

UUJEC Annual Report: June 2022



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.

The UUJEC works to overcome racism, economic injustice, and other forms of oppression, by its support for religious, community, and worker organizations that are democratic and accountable, and that affirm human rights and dignity.²

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, 2 of our proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AsIW), *Antiracism & Reparations* and *Stop the Privatization of Medicare* were accepted by the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) and passed by the delegates of the General Assembly. In addition, we hosted 2 on-demand workshops at General Assembly this year: *Love Calls Us On: Faith, Religion and Reparations* and *Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion, and the Human Future*.

CO-CHAIRS: Ms 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.

Dick Burkhart, Seattle, Wash. ★ Rev. Judith Deutsch, Corrales, N.M. ★ Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock, Salem, Ore ★ Carl McCargo, Springfield, Mass. ★ Rev. Robert Murphy, St. Petersburg, Fla. ★ Cindy Piester, Ventura, Calif. ★ Dean Wanderer Springfield, Va.

ADMINISTRATOR: Rachel Bennett Steury (Paaulo, Hi.)

Annual Report Executive Summary

Achievements since 2021 Annual Meeting

1. Added a clear antiracism statement to our by-laws (see page 1).¹
2. Presented 8 Webinars on subjects related to environmental justice (see page 4).² Many recordings may be found at <https://uujec.org/webinars>.
3. Supported the June 18th Poor People's Campaign "Moral March on Washington".
4. Began fourth-Thursday Web seminars on economic issues not related to environmental justice;
5. Proposed and promoted 2 Actions of Immediate Witness: *Antiracism and Reparations* and *Stop the Privatization of Medicare*.
6. Sponsored 2 GA 2022 on-demand workshops: *Love Calls Us On: Faith, Religion, and Reparations*, and *Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion, and the Human Future*.

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 \$9,020 in income for 2021 and expenses of \$9,076. Our end-of year-balance (Dec. 31, 2021) was \$35,549. Our bank balance is \$30,218 as of June 30, 2022 (see pages 2, 8).³

Green New Deal Task Force 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 an AIW, *Stop the Privatization of Medicare*, and is part of a national team of Healthcare-NOW! conducting a Healthcare Census (see pages 5, 9).⁴

General Assembly

We shared a booth in the Exhibit Hall, and provided two on-demand workshops. We proposed a number of Actions of Immediate Witness (see page 5).⁵

Membership

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

Reparations Task Force and Team (by Chairperson Carl McCargo)

Our team wrote an AIW, *Antiracism and Reparations* and hosted an on-demand workshop, *Love Calls Us On: Faith, Religion, and Reparations* (see page 5).⁶

UUJEC Board of Trustees

The Board meets monthly. We ask you to consider nominating some one and possibly running for our board. Nominations are accepted through October for

We work toward justice with other organizations

Some of our UU and nonUU partners include UUSJ (Washington, D. C., with whom we shared Booth #320 at GA this year), UUMfE, UU CSW, UU state advocacy networks, AFL-CIO, National Nurses United, Healthcare-NOW!, Public Citizen, Green Amendments For the Generations, Climate Crisis Policy, Veterans for Peace, and others.

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

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. Although we got no applicants this year, we know that there is good work happening throughout Unitarian Universalism, and look forward to spotlighting some of that work throughout the year.

Accomplishments Since Our June 2021 Meeting

1. Our Green New Deal task force hosted a 3-session book discussion of *The Day the World Stops Shopping* with members and friends who had read the book. We discussed the role of consumerism in our economy and ecology.
2. The Green New Deal task force planned and held 2nd-Thursday Webinars on environmental topics, inviting participation from members and friends of UUJEC, UU climate organizations, and other advocates and experts.
3. We continued 4th-Thursday Web seminars on issues of economic justice that may not be directly related to environmental justice, the most recent our April 28th program, *The Condition of Cornbelt Streams and a New Path Forward* with Dr. Chris Jones, a Research Engineer with IHR Hydroscience and Engineering at the University of Iowa.
4. We proposed and promoted the passage of two 2022 Actions of Immediate Witness, *Antiracism and Reparations* and *Stop the Privatization of Medicare*.
5. We sponsored 2 GA 2022 on-demand workshops: *Love Calls Us On: Faith, Religion, and Reparations* and *Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion, and the Human Future*.
6. We changed our Twitter handle to @UUJEC_ORG (from @UUJEC_COM) and are working on moving our Web site from Dot Net Nuke to WordPress.



