

EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP

Climate Justice



Irene and Bob Keim
UU Ministry for Earth
UU Justice Florida

Agenda

Opening

Reading from Kathleen Dean Moore
Hit the Can
People of Color Environmental Leadership
UUMFE Green Papers
Ecological Justice
Climate Justice

UUMFE - Growing a Movement

The Pizza Parlor conversation
Green Sanctuary
Greening General Assembly
2006 UUA Statement of Conscience
Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change
Earth Day Materials
Green Papers
350.org partnership
Our Place in the Web of Life
EJ Tours
Young Adult Network
EJ Collaboratory

Commit2Respond - A Campaign

Mapping the players
Honing the Campaign
Climate Justice Month
GA2015 Opportunities

UU Justice Florida

Vision
Critical Issues
Annual Legislative Visit
Joining Up
Florida Interfaith Climate Conference
Land and Water Legacy Amendment
Floridians for Solar Choice

Additional Resources

Commit2Respond

www.Commit2Respond.org

Climate Justice Month

Weekly theological themes

Daily readings and messages

Materials appropriate for individual

And group use.

UUSC - www.UUSC.org

Justice Sunday materials

celebrating World Water Day

UUSC ADVANCE Human Rights materials

UU Ministry for Earth

www.UUMinistryforEarth.org

Earth Day materials

Sunday Worship Service

Additional meditations and sermons

SHIFT to a Low Carbon Future

Actions and additional resources

Actions and resources for other Sustainable

Community projects

Green Papers

History of Environmental Justice

UUA Statement of Conscience on the Threat of

Global Warming - Text, Science references

Free worship and religious education

Materials to download

UU Justice Florida

www.UUJusticeFL.org

How to get involved

Focus Issues, Resources, and News

UU Ministry for Earth demonstrates spirit- and values-based action grounded in Unitarian Universalist Principles honoring and valuing all life and the Earth that sustains us. We develop resources to enhance an ethical and spiritual framework for ecological justice issues including climate change, land ethics, mass extinctions, and other urgent Earth concerns. We encourage individual behavior that can positively affect Earth; we facilitate collective advocacy and action to protect the "web of life."

UU Ministry for Earth is made possible by grants and the financial gifts of supporters; by dedicated volunteers at the national, regional, and congregational levels; and by the sale of resource materials.



"We envision a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people. Our purpose is to inspire, facilitate, and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and all beings."

Stay In Touch!

uuministryforearth.org
facebook.com/uuministryforearth
office@uuministryforearth.org



UU Ministry for Earth

1034 SW 13th Ave.
 Portland, OR 97205
 (503) 595-9392

UU Ministry for Earth is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you for your support.



06-2014



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life Restore Earth Renew Spirit



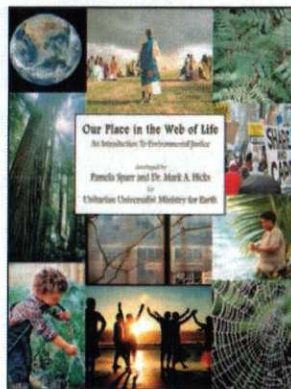
Build Your Spirit and Skills

Renew your spirit.

Worship and workshop leadership tools create hope and strengthened resiliency. Inspire children with sight, touch, and sound in our religious education programs. Learn from UUs with a vision of Earth-aware communities working toward justice. Identify and celebrate exemplary UU Guardians of the Future.



Express your reverence for life. Expand your impact in your community with our innovative curriculum “Our Place in the Web of Life.” This



course helps you identify and plan actions in a values-based team setting. Explore the grounding for your ecological justice actions with our thought-provoking “Green Papers.”

Be inspired.

Our Earth Day materials include topical research, links to information and action resources, and free print items.

Network and Partner

Grow partnerships. Lead your congregation and community more effectively by reaching out to potential partners. Join wide-ranging conversations on ecological justice, climate action, and food choices with UU Ministry for Earth Facebook pages, discussion groups, and e-mail lists. Sign up for our eNEWS to get the latest updates on our projects. Read our newsletter for in-depth articles.



Join the UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Network. Share in online conversations and campaigns; participate in regional conferences and workshops. UU young adults initiate all planning and action projects.



