



# UUJEC News & Views: Spring 2024

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**Preparing for an All-Virtual GA: Join UUJEC in June!**

See page 3

## 4 Amendments on the GA Agenda

### How we got here

The UUA by-laws require a review of Article II, our Principles and Purposes section, every 15 years. The current Article II, which includes the purposes of the UUA as well as our 7 principles, were adopted in 1985. A revision was rejected by the delegates in 2009. The latest version passed its first vote "to continue the process" at GA 2023, and a vote this year is needed to adopt or reject the new Article II. These 4 amendments have gotten approval to be on this year's agenda; delegates will vote on amendments first, then on Article II as a whole.

### Equity: Every person is inherently worthy

#### **Clean version:**

41 Equity. We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with 42 dignity, love, and compassion.

### Peace as a UU Value

#### **Clean version:**

20 Inseparable from one another, our shared values are:

44 and inclusive communities.

Peace. We dedicate ourselves to peaceful conflict resolution at all levels.

We covenant to a [sic] promote a peaceful world community with liberty and human rights for all. Whenever and wherever possible we will support nonviolent means to achieve peace.

The UUJEC plans to host a Zoom discussion of these amendments before GA—dates TBA. If you want to join us, e-mail [uujec@uujec.org](mailto:uujec@uujec.org) with Amendments in the subject line. Our forums are also open for discussion of Article II or any of our main economic-justice subjects: Health, Environment & Climate, Reparations, Military & Peace, and Economic Systems.

### Equity calls us

#### **to listen, understand, respect, respond**

#### **Clean version:**

41 Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and 42 worthiness.

43 We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully

44 accessible and inclusive communities. Equity calls us to listen, understand, respect, and respond to one another.

### Reason and the Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning

#### **Clean version:**

After Line 44

Reason. We search for truth and meaning, informed by reason, evidence, and the results of science, motivated by wonder, curiosity, and compassion.

We covenant to listen to and respect the views of others, and to remain open to new ideas.

**See page 2 for a list of GA cohorts.**

### **UUJEC Thursdays**

**April 11, 7 P.M. CDT:**

#### **What Is ISDS?**

Investor-State Dispute Settlement enables corporations to fight laws passed by national governments that threaten not only their actual profits, but also their expected profits.

**April 25, 12 NOON CDT: A Chat with BLUU**

BLUU's Lena Gardner joins us for a lunchtime chat about their current projects and overlap with our economic-justice focus.

**May 9, 7 P.M. CDT: The Power to Heal**

Important documentary about the fight for Medicare, which forced hospitals to desegregate in order to get federal funds.

## GA Cohorts

### Building Bridges, Dismantling Barriers: Journeying Towards Disability Justice

#### EQUAL ACCESS

We'll delve into the multifaceted concept of disability justice, fostering a space for collective learning and action. Whether you're a seasoned disability advocate or just starting your journey, we welcome you (allies included!). Together, we can build a future where disability is celebrated, not ostracized, and where everyone thrives together.

### Religious Educators: Lived Stories of the Profession

#### LIBERAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION & UUA

#### OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CREDENTIALING

Religious Education professionals (including directors, coordinators, ministers of RE, assistants, etc., working with children, youth or adults) are invited to connect and reflect on the profession of religious education. There will be opportunities for identity-based breakout groups and some time for breakouts by professional context (e.g. program size, region, length of time in the profession, etc.).

### Stewardship Boosters

#### STEWARDSHIP FOR US

Join together to talk about the challenges and blessings possible in our collective work in stewardship. Let's discuss innovations, spirit, and possibility in how we steward our congregations. We'll connect and share tips, samples and successes.

### Meaningful Class Conversations

#### UU CLASS CONVERSATIONS & CLASSAWARE

Members will explore their own class background and explore the feelings that social class evokes. They will explore the lessons they were taught about class growing up and the actual strengths and limitations of each class background. They will discuss classism in their lives and UU circles and how to end it.

### UU Climate Justice

#### UU CLIMATE JUSTICE COALITION

The UU Climate Justice Coalition organizes UUs around climate justice at all levels. This Cohort will engage UUs around a strategic question: What will sustain UUs to engage in long-term actions and cultural shifts towards climate justice?

### Tools for Spiritual Deepening

#### UU WELLSPRING AND UU SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS NETWORK

UU Wellspring inc and UU Spiritual Directors Network are collaborating to provide you with an overview of UU Wellspring's new program: Love at the Center: UU Values and Covenants with a focus on Spiritual Practices and Spiritual Direction. Each day will engage you in a spiritual deepening experience.