Our board continually reevaluates what we can realistically accomplish, how to build membership, and how to organize 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, *UUJEC News & Views*, with articles on topics of economic justice, reports and photos from our events, reports on our coalition work exemplified by letter-signing on national and regional campaigns, and information on UUA matters. Past newsletters have covered our Webinar series, healthcare justice, UUJEC's involvement in GA, environmental justice, and similar subjects. *News & Views* is circulated via e-mail to about 1575 subscribers and is posted to our Web site and distributed at all UUJEC events. Board member Ms Sally Jane Gellert is our newsletter editor.

Our Web site, <https://uujec.org>, continues to be maintained by board member Terry Lowman. Over the past 6 months or so, we have begun transitioning our Web site to a modern, easier-to-maintain WordPress site. Our site contains recordings of our Web seminars, curriculum materials (videos and print), information about past economic-justice award winners, links to allied organizations, social-media feeds, and UUJEC membership information. We look forward to a forum on our new site that will enable more robust discussion than is now possible in e-mail discussions limited to board members and a few members. Until the new site is unveiled, we encourage all to explore our current site, 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 team, please e-mail uujec@uujec.org.

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

UUJEC reported \$9,020 in income for 2021; we ended the year with a balance of \$35,549 after expenses of \$9,076. Our 2021 decrease in income and expenses for the year was due in large part to not having in-person events because of the pandemic. Major expenses were for webinar speakers and staffing. Our 2021 income was provided overwhelmingly by individual donations, which accounted for 93% of income.



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 have remaining grant money, some of which we have used to cover honoraria for speakers at our Thursday Web seminars. During the year, we have connected with labor organizations, such as the AFL-CIO, in supporting the PRO Act, and groups such as National Nurses United, Healthcare-NOW!, Physicians for a National Health Program, on healthcare issues including our support for universal health coverage through improved and expanded Medicare for All.

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

The Green New Deal Task Force meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 2:30 P.M. PT/3:30 MT/4:30 CT/5:30 ET. Members include Barbara Bacon, Dick Burkhart, Lucy Hitchcock (chair), Mona Lee, Allan Lindrup, Terry Lowman, and Sally Gellert. The task force plans monthly webinars on second Thursdays on Zoom at 8:00 P.M. ET; occasional book discussions, programs at General Assembly, and occasional conferences, e.g. at Washington, D.C., and Evanston, Ill.

Upcoming on July 14 is a follow-up discussion to our GA workshop with David Korten, *Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion, and the Human Future*, and ways in which UU congregations and organizations can bring it into being. The task force wants to follow this with webinars that show how various congregations have started climate action groups and what they have worked on, our first to be on September 9th. We hope to encourage more congregational action for the climate, climate justice, and the environment. We welcome interested persons to our mailing list for notices of programs and to become active members of our GND task force.

Webinars since our last annual meeting:¹

- ★ September 9, Julie Skye, *How UUs Are Changing the World* (values-based investing)
- ★ October 14, Allen Lindrup, *Green Hydrogen*
- ★ November 11, Stan Cox, *The Path to a Liveable Future (How Much is Enough?)*
- ★ January 13, Doris Marlin, *COP26 Review*
- ★ February 10, Sarah Manning, Rebeca Jasso-Laguilar, Melissa Pickett, *Public Banking*
- ★ April 14, 21, May 5: Book Study: *The Day the World Stops Shopping: How Ending Consumerism Saves the Environment and Ourselves* by J.B. MacKinno
- ★ April 28, Dr. Chris Jones, *The Condition of Cornbelt Streams and a New Path Forward*
- ★ May 13, Cindy Piester, *Protect What You Love, Reduce Militarism To Create a Livable Green New Deal Climate*

Upcoming:

- ★ July 14, David Korten and panelists, *Ecological Civilization* (follow-up discussion)
- ★ September 9, Saltwater UU Church (Des Moines, Wash.), *Local UU Climate Action*

Healthcare Task Force⁴ (by Chairperson Rev. Judith Deutsch)

Our current main focus is the Biden Administration's ACO-REACH (Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health) Medicare program, a renamed, slightly modified version of the prior administration's DCE (direct contracting entity) program. This program allowed investment firms to operate Medicare programs, even without a single medical professional in leadership. (ACO-REACH requires 2 professionals on the board—a baby step forward, but not much more). The new program also allows seniors to opt out, which the prior version did not. Still, if this is allowed to go into effect this coming January, it is a further step toward private takeover of the public program that has served seniors and the chronically ill since the mid-1960s.

