



UUJEC News & Views: Summer 2025



| newsletter@uujec.org | Sally Jane Gellert, editor

UUJEC Goes to General Assembly—Join us on whova!

UUA Moderator Candidates

We hope that you have been following the UU Moderator election, but if not, now is the time! Running are a team of 2 comoderators (**Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson and Mr. Bill Young**), and 1 individual moderator (**Ms Natasha Walker**). The choice is interesting: the team includes a current UUA board member and a minister, and the individual joined UUism about 10 years ago and was raised on a Navajo reservation.



UUJEC is not making an endorsement. We thank the candidates for being willing to step up, to be vulnerable, and to look to serve our association in a new way. We encourage all UUs to visit both candidates' sites [here](#) and [here](#), and we encourage all congregations/fellowships/societies to have discussions and votes, and to send a full complement of informed delegates to General Assembly.

Congregational Study/Action Issues

We have endorsed the CS/AI *Housing: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*. The text is here: <https://tinyurl.com/3cwzx2es>, along with that of the other CS/AI proposals, *Abolition Is Faith Formation* and *Fat Liberation: Building Justice and Inclusion for Larger Bodies*.

Neta C. Crawford

int'l. expert on **Military & Climate**

Thurs., June 12 @ 12 NOON EDT (11/10/9 A.M.)

See page 3 for details.

Our Meet-Ups & Workshop

Mutual Aid

This Meet-Up is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, at 10:00 A.M. in Room 318 at the convention center. The Juneteenth celebration will be honored, as will food justice. We'll come together to focus (mostly) on grassroots organizing for food and housing justice.

Housing Justice

A workshop, with video and discussion, on housing justice, including affordable housing and related topics, Friday, June 20, 1–2:30 P.M. (3 speakers from UUJEC)

Peace for Intergenerational & Climate Justice

This Meet-Up is planned for Saturday, June 21 at 12 NOON to discuss implementation of last year's AIW *World on Fire: Humanitarian Aid and Climate Change*, to follow up on Neta Crawford's address on June 12th (see page 3), and to work on a plan for UU action.

Actions of Immediate Witness

Full texts and discussions may be found at [discuss.uua.org](#) (all may read; log in to comment). Titles are

- ◆ *We Declare and Reaffirm: All People Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights.* feedback session: June 2 (all feedback sessions are at 7 P.M. EDT)
- ◆ *Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism, a Call to Action: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom.* feedback session: June 3
- ◆ *Bringing a Feminist and Womanist Lens to Resistance and Activism.* feedback session: June 4
- ◆ *Funding Global LGBTIQ Freedom Amid Crisis: A Call for Immediate Action and Solidarity.* feedback session: June 5
- ◆ *Voter Justice and Racial Equity for the Citizens of the Nation's Capital.* feedback session: June 8

All of these are important issues; remember, though we can select only 3 to move forward officially, nobody can or even would want to stop folks from working on any of these issues. We look forward to discussion on all of these important issues. All 5 AsIW have pages on <https://discuss.uua.org>

GA Agenda

Rules of Procedure: These rules are adopted at the first general/plenary session on Wednesday evening, June 18. This year's GA includes a Consent Agenda, which would need 100 delegates to raise objections for it to be restored to the main agenda for discussion and vote. There is current discussion happening on discuss.uua.org.

Budget Hearing: This will be held Thursday, June 19, at 4:30 p.m. Any budget amendments must be filled by Friday, June 20, at 7:00 p.m. We recommend all delegates and interested UUs attend this hearing to understand UUA income and expenditures. In past years, questions are welcomed and explanations are made so that those with a limited financial background can understand; it is a great learning opportunity.

The CS/AI Process: One 3-year Study/Action Issue will be selected from 3 proposed topics by a GA vote this year. Implementation by individual UU churches is optional. The UUA provides limited materials and guidance. In the final year there is a GA vote to endorse or reject a "Statement of Conscience". If this fails, a revised version is proposed for the next GA. The relevant texts are in the recent "2025 GA Final Business Agenda" sent out by the UUA and may be found at <https://discuss.uua.org>.

Endorsement: Housing: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Former UUJEC board member Rev. Bob Murphy of Florida is part of the team that is proposing this subject, and as the subject is a large part of economic justice, the UUJEC board is endorsing this proposal. The information below is from Bob and current UUJEC board member Dick Burkhardt:

This CS/AI was written in support of several UUJEC concerns and builds on the success of several AIW statements, including the 2023 AIW *Organize for Health Equity* and last year's climate justice statement, *World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change*, which was approved by 95% of the delegates who voted at the 2024 General Assembly.