Benefit from our partners: UUA Green Sanctuary program and Multicultural Growth & Witness, UU Service Committee, Beacon Press, Gaia Workshops, Northwest Earth Institute, and Carbonfund. For more ideas, see uuministryfor earth.org.

Respect Life – Restore Earth – Renew Spirit

UU Young Adults for Climate Justice



UU young adults who care about climate justice are coming together from all over the United States and Canada to form an action network, which is sponsored by UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE).

We connect our Unitarian Universalist faith to the work for justice within the web of all existence, and work to bring the power of our religious communities to help address the interconnected crises of ecological destruction and social inequality.

We are individually committed to helping create a just transition beyond a fossil-fuel based society, and join together to share our stories and strengthen our efforts.

Like UU Young Adults for Climate Justice on facebook, or e-mail uuyacj@gmail.com, to stay connected with the network and find out about our upcoming events.

Turn card over for more information.



Creating an interconnected web at a 2013 UU Young Adult Climate Justice Training Workshop in Chicago, IL.

More YA Information

Past events include workshops in Berkeley, Southern California, and the Pacific

Northwest, as well as weekend conferences in Vancouver, B.C., and Chicago, IL.

We participated in PowerShift 2013 and the



Environmental justice workshop at a recent PNWD YA conference.

UU-UNO intergenerational Spring Seminar in 2014. We present workshops at major events such as General Assembly and OPUS (the annual continental conference for UU young adults) and are continually working to grow and strengthen our network. Expect to be hearing more from us!



The latest edition of our newsletter can be found on the UU Ministry for Earth website: uuministryforearth.org/young-adults-climate-justice-news.

Support the new network! UU Young Adults for Climate Justice is funded by donations from UUMFE members and by grants from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism and the Cedar Tree Foundation. Please help us reach out to more concerned and creative young adult leaders. Just click on the Donate button at uuministryforearth.org and choose the *Young Adult Sponsor link*.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

Discovering Our Place in the Web of Life

This curriculum can serve as a starting point for congregations who wish to learn more about environmental justice and become inspired to act. Over five sessions, congregants take a look at their impact as part of an interconnected web of life. What does it mean to



Flickr CC: Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

“know your place?” Where do we see wholeness and beauty in our parts of the web? What relationships

need repair and restoration? How might we participate in that?

The learning process can be taken outside your congregation and used with interfaith, ecumenical, community and/or campus groups to build alliances, discover or deepen awareness of local realities, and develop leadership skills and action plans.

Curriculum details may be found at uuministryforearth.org/EJ-Curriculum.

Meet Pamela Sparr and Dr. Mark A. Hicks, the curriculum designers, and watch their short overview about the curriculum. Listen to a recording of an introductory webinar for potential facilitators. Read testimonials from participating congregations. Download the complete curriculum and support materials for your congregation.

You can make a difference . . .

Help build power and knowledge for the Unitarian Universalist movement.

"Our Place in the Web of Life"

Use this curriculum to discover what environmental justice means to your congregation and community.

This innovative, values-based curriculum offers a highly experiential process to stimulate greater appreciation of one's interdependence with all of Creation, ethical and spiritual



discernment, personal behavioral change, and collective congregational advocacy. It uses videos, readings, local research, guided conversations,

music, and arts to speak to our whole selves. The material is both practical and inspirational.

The curriculum provides a great opportunity for UU congregations who want to:

- Take a next step with their anti-racism/ anti-oppression efforts
- Take a next step with their 7th Principle/ environmental ministry
- Identify a meaningful environmental justice project to include in their Green Sanctuary action plan
- Offer a meaningful inter-generational study experience (older teens and adults)

This 5-session curriculum comes complete with step-by-step facilitation instructions, PR and instructional videos. No in-depth knowledge of environmental issues is necessary to lead the class. Materials are available for download at uuministryforearth.org – donation suggested. Turn card over for more information.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

UU Ministry for Earth Publications

These publications are available for download (PDF) from the resources section of our website: uuministryforearth.org/Resources-Publications



Global Warming Action Kit, Vol. 1

CD-ROM includes (in MS Word and PDF formats): a play by Doug Stewart "Mother Earth vs. World's People;"

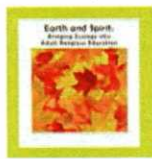
global warming quotes; the Global Warming 1-2-3 Pledge and action guide; the Ten Tree Challenge; eco-footprint reduction kit; UUMFE Clean Power Pledge; and information on carbon offsets and green power.