There are Medicare for All bills in both houses of Congress, introduced by Rep. Pramilla Jayapal (H.R. 1776) and Sen. Bernie (S. 4204) Sanders. Healthcare-NOW! is building a support base through their Healthcare Census, with a goal of 10,000 interviews by the end of December 2022. We are a supporting organization—we offer assistance to UU groups interested in interviewing people about the reality of their health insurance.

The pandemic has shown how badly we need this sort of universal health insurance. We encourage folks to investigate possible savings with Medicare for All—a Medicare for All calculator (which UUJEC helped to fund) that may be found at <https://www.mfacalc.com>.

Board members on this task force are Judith Deutsch, chairperson, Sally Gellert, Lucy Hitchcock, Terry Lowman, Dean Wanderer, and Bob Murphy; we also have about 6 new members this year.

Upcoming:

- ★ July 30, *Medicare Birthday Celebration*, Healthcare-NOW! Census

General Assembly: AsIW, On-Demand Workshops⁵



At GA this year, we proposed 2 AsIW and offered 2 on-demand workshops. Our GA 2022 workshops were (1) *Love Calls Us On: Faith, Religions, and Reparations*, with speakers Rev. Connie Simon, Mr. Bruce Pollack, Mr. Carl McCargo, and Ms. Jane Bannor and (2) *Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion & the Human Future* with Mr. David Korten, Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock, Ms. Aly Tharp, & Mr. Michael Cox. The Actions of Immediate Witness, both affirmed by more than 90%, are *Antiracism and Reparations* and *Stop the Privatization of Medicare*. AIW *Protect the Livable Climate We Love: Climate Justice Requires Addressing Military Emissions* came in 4th in the delegate vote that narrowed the potential AsIW to the 3 allowed by our by-laws, missing by just a single vote—so we feel that we have a mandate to keep working on that issue, as well.

Membership

Our membership includes 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 about 1575 e-mail subscribers. Members and friends receive the quarterly *UUJEC News & Views* and attend our Webinars, conferences, and workshops. Others attend our events at General Assembly, our annual meeting, and conferences.

With a simplified dues structure, we welcome members and nonmembers to most of our events. We welcome new members to join us—either simply as a general member, or also as a member of one of our four task forces; check out details and sign up here: <https://uujec.org/membership>.

Reparations Task Force & Team⁶

This year, UUJEC formed a long-term Reparations task force and a team to oversee our successful Reparations AIW; With chairperson Carl McCargo, we will continue working on this important issue, including supporting H.R. 40 and considering options for UU reparations.

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, generally by video conference. The executive committee met monthly in 2021/22, but for efficiency has decided to instead work by e-mail between general board meetings. We held a virtual board retreat in August 2021, 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 and 4th-Thursday seminars on other topics related to economic justice are relatively consistent monthly). With 2 newly passed AsIW, we are looking toward implementing both *Antiracism and Reparations* and *Stop the Privatization of Medicare*. Our 3rd proposal, on Climate Justice & Military Emissions, was within 1 vote of making the final 3, so we feel that we have a mandate to keep on with that topic—and are very aware of the urgency! We will connect with interested UUs on those topics. In addition, with the PRO Act still in Congress, we continue to support that bill as well as this year's unionization activity in such corporations as Amazon, Starbucks, and Walmart. This is an exciting time for labor organizing in our country, much of the unionization activity led by younger workers.

The Commission on Social Witness (CSW) seems to have abandoned the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CS/AI) process—something that the General Assembly delegates gave them authority to do a couple of years ago, although there has been little discussion of that fact or what is intended as a replacement. We have appreciated being involved in Social Witness Convenings, and realize that fewer UU groups than intended were actually involved in the multiyear CS/AI process, but we wonder how the collective deep discernment that was built into that process will happen in the future. Last year, it seemed that *Health, Safety, and Justice: Communities and Individuals Together* was a topic needing a “deep dive”; this year, the *AIW Education: Meet the Moment* was originally conceived of as a CS/AI.

Our on-line Web site maintenance and communications has entered a new phase as we move our content to a more modern WordPress site with a discussion forum. We will also consider our capacity for providing CFS (congregation/fellowship/society) members with short printed or graphic items to republish in their own newsletters. We are always interested in attracting dedicated economic-justice advocates to join our task forces and even 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.)

The board will continue to invite UUJEC members and others 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_ORG to start the conversation. We would like to expand our task forces (Green New Deal, Healthcare, Military Spending and Climate, and Reparations) and better coördinate with compatible organizations. In addition, we have a few board seats open and are looking for nominees of all ages, with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests. We work to earn members' support and we thank you for your continuing generosity that allows us to engage UUs and partners in vital and effective justice work.

