premiums, co-pays, deductibles and extra (often surprise) expenses;
- ★ Some economists suggest these taxes for people with low and moderate income:
 - ★ an employee payroll tax (replacing current premium payroll deduction or payment),
 - ★ an employer payroll tax (replacing employer's current share of expenses),
 - ★ a tax on unearned income.

These taxes will replace premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and surprise charges. For most individuals and employers, they will be lower than current healthcare costs.

For people with incomes above \$225,000, some economic analysts suggest

- ★ an additional income tax,
- ★ a higher capital gains tax,
- ★ an estate tax,
- ★ a tax on unearned income.

We already pay taxes to support defense, highway building and maintenance, air travel safety, veterans' benefits, social security, schools, etc.—health care should be no different!

On May 21, 2019, 209 economists signed a letter to Congress giving unqualified support to a single-payer, Medicare for All system.

Medicare for All cost, family of 4, with no applied ACA tax credit:

- ★ wages, \$30,000/year; other income, \$0: health cost savings: \$16,441.24.
- ★ wages, \$89,000/year; other income, \$20,000. health cost savings. \$13,741.24
- ★ wages, \$100,000/year; other income, \$250,000; health cost increase, \$1,741.25.