Global Warming Action Kit, Vol. 2

The Global Warming Action Kit Volume 2 contents reflect the high level of activity in UU congregations

in 2006 and includes "Our Warming World;" Prayer Flags for the Planet; "Final Exit;" Sing Out!; six global warming sermons and worship services; Walk 'n Roll to Church, deepening the Global Warming 1-2-3 Pledge – Steps 4, 5 and 6; global warming films list, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and LED lights ideas, Community Library Project, and more!



Earth and Spirit

A 50-page resource with readings and materials on theology and spirituality from major faith traditions, annotated lists of curricula and other resources,

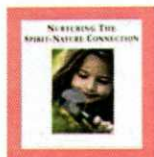
syllabus samples, and other materials for workshops and retreats.



Honoring Earth Worship Resource

A worship resource with over 200 pages. Includes opening and closing words, sermons, readings, meditations,

sample services, rituals, music resources, celebrations, and quotes.



Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection

An index of children's RE resources sorted by nature-themed topics with lessons and songs. Includes annotated

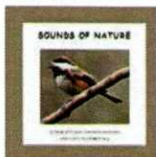
resources, intergenerational services, energy-conservation activities for youth, and more.



We are All Connected: Butterflies and Creepy Crawlies

Ten RE lessons for children of all ages. The CD includes worship, stories,

crafts, music, and other hands-on activities. Learn how to feed butterflies, where dragonfly babies live, how to race hermit crabs, and more about other creepy crawlies. Grow in understanding of how important each creature is to the fragile web of life.



We are All Connected: Sounds of Nature

Eight RE lessons for children of all ages, with ideas to expand into two or more sessions. The eighth lesson also

contains a complete multi-generational service. The lessons use music to help us connect with each other, other cultures, and the myriad rhythms of Nature. Stories, crafts, music, and other hands-on activities are included in the lessons.



"Our Place In the Web of Life"

UUMFE's five-session environmental justice curriculum published fall 2011 and revised in 2013. See uuministry-forearth.org/EJ-Curriculum for detailed information.



UU EcoMinds Posters

EcoMinds of the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance produced these six action posters. The posters challenge us to slow global

warming by reducing our CO2 load. Colorful illustrations contrast the energy hog and the energy star, vividly showing ways to reduce energy consumption.

JOIN US

Your support is vital to our **growth and success.**

Congregational memberships **make** UU Justice Florida strong and empower the **voice** of our values in the public arena. Individual memberships give UUJF the means to **do** the work. Together we can do great things. **Please join UU Justice Florida here:**

<http://www.uujusticefl.org/donate>

UUJF is a 501(c)(3) charitable **nonprofit** organization. All contributions are **tax-deductible.**

Congregational Membership

\$1.00 per member suggested **annual** dues. Please include UU Justice Florida as a line item in your congregation's **budget.**

Individual Membership

Offered at \$25-- 50—100—200 **and** more. All donations are now tax-deductible.

Donations can be made online at <http://www.uujusticefl.org/donate> or **make** your check out to **UU Justice Florida**, and mail it to:
UU Justice Florida
P.O. Box 18954
Sarasota, FL 34276

The **UUJF Action Network** is a **network** of individuals who support specific **legislation** and ballot initiatives, to impact our legislators. Contributions to the **UUJF Action Network** are not tax deductible.

Have a comment or question? Send us an email: info@uujusticefl.org



follow us on
twitter



Florida UU Congregations: (46)