Unions and UUJEC: Solidarity Forever!

The UUJEC has long been a supporter of democratic labor unions. During the 1960s, many Unitarian Universalists supported farm labor organizing, and the UUJEC continues to work with organizations such as the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Last year we were instrumental in ensuring that there was a resolution.

The 2021 General Assembly endorsed the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act proposal that is now before Congress. The UUJEC encouraged this action and, after the 2021 General Assembly, we worked with the national AFL-CIO and with Unitarian Universalists and political leaders in several states to encourage support for the PRO Act, and we continue to do this work.

Elizabeth Shuler, the president of the national AFL-CIO, thanked the UUA for this good work (*letter on right*).

For the 2021 Labor Day, the UUJEC asked congregations to develop "Labor in the Pulpit" events for the Labor Day weekend. We e-mailed resource materials, including information on the PRO Act. The UUJEC's board now calls for a similar mobilization for Labor Day 2022. Information requesting support for "Labor in the Pulpit" activities will be e-mailed to Unitarian Universalist congregations, networks, and regional offices. A simple toolkit for Unitarian Universalists will be provided.

For this year's "Labor in the Pulpit" e-mail, information will be included about the organizing of Starbucks workers, Amazon workers, and others. The UUJEC is grateful for the resurgence of democratic labor organizing during the last 12 months; we encourage Unitarian Universalists to be helpful. We will also include information about farm labor organizing and the PRO Act in this year's "Labor in the Pulpit" materials.

The UUJEC is working with National Nurses United and other labor organizations in support of national improved and expanded Medicare for All. Labor organizations are included in programs that support the Green New Deal. The UUJEC endorsed the Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers Assembly that took place in Washington, DC, on June 18th. We look forward to more Unitarian Universalists, individuals, and congregations joining these efforts.



American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations

815 Black Lives Matter
Plaza NW
Washington, DC 20006

202-637-5000
aflcio.org

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AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

February 17, 2022

Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, President
Unitarian Universalist Association
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Reverend Frederick-Gray:

On behalf of the 12.5 million members of the AFL-CIO, I thank the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly for supporting the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. The General Assembly, by its Action of Immediate Witness, made a powerful declaration in favor of workers' freedom to join and form unions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the harsh inequities in America, challenging us to reimagine and remake our economy to provide opportunities for all working people. Workers everywhere are showing that we are ready to meet that challenge.

The AFL-CIO is proud to join with people of all faiths who strive for justice across this country. In the days ahead, we will remain determined to enact the PRO Act to improve workers' lives and create a fairer society.

Please extend my appreciation to the members of the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Shuler
President

