

UUJEC Annual Report: June 2023



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.¹

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 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, we endorsed the Actions of Immediate Witness presented to the delegates at the General Assembly session on Saturday. We hosted 4 on-demand workshops at GA this year: *Next Steps into Antiracism and Reparations*, *Gray Panthers & Raging Grannies*, *Wellness & Mutual Aid*, and *Working with Labor*. The keynote speaker at our July 2023 annual meeting is UUJEC Advisory Board member Chuck Collins, speaking on his novel, *Altar to an Erupting Sun*.

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 2022 Annual Meeting

1. Added a clear antiracism statement to our by-laws (see page 1).¹
2. Presented 14 Webinars² on subjects related to environmental and economic justice (see page 7). Many recordings are on YouTube; see <https://uujec.org/webinars>.
3. We continue to update our Web site and prepare for an active discussion forum.³
4. Planning a September conference in Washington, D.C., in late September, in conjunction with our UU partners (see page 7).⁴
5. Sponsored 4 GA 2023 on-demand workshops: *Next Steps into Antiracism and Reparations*, *Gray Panthers & Raging Grannies*, *Wellness & Mutual Aid*, and *Working with Labor*.⁵

Communications

UUJEC News & Views, our quarterly newsletter, provides articles on economic-justice topics, photos from our events, book reviews, etc. We are on Facebook and Twitter (see page 3).³

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

UUJEC reported \$7,090 in income for 2022 and expenses of \$13,648, excluding the reporting of a fraudulent check (almost \$17,000) cashed and returned. Our end-of year balance (Dec. 31, 2022) was \$28,991. Our bank balance is \$24,884 as of June 1, 2023 (see pages 5, 8).⁶

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

Our monthly Green Webinars host fascinating speakers month after month (see pages 4, 7).²

Healthcare Task Force (by Chairperson Rev. Judith Deutsch)

We endorsed the AIW *Organize for Health Equity*, and continue to work to support Medicare for All, express concerns about "Medicare Advantage", and look at ways to improve access to health care in our country (see page 4).⁷

General Assembly

We hosted Booth #203 in the Exhibit Hall, and provided 4 on-demand workshops. We endorsed 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 hosted an on-demand workshop, *Next Steps into Antiracism and Reparations* (see page 5).⁶

UUJEC Board of Trustees

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

We work toward justice with other organizations

Some of our UU and nonUU partners include UUSJ (Washington, D. C.), 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.

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

Accomplishments Since Our June 2022 Meeting

1. Board Member Cindy Piester attended CoP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt as a delegate with WILPF and reported back to us at a January 2023 Web seminar, which can be found on <https://uujec.org/webinars>.
2. The Green New Deal task force planned and held second-Thursday Webinars on environmental topics, inviting participation from members and friends of UUJEC, UU climate organizations, and other advocates and experts.
3. We continued fourth-Thursday Web seminars on issues of economic justice some specific to environmental justice, others not; our most recent were on April 27th (*Reducing Multigenerational Poverty through Sentencing Reform* with Jared Trujillo) and May 25th (*The Making of a Climate-Justice Warrior* with Miriam Kashia).
4. We sponsored 4 GA 2022 on-demand workshops: *Next Steps into Antiracism and Reparations*, *Gray Panthers & Raging Grannies*, *Wellness & Mutual Aid*, and *Working with Labor*. We endorsed the 2023 Action of Immediate Witness Organize for Health Equity and, once approved for presentation, *Rise Up to Stop Cop City and Protect the Dreamers*.
5. We are currently planning for an in-person conference on climate justice, the Farm Bill, and organizing local action.

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.

Communications³

UUJEC publishes a quarterly newsletter, *UUJEC News & Views*, with articles on topics of economic justice, reports and photos from our events, book reviews (also on our Web site), 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.

Web Site & Forum

Our Web site, <https://uujec.org>, continues to be maintained by board member Terry Lowman. Over the past year, we have begun transitioning our Web site to a modern, easier-to-maintain WordPress site—but the transition process is going slower than we hoped. 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 have opened a new forum on our new site, currently <https://uujec.net>, that will enable more robust discussion than is possible in e-mail discussions among board members and a few others. If we can convince folks to use our forum (which enables e-mail subscription and reply), we could include others in the conversation. As the two sites exist in tandem, we encourage all to explore our current and new sites, enjoy, and learn. If you are interested in being on our user-experience team, please e-mail uujec@uujec.org.