UU Fellowship of Boca Raton
Manatee UU Fellowship, Bradenton
UU Church in the Pines, Brooksville
Nature Coast UUs, Inc., Citrus Springs
UUs of Clearwater, FL, Inc
UU Congregation of Cocoa
River of Grass UU Congregation, Davie
First UU Church of West Volusia, Deland
UU Congregation of Lake County, Eustis
UU Church of Ft. Lauderdale
All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, Inc, Ft. Myers
UU Fellowship of Gainesville
Unitarian Fellowship of South Florida, Hollywood
UU Church of Jacksonville
Buckman Bridge UU Church, Jacksonville
One Island Family: The Southernmost UU Congregation, Key West
The UU Congregation of Lakeland
UU Congregation of Miami
All Souls Miami
UU Congregation of Greater Naples
First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, North Palm Beach
Spirit of Life UUs, Odessa
Mosaic UU Congregation, Orange City
First Unitarian Church of Orlando
University UU Society, Inc., Orlando
UU Society Daytona Beach Area, Ormond Beach
All Souls UU Congregation, Palatka
UU Fellowship of Bay County, Panama City
UU Church of Pensacola
UU Fellowship of Charlotte County, Port Charlotte
Community UU Church, New Smyrna Beach
Friendship Fellowship at Pineda, Rockledge
UU Church of Sarasota
UU Fellowship of St. Augustine
UU Church of St. Petersburg
UU United Fellowship, St. Petersburg
Treasure Coast UU Society, Stuart
The UU Fellowship of Marion County, FL, Summerfield
UU Fellowship of Sun City Center
UU Church of Tallahassee
UU Church of Tampa, Inc.
UU Church of Tarpon Springs Inc.
UU Fellowship of the Emerald Coast, Valparaiso
UU Congregation of Venice
UU Fellowship of Vero Beach, Inc.
UU Church of Brevard, Inc., W. Melbourne

UUJF Board members, January, 2015:

Kindra Muntz, President, Venice
Rev. Bud Murphy, VP, Ludington, MI
Gerald Goen, Secretary, Tarpon Springs
Martha Hartgering, Treasurer, Orlando
Jan Booher, Boca Raton, Director
Steve Jens-Rochow, Director, Davie
Robert Keim, Director, Brooksville
Nancy Nurdyke-Shelley, Director, Orange City
Steve Segner, Director, Ormond Beach



Bending Florida Toward Justice



**Unitarian
Universalist
Justice
Florida**

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice".

*Words of Theodore Parker,
American Unitarian Minister,
Spoken by Martin Luther King, Jr.*

www.uujusticefl.org

www.uujusticefl.org/action-network/sign-up

UU JUSTICE FLORIDA

Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida is one of 21 UU state advocacy networks that combine the power of congregational and individual commitments to work for systemic change to problems at the local, state and national levels.

Vision

Our vision is a just and compassionate society, an improved global economy, and a sustainable earth, starting in Florida

Mission

Our mission is to promote justice, equity and compassion in public policy, guided by our faith tradition and working with public interest groups and interfaith partners who work for the common good.

What we do: UU Justice Florida provides education and training about our core issues, state and federal legislative processes, and opportunities for civic engagement. We host conferences on key issues of the day, develop leaders, and mobilize UUs to call and meet with their legislators, hold forums, write letters to the editor, attend rallies, attend meetings of their city council and county commission, register voters and encourage all to participate in our democracy. We build coalitions with Florida Unitarian Universalist Clusters; regional and national networks, UUA affiliated organizations, interfaith partners and secular public interest organizations.

Legislative Day: Each spring, UU Justice Florida sponsors "UUJF Legislative Day" and brings Unitarian Universalists from all over the state to Tallahassee to learn about the legislative process and bring UU values to the Florida Statehouse. Training is provided by members of the League of Women Voters. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. Financial support is offered. Carpooling makes the event doable and fun. Interfaith partners are welcome. Join us! Together we can make a difference!

Annual Meeting: April 26, 2014 UU Justice Florida held our first Annual Meeting and workshop at the Florida District Assembly. 27 Unitarian Universalists from 11 UU congregations in Florida voted to establish our three core issues for 2014-2015: **Climate Change, Immigration, and Democracy at Risk.** We plan to hold our annual meeting each year in conjunction with a statewide assembly so people from as many congregations as possible can participate.

Our Current Issues

Climate Change

Perhaps the most important issue for the future of our planet. Working with interfaith and secular organizations, the UU Service Committee and UU Ministry for Earth, UUJF in partnership with the Florida Council of Churches is planning the first Florida Statewide Interfaith Climate Conference, scheduled for March 6-7 at the First United Methodist Church in Orlando. Climate change needs many voices to speak out about allocation of funding, legislation, and policy at all levels of government. The Commit2respond program will encourage all to participate. UUJF invites Unitarian Universalist members and friends statewide to attend this major interfaith event. Planning for the future, discussing carbon numbers, addressing our fresh water issues, as well as sea level rise and saltwater intrusion on the coasts, needs our attention and commitment. Bridging spirituality, healing and action is the focus of the conference.