Housing: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is unusual for several reasons.

First: It's the major proposal this year that responds to Trump's government with a Unitarian Universalist action plan for the next 3 years. (The other proposals have little to say about the immediate crisis.)

Second: The housing justice CS/AI expands the diversity, equity, and inclusion discussion to include people with disabilities and other groups that are sometimes overlooked. EqUUal Access and Class Conversations have provided significant support for this proposal. Undocumented migrants and senior

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Medicare for All

Saving Health and Dollars

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that Medicare for All would save our health care system \$650 billion a year¹. Further, researchers at Yale University have estimated that Medicare for All would save 68,000 lives a year. This legislation would also create a system that puts people over profits.

Hence, we ask that you consider asking your senators to endorse S.1506, Senator Sanders' bill to establish a Medicare for All program and your representative to endorse HR 3069, Representative Jayapal's bill to establish an improved Medicare for All program of national health insurance.

It's past time that we catch up with other developed countries and have affordable, quality, comprehensive health care for all the people in our nation.

It could come to reality if we work hard and get a progressive House and Senate in 2026.

Rev. Judy Deutsch
Chairperson,
Healthcare Task Force

¹<https://tinyurl.com/madnebnz>

National Day of Action

Our Healthcare Task Force has collaborated with that of Radical Elders, who in turn have joined National Single Payer (nationalsinglepayer.com) for their day of action on Saturday, May 31—just a week away as this issue goes to press.

The day of action is intended to ensure that our broken healthcare system is fixed; the groups are calling for a single-payer program to be put on the national agenda. The movement is not completely unified on details; some look to an improved and expanded Medicare for All, some are working on state-based health-insurance systems, and others remind us that health insurance is not health care, especially with denials rampant in private programs (some misleadingly called "Medicare Advantage"—not really Medicare and for most, a decided disadvantage). If this gets to you in time, find a map of actions at <https://nationalsinglepayer.com/national-day-of-action/> (scroll down!). If it is June when you are reading this, check social media, and hopefully local and national media, for reports on the Day of Action. Either way, if you are interested in working on us with these issues, please check out our Healthcare Forum at <https://uujec.net>.

UUJEC Web Seminars: Ongoing Discussions with Experts

June 12th: Dr. Neta Crawford, Revered Militarism & Climate Researcher, will address UUs from London's Oxford University

UUJEC's Peace, Equity, and Climate (PE&C) Task Force invites you all to attend and participate in this June's pre-GA offering. Our monthly webinars are a great resource to UU congregations and part of our contributions to UUism's collaborative efforts to address climate justice.

Dr. Neta Crawford, who will speak to us from London, U.K., is the Montague Burton Professor at the University of Oxford and the multiple-award-winning author of *The Pentagon, Climate Change, and War: Charting the Rise and Fall of U.S. Military Emissions* (MIT Press, 2022). She is the cofounder and strategic advisor of Brown University's Costs of War Project. Her seminal research and writings have been foundational to the international movement's efforts to hold the United States military (and militaries in general) into account for their emissions' sizable but often ignored contribution to the climate catastrophe.

Crawford has been a featured panelist at the United Nations annual Convention of the Parties Climate Conferences. She has served on the governing Board of the Academic Council of the United Nations System and on the Governing Council of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Crawford was elected into the American Academy of Arts and Science in 2023.



We at UUJEC's Peace, Equity, and Climate Task Force are honored to have her with us and hope that UUs will join us for this exceptional opportunity. You can register for this webinar, which will take place on June 12 at the special time of 12 NOON EDT (11 A.M. CDT, 10 A.M. MDT, AND 9 A.M. PDT) at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/msr3x88c>

The Peace Equity and Climate Task Force is ready and willing to connect our UU congregations, fellowships, and societies with many excellent speakers addressing the issues of climate and democracy and related climate issues. Our previously-produced webinars are available in our YouTube channel—search for UUJEC at <https://youtube.com>—for both individual and congregational access and use.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 EDT (4:30 P.M. CDT, 3:30 P.M. MDT, AND 2:30 P.M. PDT). Feel free to contact Cindy Piester (climateworkerbees@gmail.com) for further information.