### Circles of Solidarity

#### UU WOMEN'S FEDERATION

Circles of Solidarity is UUWF's 2024 campaign, bridging the intersectional and interconnected understandings of our 4 priority issues. Our cohort series will uplift the importance of building relationships through stories, workshops, and facilitated conversations, as well as give folks looking to level up on their justice work a space to grow. We will be equipping our community to be

true allies and accomplices for gender justice and collective liberation.

### Lay Leadership Network

#### UUA CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

What are the pathways to leadership in Unitarian Universalism? Why is it a journey and not a destination? What does covenant have to do with it? Join us for an explanation and exploration of collaborative ministry/shared ministry and the Leadership Ministry Network.

### Small UU Congregations

#### UUA CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

As small congregations continue to face a growing number of challenges, this cohort offers an opportunity for of the lay leaders, religious professionals, members, and friends of small UU congregations to gather, connect, and learn from one another. Facilitated by UU staff who specialize in working with small congregations.

### Becoming a Post-Imperial People of Faith

#### UUA INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

This cohort will gather in an authentic spirit of learning with those committed to decolonizing their ways of being and their communities. This will be especially engaging for those with global U/U partners and connections.

### The Mosaic: Living Our Antiracist, Multicultural Commitments

#### UUA MOSAIC TEAM

This cohort welcomes members of congregations who are engaged in antiracist multicultural transformation, whether you're just starting or you've been at it for decades. We'll explore the growing hub of resources and opportunities that is The Mosaic, and create spaces for networking, engagement, and inspiration.

### Sustainable Staffing Strategizers

#### UUA OFFICE OF CHURCH STAFF FINANCES

Are you eager to pursue creative, values-based ways of aligning your missional priorities and staffing with your financial resources? In this highly participatory, wide-ranging experience, we'll discuss staffing trends, models, and challenges; shared leadership; small-bet experiments; and emerging approaches. Includes presentations, case studies, polls, and lots of meaningful conversation!

### Side With Love

#### UUA ORGANIZING STRATEGY TEAM

This cohort is group of leaders, activists, and partners who are engaged in Side With Love programs (UU the Vote, Climate Justice/Green Sanctuary, Decriminalization, UPLIFT/Gender Justice). We're convening these groups collectively to grow relationships across issues, demonstrate intersectionality among the issues, and tell the larger story of Side With Love.

### Organizing for Trans Liberation

#### UUSC AND UUA

Our trans and gender expansive beloveds are under attack and being criminalized in many US states right now. The UUA and UUSC are partnering with trans-led organizers, mutual aid groups and other people of faith to resist fascism and support trans liberation. Join us to learn how you can too.

## Article II Revision Vote: **FINAL!**

### How Did We Get Here?

Article II of the UUA by-laws is scheduled to be reviewed every 15 years. Votes on previous suggested reviews of Article II were held in 1985 (accepted by delegates) and 2009 (rejected, narrowly). The process this time started at GA 2021; at GA 2022 in Portland, the UUA Article II Study Commission presented its first draft of a possible revision, and there was time for discussion. At GA 2023, a new version, created with input from UUs through [discuss.uua.org](https://discuss.uua.org) and other means, was presented, and delegates voted to “accept” the results: largely understood, based on language used by UUA leaders, to mean “continue the dialogue”.

### Where Are We Now?

The change from Principles and Purposes to Values—complete with 6-petaled graphic, both loved and hated—was accepted, though the removal of the current principles was of concern to many. Others found that same removal liberating.

Does the new version of Article II fit with your image of the UUA? There are amendments that have been supported for the requisite 15 UU communities; they may be found here: <https://discuss.uua.org/t/article-ii-amendments-which-will-be-placed-on-the-final-agenda/1448>.

### What Next?

This year at virtual GA will be the final vote on the updated Article II Commission proposal. Some folks are disturbed that this will be done during an all-virtual GA, eliminating the possibility of face-to-face “hallway conversations”—whereas others see that as removing undue influence by those privileged to attend in person, making access more equitable, if limited.

Amendments have been offered—in preparation, please check <https://discuss.uua.org/t/final-proposed-revision-to-article-ii-as-completed-by-the-article-ii-study-commission-in-october-2023/1457> to find the Oct. 2023 version and join the conversation. Talk with friends, family, and other UUs; make sure that they know about the amendments, and participate in your congregation, fellowship, or society’s (CFS’s) formal discussion—or lead one, if none are planned! Send informed delegates—or be one yourself!

If the proposal is rejected by delegates this year, the process will stop and the current language retained until the next scheduled review in 15 years.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

## UUJEC @ General Assembly: 2 of 3 GA Workshops Approved!

### Yes!—Organizing for Health Equity

People want to have control over their bodies. Health-equity work empowers individuals who are abused or ignored in healthcare. How can congregations join the health equity movement?