Immigration

Immigration reform is also at the front of the national dialogue. Dreamers demand our attention. Immigrants of all ages deserve worth and dignity and a path to citizenship, so all can live without fear and keep their families together. The 2013 Statement of Conscience of the Unitarian Universalist Association says it well: "A belief in 'the inherent worth and dignity of every person' is core to Unitarian Universalism: every person, no exceptions. It's time for comprehensive immigration reform."

Democracy at Risk

This is perhaps the most complex and far-reaching issue. There are basic concerns about voters' rights, voter intimidation, voting machine integrity, gerrymandering, and the gutting of the Voting Rights Act in the *Shelby* decision of the Supreme Court. There are concerns about the impact on elections from massive amounts of money from corporations and wealthy individuals, made possible by the Supreme Court decisions in *Citizens United*, and *McCutcheon*.

Other factors putting democracy at risk:

- 1) Escalating inequality in so many areas of life: economic injustice, mass incarceration, migrant justice, sexual and gender injustice.
- 2) Privatization of prisons, which means that the prison business profits from keeping their cells filled and taking people off the streets—disproportionately people of color. The school-to-prison pipeline means young people are incarcerated for minor crimes, then have their voting rights removed. When ex-felon voting rights are not restored, another block of voters is taken off the rolls. We need to Stand on the Side of Love with all oppressed people in this society, and fight for justice for all.
- 3) Gun safety issues. If 90% of voters want reasonable gun safety laws such as background checks, but Congress doesn't respond, is that because they are being "rated" by the NRA? Isn't the influence of lobbyists on our legislators putting democracy at risk?
- 4) Dis-information in the media: When voters are overwhelmed with messaging on TV, radio, newspapers, and all media outlets from special interest groups, big moneyed interests, and trans-national corporations, many are disgusted and don't vote. It is up to all of us help educate people about the issues, help register voters, and encourage them to vote. Check www.uufunding.org for special grants to congregations for registering voters.
- 5) Health Care: If Congress continues bickering over health care reform, it is selfishly putting millions of Americans at risk for medical and financial disaster. Too many members of Congress are being lobbied by the pharmaceutical companies and too many physicians are also being compensated by them. Isn't it a risk for democracy if the health and well-being of our people are in jeopardy because of such influence on our legislators?

Special 2015 Project

UU Justice Florida is "taking the show on the road" collaborating with Florida UU Clusters to present three Social Justice Empowerment workshops: January 31 at the West Central Cluster in St. Petersburg; March 21 at the Northeast Cluster in Orlando; and May 2 at the Southeast Cluster in North Palm Beach. Each workshop will be unique to that Cluster, but include empowerment training applicable to all, and information on the UUA program www.commit2respond.org. Please sign up for one of these events at www.uujusticefl.org

New UU Justice Florida Board members in Action:



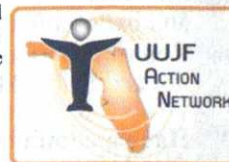
Our newest board member, Jan Booher, is a powerhouse on climate activities in Southeast Florida, and is now reaching out to expand efforts across the state. Come to the second annual *Florida Earth Festival* April 18th in Boca Raton, and please contribute to this ambitious project by helping to crowdsource it and the associated High Water Line Delray project on Faithify: <http://www.faithify.org/projects/florida-earth-festival/#sthash.AWdpUjTW.dpuf>



Another new board member, Nancy Nordyke-Shelley, is working for *Justice for All*. Are you concerned with mass incarceration, the school-to-prison pipeline, Stand Your Ground, fatal encounters with police, reforming the justice system? Contact Nancy at 909-714-8798, or nancy.beyondwords@gmail.com.

UUJF ACTION NETWORK

This is the growing network of UUs and friends who add their voices on specific legislation and ballot initiatives and take timely actions together with interfaith and secular partners to bring a religious and moral voice to our state legislature. Please add your voice and join our Action Network at:



<http://www.uujusticefl.org/action-network/sign-up> and LIKE our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/uujfactionnetwork>

In addition to bills in the Florida Legislature, the Action Network supports Move to Amend, the nationwide grassroots effort to build support for a constitutional amendment to establish that only natural persons have constitutional rights and money is not free speech. All congregations are encouraged to pass a resolution for Move to Amend and post it here: <https://movetoamend.org/resolutions-map>.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit

1034 SW 13th Ave., Portland, OR 97205 / office@uuministryforearth.org / www.uuministryforearth.org

UUMFE - Growing a Movement

UUMFE volunteers celebrated the 25 year anniversary of the organization in 2014. And it all sprang from a conversation in a pizza restaurant in New Haven, CT. Our pioneers were exploring how to make the Seventh Principle more central to our faith.



