



UUJEC Annual Report: June 2020

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.

BOARD MEMBERS

CO-CHAIRS

Sally Jane Gellert
Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

Terry Lowman
Ames, Iowa/Miami, Fla.

TREASURER

Jane Bannor
Chicago, Ill.

SECRETARY

Kit Marlowe
Cape May, N.J.

Jim Black
Ephraim, Wisc.

Dick Burkhardt
Seattle, Wash.

Karla Chew
Oak Park, Ill.

Judith Deutsch
Corrales, N.M.

Lucy Hitchcock
Salem, Ore.

Carl McCargo
Springfield, Mass.

John Martin
Waianae, Hi.

Robert Murphy
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Cindy Piester
Ventura, Calif.

Dean Wanderer
Springfield, Va.

Adam Wasserman
Santa Fe, N.M.

Our History

UUJEC was founded in 1989, ever since concentrating on systemic problems of economic injustice. Early gatherings at 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 website 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, used 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 website 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 original Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), *The Pandemic: A Religious Response* (<https://bit.ly/2BDizXI>) became a responsive resolution (<https://bit.ly/2YvQAAy>). In addition, we proposed a second AIW, Thanksgiving for All People, also rejected.

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.

Accomplishments Since Our June 2019 Meeting

1. Led a conference, *Advancing Economic and Climate Justice as a Moral Issue, Building a Movement for a Green New Deal*, in Sept. 2019, cohosted by All Souls Church Unitarian, UUSJ (both D.C.), UUMfE, UUA, UUSC, and Side with Love.
2. Continued our Webinar Series with 7 seminars on a wide range of subjects, most related to the Green New Deal. Many recordings of these may be found at <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

3. Created a Green New Deal task force to evaluate some GND proposals and advocate for those that seem most in line with eliminating economic inequality;
4. Restored our uujec.org domain moved blog posts to our main Web site (from blogspot).
5. Coördinated with other UU organizations to ensure participation in the June 20 Poor People's Campaign "Virtual March on Washington".
6. Proposed 2020 Actions of Immediate Witness, *The Pandemic: A Religious Response** and "Thanksgiving for All People".
7. Sponsored a GA 2019 Poster Session, "Economic Justice in the Green New Deal" a GA workshop, *Reparations: Rooted in Repair*, a poster session on the same subject, and two 2020 Poster Sessions "Reparations: Rooted in Repair", based on our workshop, and "Grounding the Green New Deal in Indigenous Values".

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. Our goal is ensuring stable funding sources so that we may comfortably hire a part-time administrator on an ongoing basis.

Communications

UUJEC publishes a quarterly newsletter 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 healthcare justice, UUJEC's involvement in GA, corporate power, fair trade vs free trade, the loss of the middle class, and similar issues. It is circulated via e-mail to about 1700 subscribers and distributed to UUJEC chapters, at conferences, and at GA. Our Winter newsletter this year (which may be found at <https://uujec.org/Portals/0/2020%20Newsletter%20winter.pdf>) focussed on board member Lucy Hitchcock's initiative to encourage UU groups and individuals to plant native trees on their land or in their communities to clean and cool the air and sequester carbon. Board member Karla Chew is our newsletter editor.



Our website, <https://uujec.org>, is maintained by board member Terry Lowman and webmaster Karin Gates. It 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.

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

UUJEC reported \$29,852 in income for 2019, and we ended the year with a balance of \$30,946 after expenses of \$22,703 (*page 6*). Our positive cash flow for the year was due in large part to grants, especially a new grant of \$10,000 from the UU Funding Program to help pay for our September conference. In addition, we met a challenge grant of \$2000, mostly through a successful Faithify campaign. Conference registrations of \$9,073 almost completely offset our UU Funding Program grant, allowing us to fully fund all of the scholarship requests that we received. Overall, our conference expenses were \$16,745, and we are carrying forward \$7000 in grant funds from multiple sources, hoping to supplement as needed with new grant income in the coming year. (*Conference Committee report follows*)

We are considering the best use of our current balance, whether it be hiring a part-time administrator, honoraria for Web seminar speakers, microloans, hosting regional conferences, or some combination of

**When this AIW was rejected by the CSW for vaguely-worded reasons, we noted that Pres. Frederick-Gray's report included a brief reference to the current pandemic. We submitted our AIW as a responsive resolution to that report. After editing as advised by UUA parliamentarian Tom Bean, the GA passed the resolution. We encourage supporting mutual aid efforts and examination of government policies. We will be working to advance a UU religious response to this pandemic and to propose a Congregational Study/Action Issue, Health Safety, and Justice: Communities and Individuals Together.*

these. The possibility of an in-person regional conference, possibly in Texas or Florida, was being considered when SARS-CoV-2 changed so much for all of us. Now virtual conferences are more likely.

