



Annual Report for the year 2018-2019
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic
Community

UUJEC
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UUJEC is a national organization striving to create a world of economic justice, equity, and compassion, recognizing the inherent worth & dignity of every person as set forth in our UU Principles.

Our History:

UUJEC has been in existence for over twenty-five years and has encouraged a focused response to systemic problems of economic justice. Early gatherings at Rowe Camp and Conference Center brought together a core of clergy and activists who wished to inspire congregations to work to create a more just society through study, education and action to address structures of national and global governance and society which buttressed economic injustice.

In 1989, UUJEC started a quarterly newsletter, The Call, and distributed an enhanced version of the UU Purposes and Principles in the language of economic justice. The group held a conference in 1993 in Los Angeles focused on human rights and, with over 100 people present, it marked the emergence of UUJEC as a nationwide membership organization.

Since its founding UUJEC has provided congregations with action-oriented materials through its General Assembly booth each year, local chapters and representatives, national conferences and more recently through its website and regional conferences. As a response to growing inequality in the distribution of wealth, both nationally and worldwide, UUJEC used its contacts and experience to develop and promote the Congregational Study Action Issue on “Escalating Inequality” adopted in 2014.

Subsequently, UUJEC developed its own curriculum for this CSAI and used its website to help distribute alternative curricula and materials developed by several UU congregations across the country. It has recently expanded its resources to include materials for UU engagement on the Corruption of Democracy CSAI.

Accomplishments this year:

1. Held the Insist on Justice! Resist Inequality! Conference on April 21st, 2018 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston in Evanston, IL. The conference was co-sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Evanston and Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice.
2. At General Assembly 2018 UUJEC held three events. The first was a Poster Session entitled "Tools for Economic Justice". The second event was a networking session entitled "Finding Coalition Partners, Raising Visibility and Money." Thirdly, we held our annual meeting at General Assembly where local housing justice advocate Margaret May was in attendance for people to meet.
3. UUJEC developed two Actions of Immediate Witness for General Assembly delegates to vote on, Join the Poor People's Campaign and Tax Breaks for the People, Not the Rich.
4. We awarded the Unitarian Church of Evanston with the Economic Justice Leadership Award.
5. We also awarded the Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO and the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship with the Economic Justice Leadership Award.
6. UUJEC treasurer Jane Bannor and new UUJEC administrator Christopher D. Sims presented at the Unitarian Church of Evanston about UUJEC and our work.

The board has been busy this year focusing on the Green New Deal and how we can get more Unitarian Universalists involved in that important work. They have also discussed the website and our social media accounts in regards to reaching more people. It is understood by the UUJEC board that our internet presence is important and by using our website and social media accounts we can keep UUs informed and engaged.