From that conversation was born the Seventh Principle Project and the first edition of the Green Sanctuary program was published two years later. After incorporating as an independent non-profit organization, UUMFE produced three more editions of the program that leads us through religious celebration, education, administration and community action. The first congregations were certified as Green Sanctuaries in

2002 and today, over 240 congregations have gone through the program to certification.

To round out the resources that UUMFE volunteers were developing to support congregations in the Green Sanctuary program, UUMFE also formed a partnership with Northwest Earth Institute (nwei.org) to promote their discussion-format courses in voluntary simplicity, sustainable communities, peace, food issues and more.

In 2008, UUMFE gifted the Green Sanctuary program to the UUA, which is continuing to manage and expand the program. UUMFE is still engaged by providing volunteer advisors, coaches and resources to congregations that are in the process of completing certification requirements or even going through recertification.

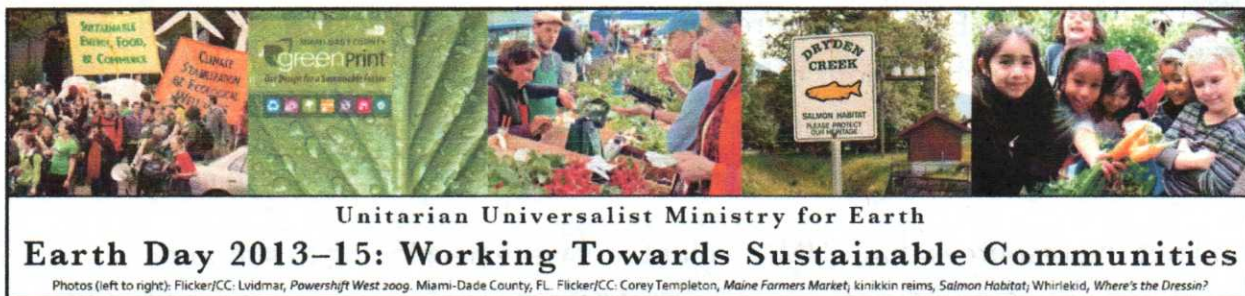
Back in 2003, the Seventh Principle Project started advocating for greener conference practices at our General Assemblies and hired a meeting consultant to help define what UUs would need to do to plan a green Assembly. Since 2005, the Assemblies have gotten ever more careful about our footprint in host cities and along the way have been trail-blazers at several convention centers, with the added impact of encouraging new recycling businesses in several of the cities. Today, the GA planning staff is recognized as experts in green



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

meeting results and have national awards to show for the work. And the UUA still contracts with the same consultant that UUMFE hired in 2003.

Meanwhile, after much reflection, the organization changed the name to UU Ministry for Earth and began working in earnest to pass a UU Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming. UUMFE Board Chair Claudia Kern convened a panel of scientists and justice experts, and together they were able to craft amendment language for what became at the time the strongest statement on Climate Change published by any denomination in the United States. We will never forget the 2006 General Assembly when the final Statement passed with a sea of yellow voting cards firmly held high. But, as Van Jones reminded us in his Ware Lecture at a later GA, we had to get ready to govern. (Link to SOC from uuministryforearth.org.)



To support congregations as we all began to live out the Statement of Conscience, UUMFE began publishing Earth Day materials in 2008, including original worship and action resources and vetted links to online materials provided by other organizations. UUMFE has continued providing these materials annually on diverse topics such as ethical eating, immigration, water, resilient communities, climate adaptation planning, biodiversity, waste and consumption, socially responsible investing, and shifting to a low carbon future. All are available on the UUMFE website today.

With the inspired leadership of Rev. Katherine Jesch, our minister on staff from 2002-2008, UUMFE began exploring how to grow Environmental Justice awareness and action by UUs. To ground the call to UUs, UUMFE published the Green Papers, which chronicled the roots and growth of EJ activism in the United States. At that time, UUMFE was recommending that we broaden the name of our work to Earth Justice. As you have heard, the organization is now using the term ecological justice to encompass our work. (Link to Green Papers at uuministryforearth.org.)