The Finance Committee, composed of Jane Bannor, Carl McCargo, and Karla Chew, has been meeting to develop both the group's annual budget and financial practices. We have completed our 2019 tax filings with the IRS and the state of Massachusetts and 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. We have remaining grant money, which we are planning to put to work supporting our two current main issues: 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.

Conference Committee Report:

Advancing Economic and Climate Justice as a Moral Issue, Building a Movement for a Green New Deal

Our conference at All Souls Unitarian and St. Mark's Episcopal in Washington, D.C., in September 2019 was a resounding success, with more than 100 attendees and speakers from across the country. After 1½ days of presentations and workshops, including training for legislative meetings, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ D.C.) led us in a day on the Hill. Covering all three Senate office buildings, we delivered to 50 senators' offices more than 920 constituent letters from UUs around the country. Given the environmental focus of the conference, we made a special effort to include in our buffet lunch many organic and vegetarian options and to limit disposable products in our food service. Although we did provide conference packets, we limited the paper materials that were distributed.

Webinar Committee Report

Our Web seminars are scheduled on the second Thursday of each month at 8 P.M. ET (7/6/5 across the country). We also cohosted a seminar on July 1 with Climate Crisis Policy and UU@UN. Future seminar subjects include community gardens, electrifying transportation, linking climate activists for targeted results, radically reducing plastics use, and consumer culture. Since last summer, we have hosted the following seminars—animated discussion by attendees follows many of the presentations:

- ★ *A General Assembly Debrief*
- ★ *Medicare for All Calculator*, with Kris Hardy
- ★ *A Public Bank for New Jersey: Countering Wall Street Dominance*, with Joan Bartl and Walt McRee, directors of Banking on New Jersey
- ★ *The Evolution of Inequity Since the Great Recession*, with Dr. Casey of The Brookings Institution
- ★ *Building a National Climate Network*, with Todd “Tif” Fernandez
- ★ *The Green New Deal: Yes We Can!*, with Dr. Dick Burkhardt, moderator
- ★ *Climate Crisis, like COVID-19, is a Global Health Threat; & Managing the Health Effects of the Climate Crisis*, with Dr. Julia Ying of the Climate Reality Project

General Assembly: Program and Booth



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our GA 2020 workshop, *Reparations: Rooted in Repair*, with speakers Mr. Woullard Lett, Rev. Ari Merretazon, and Mr. Carl McCargo, was a smash hit—we had 400 attendees at the peak and many requests for follow-up. At GAs 2020 and 2019, we also hosted poster sessions for conversation on our current projects. At GA 2019 in Spokane, we shared a booth with UUSJ (D.C.), as has become our informal standard. In 2020, the two groups shared a Virtual Exhibit Hall booth, with a video highlighting our common work and links to our own web sites. We learned a lot about digital marketing strategies. We appreciate the chance to try out new technologies while supporting the UUA.

Though our AIW was not accepted, the reworked responsive resolution was, and we will move forward on this, as well as on the topic of Reparations, as we all face a long, hot summer, some isolated, some working in dangerous situations.

Membership

Our membership includes both individuals and organizations. We work with groups both within and outside the UU world, including Unitarians for Social Justice (UUSJ) and UU Ministry for Earth (UUMfE). With a simplified dues structure, we welcome members and nonmembers to most events. We welcome new members; 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. A Strategic Planning Retreat was held directly before GA in Spokane (2019), most of the board attending in person, some via video conference. This year, we are planning a virtual board retreat in August.

After our part-time staff administrator left in August 2019, we have been consolidating our efforts, focusing on our periodic Web seminars, our September 2019 conference in Washington, D.C., and recently preparing our proposed Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), *The Pandemic: A Religious Response*. Our AIW did not get introduced to the floor, but we recast it as a responsive resolution to President Frederick-Gray's report, which was passed. We will connect with interested UUs on that topic, and may propose a Congregational Study/Action Issue titled *Health, Safety, and Justice: Communities and Individuals Together*. Our on-line website and communications have been a bit more difficult this year without dedicated staff support, but we are regrouping and considering our options for the most efficient use of our resources going forward. During our board retreat in August, we will discuss the possibility of hiring a part-time administrator. 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.) ★ Jim Black (Ephraim, Wisc.) ★ Dick Burkhart (Seattle, Wash.)
★ Karla Chew (Oak Park, Ill.) ★ Judith Deutsch (Corrales, N.M.) ★ Sally Jane Gellert (Woodcliff Lake, N.J.) ★ Lucy Hitchcock (Salem, Ore.) ★ Terry Lowman (Ames, Iowa & Miami, Fla.) ★ Carl McCargo (Springfield, Mass.) ★ Kit Marlowe (Cape May, N.J.) ★ John Martin (Waianae, Hi.) ★ 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 would like to hear from members, both individuals and group representatives, 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. We have promised many of our *Reparations* workshop attendees transcriptions and other materials, and will immediately start to make that happen to the best of our ability. The workshop recording is currently available on the GA app. In addition, we work to earn members' financial generosity so that UUJEC can afford to keep its programs vital and effective.