EHS/CB/ms

Financial Report for Calendar Year 2021³

2017-22 Annual Budget										Rev 1/11/2022
	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget (4/21 Rev)	2021 Actual ###	2022 Budget	Notes	
Opening Balance	\$22,722	\$25,801	\$24,697		\$30,744					
Income										
Individual Donations	\$7,558	\$6,955	\$7,312	\$7,200	\$5,833	\$8,000	\$8,405	\$8,500	No Appeal in 2020	
Congregational Donations	900	1,246	1,935	1,600	1,451	1,600	615	1,400		
Donations for books/tapes/t-shirts etc.	455	653	195	150	0	0	0	75		
Other Income, Ann Meets Contribs	877	290	437	450	375	100	0	250		
Conference Registrations	9,621	928	9,073	0	0	2,500	0	3,500		
Grant Income	15,350	7,000	10,000	6,000	0	6,000	0	6,800	New Grant ('22 Budget)	
Grant Transfers from Earlier Years	0	0	0	6,000	0	9,108	0	8,508	(LvOak=\$1,424,UUF = \$7084)	
	\$34,760	\$17,072	\$28,952	\$21,400	\$7,659	\$27,308	\$9,020	\$29,033		
Expenses										
Bank/PayPal/Credit card fees	40	\$99	1	50	\$16	\$50	\$65	\$50		
Internet Security, hosting (GoDad)	0	120	530	400	797	500	274	400		
Website fees (Brinkster, Zoom)	0	111	0	0	0	100	0	100		
Annual MA State filing fee, duplicating	211	315	35	50	35	50	35	50		
Postage	49	31	14	50	0	108	17	75		
Fundraising, Letter Printing, Mailing	356	462	506	600	0	600	427	600		
Other fundraising Expenses	0	250	90	100	0	100	210	300		
Brochure Printing, Publicity	145	16	0	450	0	400	0	400		
Printing/Copying for GA/other	245	154	68	400	0	50	0	400		
Other Office Expenses	144	78	16	100	0	100	0	100		
Board & Staff GA, Conf Travel Reimbs	1,321	1,741	1,284	1,800	0	1,800	0	1,200		
General Assembly Booth, Wkshops	855	0	375	500	950	1,200	0	800		
Speakers, Reg'n Fees for GA	658	600	0	3,000	400	1,800	703	800		
Webinar Honoraria	0	0	0	0	250	2,000	2,210	2,500		
Conference Expenses	17,601	3,168	13,903	6,000	100	6,700	0	13,333		
GA Annual Mtg - Lunch, Rm Rent, Spkr	1,178	1,137	358	1,200	250	800	200	300		
General Assembly Shipping To and Frc	124	57	50	75	0	0	0	100		
Staff/Webmaster @ 7 Hours/Wk*	6,499	7,802	3,915	4,250	0	7,500	4,459	6,715	'22: Gross Pay, not Net	
Employer's FICA Payment	1,631	1,269	1,200	1,450	0	900	476	510	'22 Employer's FICA, Mex	
CPA/Legal consultation for non-profit	0	0	0	125	0	150	0	0		
Retreat Expenses	625	767	358	800	0	2,400	0	300	Virtual 'retreat' in '22	
	\$31,681	\$18,176	\$22,703	\$21,400	\$2,798	\$27,308	\$9,076	\$29,033		
* 2022: Raise to \$20/hr from \$15.										
	\$3,079	-\$1,105	\$6,249		\$4,861		-\$56			
Ending Balance	\$25,801	\$23,547	\$30,744		\$35,605		\$35,549			

Healthcare Task Force⁴ (by Chairperson Rev. Judith Deutsch)

We welcome new members Jim Black, Elias Ponvert, David Delk, Kenny Jones, and Alison Moses and appreciate long-standing ones, Sally Gellert, Lucy Hitchcock, Terry Lowman, Bob Murphy, and chairperson Judy Deutsch.

- ★ Our most recent and best effort was getting the UUA 2022 General Assembly to pass our AIW—*Stop the Privatization of Medicare*.
- ★ Asked our UUJEC Board to write to the heads of the Center on Medicare and Medicaid and the Department of Health and Human Services, and to President Biden, to end the Trump-instituted DCE (Direct Contracting Entity)—a program that enrolled people in private insurance without their knowing, with third-party middlemen often managing senior care.
- ★ I don't know if we had any impact, but the Biden Administration ended the program. However, the Commission on Medicare and Medicaid Innovation prepared the very similar ACO-REACH program, which is scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2023. We drafted a letter from our Board to the same executives in opposition to this program. As the UUJEC has not received a reply, we wrote the AIW, asking our UUA Board, our congregations, and their members to take action against ACO-REACH.
- ★ We have endorsed Representative Jayapal's Improved Medicare for All bill and have asked David to write and send to the UUJEC Board a model letter asking our members to ask their Senators to sponsor and work for Senator Sanders' newly introduced Medicare for All Bill (SB4204).
- ★ Thanks to Lucy's alertness, we celebrated the passage of "No Surprises Act", which will limit unexpected charges by out-of-network providers in network facilities.
- ★ Thanks to Bob's work we have recognized the relationship between labor organizing and health care. We asked the UUJEC Board to consider supporting Starbucks workers in their effort to form a union.
- ★ Thanks, also, to Bob, we are learning about the importance of Mutual Aid groups in healthcare work.
- ★ Sally has agreed to work with Lucy on how one can locate healthcare providers who accept Medicare when moving to a new area. They expect to publish their findings in the Fall UUJEC newsletter.
- ★ We agreed that UUJEC members should be involved in Healthcare-NOW!'s "Conversations for Medicare for All" healthcare-census program. I had already submitted an item about it for the UUJEC newsletter.
- ★ I agreed to write a letter for the UUJEC board to send to President Biden asking him to continue Medicaid Aid for COVID-19 patients beyond the expected July 2022 expiration date.

Respectfully submitted, *Judy Deutsch*

Are you interested in joining the Healthcare Census or our task force?

Join us at our meeting on Monday, July 11th, at 1:30 p.m. EDT (12:30/11:30/10:30)—e-mail uujec@uujec.org to get a link or to find out about the census.