2009 was the first year that UUMFE partnered with 350.org and over 100 congregations answered the call to participate in the International Day of Climate Change that year. We have answered the call from 350.org every year since, including counting over 1,500 UUs in the People's Climate March in New York City last September, the largest attendance of any faith group that day. Obviously, that took much partnering and networking among UUs to get that many folks to show up for the March. But, that is getting ahead of the history.



OUR PLACE
IN THE
WEB OF LIFE

An Introduction to Environmental Justice
Second Edition

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH
Reclaim Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.



In 2012, with support from the UU Funding Program and individual donors, UUMFE published a new curriculum named *Our Place in the Web of Life, An Introduction to Environmental Justice*. This is a

highly participatory series of 5 workshops to help us explore our UU values and the impacts of choices we make. In a few minutes, we are going to adapt one of the exercises using brown paper and colored markers - one of the most useful tools that the curriculum designers provide for us to learn about our communities and plan our projects.

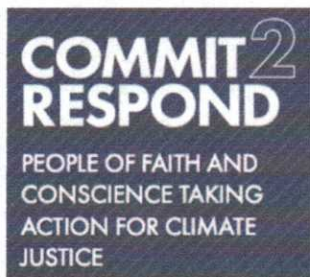
In 2013, UUMFE introduced the idea of Environmental Justice tours to the General Assembly in Louisville. Much of Louisville outside the downtown and the Kentucky Derby complex is struggling with many decades of industrial and chemical degradation. With UU leaders and GA participants we embarked on a tour that you will not see in the Chamber of Commerce brochure, giving much poignancy to Wendell Barry's words at the Public Witness a few days later: His poem 'Questionnaire' begins with the first of 5 hard questions, "How much poison are you willing to eat for the success of the free market and global trade? Please name your preferred poisons."

As you may have noticed, many of our UU gatherings are often devoid of active Young Adults. In 2012, UUMFE received a grant from the Cedar Tree Foundation to begin building a network of UU Young Adults for Climate Justice. We found that this age group understands well that climate change will have impact on their lives - and probably more intensely every year. UUMFE pays a Young Adult to coordinate this network which now numbers over 300 across the United States and Canada. Look for more and more local and

regional programming as the network works to become more self-governing and reaches out to concerned Young Adults.

So, we worked with individual congregations, pushed for changes at the General Assembly, partnered with a few UU organizations - especially UUSC around water issues - and begun a Young Adult network. But . . . we were not seeing transformative change within our denomination and the climate justice issues were really hitting the news.

UUMFE began to work on the idea of growing movement. With more grant monies, we convened an EJ summit in Detroit in March 2014. The attendees represented UUA departments and leaders of other UU related organizations who were willing to work on a broader vision of ecological justice for our denomination. We took EJ Tours, met with the legendary activist Grace Lee Boggs, worshiped together, and ended the 3-day summit with a 25-point work plan. We called the summit an EJ Collaboratory and the name has stuck. Two actions of note are that the group developed the concept of a book of essays by UU leaders about EJ, and Skinner House has agreed to publish the book in 2015. A second action had more impact than we even dared hope. Together we crafted a letter with a call to action that we sent to over 100 UU leaders and administrators in June 2014. With the inspired leadership of Brock Leach from Sarasota who works with UUSC, the idea of a national UU campaign to address climate justice was born at General Assembly, just a few weeks after the EJ Collaboratory call to action.



So here we are in the midst of forming a movement. At least that is how it feels to me. Exciting times - scary new responsibilities - innumerable exhausting teleconferences - growing hope. All from a conversation in a Pizza Parlor that grew from the dedication of over 40 volunteer board members, 4 part-time staff and consultant positions and many other volunteer resource developers, testers and advisors.

In gratitude,
Irene Keim
Chair, UU Ministry for Earth

Principles of Environmental Justice

(Printable PDF version)

Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, *The Principles* have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.

6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.

7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.

8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.

9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.

10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.

11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.

12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.

13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.

14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.

15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.

16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.

17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

The Proceedings to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit are available from the **United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice**, 475 Riverside Dr. Suite 1950, New York, NY 10115