Climate and food justice, and working with houseless people are major topics in this skill-building program. Protect human rights and dignity.

MODERATOR: Rev. Robert Murphy, moderator

SPEAKERS: Dr. Rashid Shaikah ▪ Rev. Ben Atherton-Zeman ▪ Lisa Pineda

### Yes!—Democracy, Equity, & Liberation

This program is a skill-building workshop for Unitarian Universalists who are defending democracy in difficult situations. It includes information about voter registration, poll watching, and other practices that congregations can support, as well as UU the Vote, economic justice, and abortion rights presentations. Sponsored by UUJEC.

MODERATOR: Terry Lowman, UUJEC

SPEAKERS: Dean Wanderer ▪ Nora Rasman ▪ Amy Weintraub ▪ Rev. Robert Murphy

### We Say Yes!, UUA Says No!

#### Peace and Intergenerational Justice

Watch for an AIW or a UUJEC seminar—this topic is too important to drop!

#### Class Aware Workshop: Train the Trainer

This well-developed curriculum will be available to all—but not at a GA workshop.

## Labor Update: Starbucks Victory!

Starbucks United, which had been planning a day of action for March 12, announced 2 more stores winning union elections (National City, California, and Brighton, Michigan). Even more important is the announcement that Starbucks agreed with Workers United to begin discussions on a foundational framework to achieve:

- Collective bargaining agreements for represented stores and partners.
- A fair process for workers to organize.
- The resolution of litigation, including brand litigation.

Congratulations to the baristas and allies who achieved this major victory.



☒ Yes, I would like to put my UU values into action by joining UUJEC and its work for economic justice.

To join us, please mail this form to UUJEC at **2701 West Fitch Ave. Chicago IL 60645** or register and contribute online: [uujec.org](http://uujec.org)

Enclosed is my

\_\_\_ Regular Adult Membership, \$40

\_\_\_ Low Income/Student Membership, \$20

\_\_\_ Sustaining Member, \$100

\_\_\_ Other, \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Congregational Membership, \$50-500 (\$1/member recommended)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I'll be a UUJEC contact for my congregation or community.

\*May we use your e-mail address to send news bulletins periodically? Addresses are never sold or shared. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

*Economic-justice interests:*

Health \_\_\_\_\_

Environment & Climate \_\_\_\_\_

Reparations \_\_\_\_\_

Military & Peace \_\_\_\_\_

Economic Systems \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Preferred Event Types:*

Web Seminars: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Discussions: \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Spring 2024

Although UUJEC hasn't formally endorsed Radical Elders' complete program, we did cosponsor their screening of *Cooked* last year. We certainly recommend their March 16<sup>th</sup> Day of Action program on Medicare (dis)Advantage. We have all seen the ads by private companies, which imply that they offer more than the public program. The Day is live and on Zoom from 12 NOON to 8 P.M. There will also be music, a writing workshop, and visioning—every program will have an associated action. Details and registration at <https://radicalelders.net>.

## Letters!

UUJEC gets requests from various organizations to sign on to a variety of letters. Independently-active board members also suggest sign-ons for consideration by the UUJEC. Here we list our most recent signatures:

- ◆ Food & Water Watch/Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability call for Governor Newsom and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to take concrete action to **adopt new rules that align the Low Carbon Fuel Standard with California's environmental justice commitments.**
- ◆ The John Muir Project, with more than 200 organizations and 200 leading scientists, urge President Joe Biden to issue an executive order **halting logging in all mature and old-growth (MOG) forests on federal lands.** This appeal calls for immediate, robust executive action to protect our nation's MOG forests to mitigate the climate crisis and protect biodiversity.
- ◆ Letter to Energy Secretary Granholm requesting that Clean Hydrogen Hub Demonstration funding not be used to prolong fossil fuels; that **clean hydrogen be defined in such a way to avoid greenwashing** by fossil-fuel companies.
- ◆ supported Dr. Chris Jones for an EPA sub-committee on **water quality**
- ◆ asking for a **pathway to citizenship** for immigrants and cuts to ICE and CBP,
- ◆ Energy Democracy Project's letter telling FEMA to prioritize **communities, not centralized power**, in Puerto Rico,
- ◆ Support South Africa's Genocide Convention Case against Israel at the International Court of Justice.
- ◆ An interfaith letter to **support Annunciation House in Texas**, which provides services to arriving immigrants.

Save the Date!

**Mar. 16, '24**

**Day of Action**

led by **Radical Elders**

<https://radicalelders.net>



**"We Ain't Done Yet!"**