★ We thank the UU Funding Program for their confidence in us and funding our upcoming advocacy conference, *Farming for the Future: Systemic Change for Healthy Soil, Food, and Community*, to be held at All Souls Church in Washington, D.C., on September 26, 27, and 28.

Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report³ (by Treasurer Jane Bannor)⁶

UUJEC finances in calendar year 2022 continued to be affected by the lingering influence of the pandemic and our dependence on virtual rather than in-person gatherings. Individual and congregational donations for the year stood at \$6,474, about 28% below the 2021 total. Our expenses for the year were close to target, once we were reimbursed for a fraudulent check for almost \$17,000 that was written on our account by an unknown party and cashed by our bank, which delayed reimbursement for months.



Through May 2023, our balance stands at approximately \$25,000. Both Income and Expenses are somewhat below projections. This year, taking advantage of rising interest rates and wanting to hold our funds in a more socially-responsible manner, we have deposited \$10,000 in a local bank that serves a diverse community in Chicago with home mortgages and Muslim Zakat-compliant loans. Membership donations continue to fund a broad range of webinars and curriculum resources. 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 nonprofit organization.

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

The Green New Deal Task Force continues to focus on the multiple ways congregations, local communities, and individuals can “draw down” the fossil and nuclear fuels, pesticides, herbicides, plastic production and refuse, rare minerals, methane burps, and other pollutants that are poisoning and draining nutrients from air, soil, and water. These, together with profligate consumption, are responsible for accelerated global warming. This is our task force's focus because prevention of further warming affects every economic group, every country, and every life form. The negative effects of global warming (drought, forest fires, hurricanes, flooding, food and water shortages) are not waiting until 2050, 2040, or even 2030. **Code RED** is now. We partner with organizations and support legislation—national, state, and city—that promote regenerative agriculture; block new fossil-fuel pipelines; convert to all-electric housing, public buildings, and vehicles; and reject further funding of rampant militarization, nuclear proliferation, corporate greed, and climate change denial. We advocate overturning Citizens United, which so undermines economic and political democracy and accelerates global warming. We offer a space for our coworkers to express both their despair and their hope, so that our work can continue in community. We meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 P.M. Eastern time (4:30/3:30/2:30 going west) on Zoom.

Healthcare Task Force⁴ (by Chairperson Rev. Judith Deutsch)

There are Medicare for All bills in both houses of Congress, introduced by Rep. Pramilla Jayapal (H.R. 1976) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (S. 4204). This past September, we hosted a Web seminar with Gillian Mason of Healthcare-NOW! to help their efforts to create a Healthcare Census. We helped get the word out to UU Groups, and as this year's annual report goes to press, Physicians for a National Healthcare Program (pnhp.org) is surveying Medicare recipients on their healthcare experiences and their understanding of what we call Medicare (dis)Advantage. Survey link: <https://tinyurl.com/mw6fdpwr> Their survey intro reads as follows:

We want to hear from YOU! Physicians for a National Health Program is asking beneficiaries of Medicare to help us understand their experiences with Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage—and to identify the issues they have faced when accessing health care. Our goal is to protect and improve Medicare, and advocate for the best possible health care system. PNHP surveys are confidential, and we will not sell or share your personal information. All data will be anonymized when used for any public-facing materials.

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>.

Reparations Task Force & Team⁶

This year, UUJEC formed a long-term Reparations Task Force and a GA-AIW Team to oversee our successful Reparations AIW and long-term anti-racism work, led by chairperson Carl McCargo. We will continue working on this important issue, including supporting H.R. 40 and considering other options for UU reparations.

Our AIW, *Next Steps into Anti-Racism and Reparations*, was chosen by last year's delegates in a close vote. We reinforced that theme at GA 2023 with a presentation of the same title. It is our hope to continue the focus of "Next Steps" into the current year. Our UUJEC Reparations Task Group is looking forward to offering this presentation to congregations, racial justice teams, individuals, and social justice teams. Our goal is to give Reparations visibility as the unifying or divisive social force it can be. It is our belief those factors that gave rise to our Nation's legacy of Chattel Enslavement, are the same processes that fuels our culture's "isms" in this the 21st century.

We are currently screening a new member to our Reparations Task Force, who wishes to join our task force based on our presentation *Next Steps into Anti-Racism and Reparations*.

Labor Day: A Stronger Focus

Our Labor Day organizing in 2022 was a significant accomplishment for the UUJEC. We partnered with the AFL-CIO and did a lot of outreach to encourage congregations to celebrate the Labor Day weekend with appropriate actions. We were involved with the AFL-CIO in supporting the PRO Act.