May 9: Defending Our First Amendment

Looking for a #NoKingsDay (June 14th) graphic, I found this Tweet about the minimal media coverage of the Feb. 5th rallies. Mark Taylor-Canfield noted that almost nobody will discuss press freedom, which is at an all-time low in the U.S.A.—ranked #57 of 180 countries by <https://rsf.org/en>



CS/AI Endorsement: Housing Justice

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citizens receive attention in the housing justice CS/AI. The CS/AI raises questions about accountability and empowerment. It includes support for tenant organizing and the creation of resistance centers. There are references to the Underground Railroad and the resistance to fascism in Europe, as history may repeat itself. Households struggle with debt, disability, addictions, and other issues that extend far beyond DEI categories.

Third: Much of the housing justice CSAI focuses on grassroots organizing. It's a "springboard" for local action in creating resistance centers, supporting tenant organizing, developing sanctuary programs, organizing for mutual aid, working with homeless (unhoused) people, etc. Housing injustice is far more widespread than the DEI label would suggest. Deep

problems come from housing policies—local, state, or national—that subsidize the more affluent or upwardly mobile through zoning, taxes, interest rates, and the like, combined with a shortage of subsidies for low income households.

Finally, the housing justice CS/AI is the only significant statement for this year's General Assembly that responds to climate change. The housing justice CSA/I focuses a lot of attention on health-related concerns. *Housing: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* correctly identifies the lack of affordable housing as major national problem in the United States. As this affordability crisis plays out in different ways in different localities across the U.S., possible actions and solutions will also vary widely—but immediate action is needed and can be supported. Churches could take this CS/AI as a starting point for more broad-based and in-depth education and advocacy that is appropriate for their communities.

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. Since the Spring '25 issue of *News & Views*, we have supported the following items, mainly through sign-on letters:

- Calling on Congress to **oppose immunity for Big Oil**
- Expressing concern about risks to **CDC's Viral Hepatitis Program**
- Marking **Palestinian Land Day** by refusing to accept **greenwashing of genocide**
- Letter from military analysts, veterans, scholars, and other experts encouraging the president to **close military bases overseas to save billions and improve national security**
- Open letter **rejecting presidential attacks on nonprofit organizations** with which he disagrees
- Statement reclaiming ownership of **Cinco de Mayo** for the next generation by **defending the health of land, ocean, and communities** and preserving and protecting Latine histories, traditions, and culturas
- Endorsement of a **Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty** statement by **Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World**
- Letter to the **House Natural Resources Committee** asking them to **reject offshore oil and gas leasing** in budget reconciliation
- To Congressional committee chairpersons asking that reauthorization of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) **pipeline safety programs** include strong federal safety standards for CO₂ Pipelines
- Requested full funding for **Environmental Justice and the EPA** in FY2026 appropriations
- Rejecting any inclusion in the budget bill of auctions for **drilling** in the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**
- Endorsed the **SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) **CASH** (Creating Access to Support Health) **Across America Act** to create a federal 30¢ cash-back floor for SNAP fruit and vegetable purchases
- Opposed the removal of all White House Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations for the **National Environmental Policy Act**
- Supported **HipHop Caucus'** economic-justice **Bank Black & Green** campaign encouraging Black-owned banks to commit against funding the fossil fuel industry and mass incarceration,
- Opposed Shell's Dirty Deal for leaving Nigeria extremely polluted, turning over their facilities without cleaning up their mess
- Urged Congress to reject **Congressional Review Act (CRA)** resolutions regarding EPA's regulations of trichloroethylene (TCE) and other **major air pollutants**

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**Join UUJEC at GA—
we're in person in the Exhibit Hall and on Whova !**

Important Dates for UUJEC & GA

Early Miniassemblies, Feedback Sessions

- Official UUA preGA "What to expect" Web seminar was held on May 21st; find the recording, slides, and other governance info at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/board/ga-governance>
- Once again, GA starts early for delegates—we missed getting this to you before the first AIW miniassembly on Monday, **June 2nd** (*We Declare and Reaffirm: All People Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights*). Others follow in repaid succession, on the **3rd** (*Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism, a Call to Action: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom!*), **4th** (*Bringing a Feminist and Womanist Lens to Resistance and Activism*), **5th** (*Funding Global LGBTIQ Freedom amid Crisis: A Call for Immediate Action and Solidarity*), and **8th** (*Voter Justice and Racial Equity for the Citizens of the Nation's Capital*), all at 7:00 P.M. EDT. Find info on <https://discuss.uua.org>—the place for all things GA until the Whova application opened up on June 1st, and after. Recordings will be posted, and delegates vote from June 11th to 16th.
- **June 21st** NOON, UUJEC Meet-Up at GA, details to come.
- **July 12th**, UUJEC Annual Meeting: speaker to be announced. See <https://uujec.net/calendar> for information on all UUJEC events.