Our Vision

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.

~We~

members of congregations
of the Unitarian Universalist Association,
having covenanted to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity
of every person

Therefore:

We recognize that the current economic order is unjust and does not accord full worth and dignity to all. We will stand with women, men and children of diverse class and race and orientation, particularly the exploited and dispossessed, in our common struggle for dignity and equality.

Justice, equity and compassion
in human relations

We recognize our fears and resistance to crossing the barriers that separate people, barriers which undermine justice, equity and compassion. We commit ourselves to the personal and communal work necessary to overcome our resistance.

Acceptance of one another and
encouragement to spiritual growth
in our congregations

We recognize that growth and celebration of the spirit include political analysis, theological reflection and just action. We commit ourselves to that work.

A free and responsible search
for truth and meaning

We seek to move beyond unexamined assumptions and questionable policies, and to become educated about the increasing inequality, its causes and potential solutions, in this time of global economic crisis.

The right of conscience and
the use of the democratic process
within our congregations
and in society at large

We encourage inclusive dialogue and action which advance our quest for the common good. We will promote both the right of all persons to participate in decisions which affect their economic well-being, and the right to full and free access to all relevant information.

The goal of world community with
peace, liberty, and justice for all

We confess our complicity in, and the benefits we derive from, structures that create violence, oppression, and inequality. We will work to enlarge our worlds beyond family, workplace, congregation and nation: community is global, citizenship is universal.

Respect for the interdependent
Web of all existence
Of which we are a part

We pledge to shape our practice to protect, and not to destroy, the living system that is the earth. We understand that economic justice can be achieved only in the context of ecological integrity.

In living these principles which form our covenant and govern our priorities, we pledge ourselves to a more inclusive community of mutual trust and support.

We commit our resources, our energies, and our will to the creation
of a new, powerful coalition for economic justice.

UUJEC 2016-20 Annual Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	Draft 2020 Budget	Notes
Opening Balance	\$9,475	\$22,722		\$22,834		\$24,697		1/6/20
Income								
Individual Donations	\$8,189	\$7,558	\$8,000	\$6,955	\$8,200	\$7,312	\$7,200	
Congregational Donations	850	900	1,200	1,246	1,400	1,935		
Donations for books/tapes/t-shirts etc.	262	455	350	653	400	195		
Other Income, Ann Meets Contribs	2,660	877	400	290	400	437	150	
Conference Registrations	5,623	9,621	1,200	928	2,000	9,073	0	
Grant Income	9,750	15,350	7,000	7,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	New Grant
Grant Transfers from Earlier Years	-4,650	0	2,500	0	2,000	0	6,000	Carry Fwd Green Conf
	\$22,684	\$34,760	\$20,650	\$17,072	\$20,400	\$28,952	\$19,800	
Expenses								
Bank/credit card fees	\$117	40	80	\$99	60	1	50	
Internet Security, hosting (Karin, GoDad)	0	0	0	120	180	530	400	
Website fees (SurvMonk, Brinkster)	740	0	150	111	50	0	0	
Annual MA State filing fee, duplicating	244	211	250	315	350	35	50	
Postage	6	49	80	31	50	14	50	
PO Box rental	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	PO Discont'd
Fundraising, Letter Printing, Mailing	583	356	500	462	500	506	600	No in-house print'g
Other fundraising Expenses	0	0	0	250	0	90	100	
Brochure Printing, Publicity	433	145	250	16	450	0	450	
Printing/Copying for GA/other	308	245	350	154	300	68	400	
Other Office Expenses	204	144	150	78	150	16	100	
Board & Staff GA, Conf Travel Reimbs	957	1,321	1,500	1,741	1,800	1,284	1,800	
General Assembly Booth	1,660	855	1,200	0	760	375	500	
Speakers, Consultants - GA, webinars, etc	1,358	658	1,500	600	2,000	0	3,000	
Conference Expenses	0	17,601	3,500	3,168	2,000	13,903	6,000	
GA Annual Meeting - Lunch, Rm Rent	0	1,178	1,200	1,137	1,200	358	1,200	
General Assembly Shipping To and Fro	40	124	100	57	100	50	75	
Staff/Webmaster @ 10-12 Hours/Week*	5,283	6,499	7,200	7,802	7,900	3,915	4,250	
Employer's FICA Payment	138	1,631	550	1,269	1,500	1,200	1,450	
CPA/Legal consultation for non-profit	0	0	600	0	250	0	125	
Retreat Expenses	1,732	625	1,200	767	800	358	800	
	\$13,905	\$31,681	\$20,360	\$18,176	\$20,400	\$22,703	\$21,400	
*Staff hours 10hr/wk thru Jun'18, 12hr/wk thereafter	\$8,779	\$3,079	\$290	-\$1,105		\$6,249		
Ending Balance	\$22,904	\$25,801		\$23,547		\$30,946		