Records indicate that UUJEC involvement with Labor Day celebrations started because of board member Kit Marlowe, possibly 6 or 7 years ago. Labor Day has become increasingly important with the resurgence of labor organizing. For the UUJEC, the Labor Day weekend provides a significant opportunity each year to reach out to congregations and state action networks. Labor organizations are involved with all of the major UUJEC concerns, including our antiracism work and Green New Deal and Medicare for All campaigns. We are preparing for the 2023 Labor Day weekend with appropriate outreach activities.

General Assembly: Actions of Immediate Witness, On-Demand Workshops⁵

At GA this year, three Actions of Immediate Witness (AsIW) were affirmed. UUJEC proposed one, *CODE RED for Humanity*, that was not accepted. We endorsed all 3 AsIW that made it to the Saturday vote and were affirmed. Our endorsements of the 3 AsIW are at <https://uujec.net/ga-2023/uujec-endorses-2023-asiw/>. We congratulate the Florida team and UUJEC Board Member Bob Murphy on the passage of *Organize for Health Equity*, and look forward to supporting local mutual aid and policy changes.

UUJEC offered four on-demand workshops at GA. Our workshops were

1. *Next Steps into Antiracism and Reparations*; Speakers: UUJEC Board Member Carl W. McCargo (M.S.), Rev Dr. Kristen L. Harper, and Nina Kavin;
2. *Gray Panthers & Raging Grannies*; Speakers: Randy Block, Rev. Barbara Meyers, Cindy Piester, and Sally Jane Gellert; Moderator: Terry Lowman;
3. *Wellness & Mutual Aid*; Speakers: Astoria Nickerson, Nancy Hoffman, Rev. Barbara Meyers, and Rachel Myslivy; Moderator: Rev. Robert Murphy ; and
4. *Working with Labor*; Speakers: Clayola Brown, Denise Moorehead, Terry Lowman, and Carlos Jimenez; Moderator: Terry Lowman



Membership

Our membership includes both individuals and congregations. We welcome new and returning members to join our task forces and to participate in our webinars, actions, GA activities, semi-annual conferences, and our annual meeting. We work in partnership with a variety of groups, both within and outside of the UU universe, including Unitarians for Social Justice (UUSJ), UU Ministry for Earth (UUMfE), and Interfaith Power & Light. UUJEC currently has about 1575 e-mail subscribers who receive the quarterly *UUJEC News & Views* and updates on our events. With a simplified dues structure, we welcome you to 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 reasonable way to track all the hours of contributions they have made.

The board meets monthly by video conference. The executive committee is now working by e-mail between general board meetings. We held a virtual board retreat in August 2022, and are due for another strategic planning retreat, though we have not yet set a formal date.

We have been consolidating our efforts recently, focusing on our periodic Web seminars (we try to keep our second-Thursday Green New Deal seminars and fourth-Thursday seminars on other economic-justice topics relatively consistent monthly). With 3 newly passed AsIW, we are looking toward implementation—especially of *Organizing for Health Equity*, which fits our Healthcare task force and is in line with our interest in assisting UUs to work on local issues and community support. We are actively looking for UU congregations/fellowships/societies to engage with our new Reparations curriculum. We will connect with interested UUs—and others—on those topics. In addition, with the PRO Act still in Congress, we continue to support that bill as well as ongoing unionization activity in such corporations as Amazon, Starbucks, Walmart, and the entertainment industry. Our UU partners call us to engage with the Farm Bill for climate and economic justice.

This year, we missed the Social Witness Convenings held by the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) before GA2022. The CSW seems to have abandoned the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CS/AI) process—though UUJEC board member Dick Burkhart asked in a responsive resolution for the CSW to restart CS/AIs. The resolution was ruled out of order, but Dick got a response that indicated that with its new members, the CSW will be reminded of the need to take up that process. Although fewer UU groups than intended were actually involved in the multi-year CS/AI process, we miss the opportunity for collective deep discernment that was built into the CS/AI process. Last year, it seemed that *Health, Safety, and Justice: Communities and Individuals Together* was a topic needing a “deep dive”; this year, the AIW *Organizing for Health Equity* would benefit from more than a single-year implementation.

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.)

Webinars since our last annual meeting:²

- ★ July 14, David Korten and panelists, *Ecological Civilization* (follow-up discussion)
- ★ September 9, Saltwater UU Church (Des Moines, Wash.), *Local UU Climate Action*
- ★ August 25, Carlos Jimenez Celebrates Labor Day with UUs
- ★ September 22, Gillian Mason, *Healthcare Census: Because Our Health Counts!*
- ★ October 13, *Harvest Season: Food and Water Justice*
- ★ October 27, *Mutual Aid for Congregations*
- ★ November 10, *How Electronic Medical Records Can Save Your Life (and Your Money)*
- ★ December 8, Bruce Knotts, *Debt Beyond Reason*
- ★ January 12, Cindy Piester, *Report Back on COP27: Peace for Climate Justice*
- ★ February 9, Tom Rogers, *From Opposition to Abolition: 3 Steps to Nuclear Disarmament*
- ★ March 9, Steffie Woolhandler, *Health Reform: Single Payer is Necessary but Not Sufficient*
- ★ April 13, Jean Eells, *Changing Narratives about Growing Food*
- ★ April 27, Jared Trujillo, *Reducing Multigenerational Poverty through Sentencing Reform*
- ★ May 25, Miriam Kashia, *The Making of a Climate Action Warrior*

Planning for the Upcoming Year: Return to an In-Person Conference!

We recently got confirmation of All Souls in Washington, D.C., for a Climate Justice conference, **Tuesday through Thursday, September 26th to 28th**. As we confirm information, will update those on our mailing lists and include details on our new Web site, uujec.net, and on social media. We hope to encourage more congregational action for the climate, climate justice, and the environment. The lobbying portion of the conference will focus on the Farm Bill, which includes various environmental-justice issues. We welcome interested persons to our mailing list for notices of programs and to become active members of our GND task force..



FARM BILL 2023: FEED EVERYONE

Washington, D. C.

Family Farms
No CAFOs
Soil Quality



At its July board meeting, the UUJEC board decided to support 2 important projects

1st, UUJEC will cosponsor a screening, hosted in midAugust by Radical Elders (<https://radicalelders.net>), of the documentary *Cooked: Survival by ZIP Code*, about a heat wave with devastating consequences in Chicago in 1995.

2nd, UUJEC will join with UU Ministry for Earth and Foundation for Family and Community Healthy to support the August gathering of the InterNātional Initiative for Transformational Collaboration by participating in a collective grant request.

Financial Report for Calendar Year 2022³

UUJEC 2022-23 Annual Budget	<u>2022</u> Budget	<u>2022</u> Actual	<u>2023</u> Budget
<u>Income</u>			
Individual Donations	\$8,500	\$5,724	\$6,750
Congregational Donations	\$1,400	\$750	\$1,200
Donations for books, tapes, t-shirts	\$75	\$0	\$0
Other Income, Ann Meets Contribs	\$250	\$116	\$125
Fraud Reimbursement	\$0	\$16,888	\$0
Conference Registrations	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500
Grant Income	\$6,800	\$500	\$4,000
Grant Transfers from Earlier Years	\$8,508	\$0	\$6,908
Total Income	\$29,033	\$23,978	\$22,483
<u>Expenses</u>			
Bank fees and FRAUD incident	\$50	\$16,963	\$60
Internet Security and hosting	\$400	\$1,169	\$750
Website fees	\$100	\$60	\$150
Annual MA State filing fee, duplicating	\$50	\$162	\$70
Postage	\$75	\$0	\$50
Fundraising, Letter Printing, Mailing	\$600	\$266	\$500
Other Expenses	\$300	\$0	\$75
Brochure Printing, Publicity	\$400	\$0	\$100
Printing Copying for events	\$400	\$0	\$200
Other Office Expenses	\$100	\$70	\$100
Conference Travel	\$1,200	\$700	\$1,200
General Assembly Booth fee	\$800	\$750	\$750
Speakers Registration for GA	\$800	\$400	\$1,200
Webinar Honoraria	\$2,500	\$1,800	\$2,000
Conference Expenses	\$13,333	\$0	\$5,678
GA Annual Meeting	\$300	\$0	\$600
GA shipping costs	\$100	\$0	\$150
Staff Webmaster 7 hours per week	\$6,715	\$6,457	\$7,000
Employer's FICA Payment	\$510	\$1,739	\$1,400
CPA consultation for non-profit	\$0	\$0	\$150
Retreat Expenses	\$300	\$0	\$300
Total Expenses	\$29,033	\$30,536	\$22,483
Total Over or Under Budget		-\$6,558	

NOTES: 2022, annual fee payment covers 2 years. 2023, grant income, expected new conference grant.
Both years: staff payment both years is gross, not net; retreat is virtual, not in person.