

UUJEC Annual Report: June 2026



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.

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.

Our History

UUJEC was founded in 1989 to concentrate 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 nonclergy activists who wished to inspire congregations to work for a more just society through study, teaching, advocacy, and direct action.

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. In 1993, we held a Los Angeles conference focused on human rights. With more than 100 people present, that conference marked the beginning of UUJEC as a national organization.

From the start, UUJEC has provided congregations with action-oriented materials through its General Assembly booth, as well as via engagement with local chapters and representatives, at national and regional conferences, and more recently through its Web site and monthly Web seminars. 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*, on healthcare justice, and on reparations.



Composite image of board members, clockwise from top left: Mona, Jane, Lucy, Kit, Dick, David, Carl, Cindy, Sally, Terry, Judy, and Dean.

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.

Dr. Dick Burkhart, Seattle, Wash. ★ David e. Delk, Portland, Ore. ★ Rev. Judith Deutsch, Corrales, N.M. ★ Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock, Salem, Ore. ★ Ms Mona Lee, Seattle, Wash. ★ Carl McCargo, Springfield, Mass. ★ Cindy Piester, Ventura, Calif. ★ Dean Wanderer, Springfield, Va.

Annual Report Executive Summary

Achievements since 2025 Annual Meeting

1. Presented 11 Webinars¹ on subjects related to environmental & economic justice (see page 7). Most recordings are posted to our YouTube channel.
2. Board members Cindy Piester and Gregory Stevens are part of UUA's Climate Justice Working Group.
3. We hosted 3 on-demand GA programs and were active in discussions.²

Communications

UUJEC News & Views, our quarterly newsletter, provides articles on economic-justice topics, photos from our events, UUA updates, etc. We are on Facebook, Twitter/X, and Bluesky @UUJEC.bsky.social (see page 3).³

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

Our income for the year 2025 was \$6,733 and we spent only \$4,960, continuing without paid staff. Our end-of-year total assets (Dec. 31, 2025) were \$21,307, including our CD. As our web site conversion has stalled, we are considering hiring someone to renew that effort. So far in 2026, with year-to-date income of \$2,636 and expenses of \$2,305, our combined balance is holding fairly steady at \$21,307. (see pages 3 and 8).⁴

Peace, Equity, and Climate Justice Task Force Report (by Chairperson Cindy Piester)

We address the intersection of peace, equality, and climate. Wars are no longer winnable, as vast quantities of military emissions circle back to us all and assist in the erosion of a livable planet, particularly for the most vulnerable. PE&C networks with like-minded individuals across all divides (see pages 4, 7).⁵

Healthcare Task Force (by Chairperson Rev. Bob Murphy)

We continue to support Medicare for All, and to oppose "Medicare Advantage" and we encourage UUs to get involved in local mutual aid (see page 5).⁶

Reparations Task Force and Team (by Chairperson Carl McCargo)

Chairperson Carl McCargo continues to meet with legislators and UUs, primarily in Massachusetts, supporting Reparations. A new statement of belief will be posted on uujec.net. E-mail reparations@uujec.org for info (see page 5).⁷

General Assembly

We did not take a booth in the Exhibit Hall. We supported 3 on-demand workshops (see page 5) and both proposed Actions of Immediate Witness. We expected a fully virtual GA 2026, but instead had a strange hybrid, which did include new process observation forms for all attendees after each business session.²

Membership

With a simple dues structure, we welcome new and returning members.⁸

UUJEC Board of Trustees

The Board meets monthly. Nominations are open through October.⁹

We work toward justice with other organizations

Some of the UU and nonUU partners with whom we have worked recently are UUSJ (Washington, D. C.), 350.org, UU Ministry for Earth, UU Commission on Social Witness, UU advocacy networks, Radical Elders, AFL-CIO, National Nurses United, Healthcare-NOW!, Labor Campaign for Single Payer, Transit for all PA!, Climate Crisis Policy, Veterans for Peace, Class Conversations, and EquUal Access.

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

Accomplishments Since Our July 2025 Meeting

1. Our Peace, Equity, and Climate Justice task force planned and held 2nd-Thursday Webinars on environmental topics, inviting participation from members and friends of UUJEC, UU climate organizations, and other advocates and experts.
2. At GA 2026, we hosted on-demand workshops, but did not have a booth.
3. Board Member Cindy Piester served as a badged virtual participant to the U.N. Conference of the Parties, COP30, held in Belém, Brazil, courtesy of WILPF, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
4. Two board members, Gregory Stevens and Cindy Piester, are members of the UUA-organized UU Climate Coalition.

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

Our quarterly newsletter, *UUJEC News & Views* is published in March, June, September, and December. Although the goal is the beginning of each month, we are not completely consistent on that. Past newsletters have covered our Webinar series, healthcare justice, UUJEC's involvement in GA, major UUA elections and governance issues, environmental justice, and similar subjects. *News & Views* is circulated via e-mail to about 1325 subscribers, is posted to our Web site, and is distributed at UUJEC events. Board member Ms Sally Jane Gellert is our newsletter editor.

Web Site & Forum

The transition to our new Web site, <https://uujec.net> has stalled, due to time constraints, and we are considering hiring someone to reactivate that effort. Once the transfer is complete, uujec.org will be the surviving domain.

Our forum continues, but with few participants: <https://uujec.net/discussion>. Each task force has a section, and large-scale UU programs and events, such as GA, UUA by-laws, Study/Action Issues, Meet the Moment, and the like, have had or will have a forum as well. Please visit our forum (which enables e-mail subscription and reply) to read and register to join in our board conversations. The two sites continue exist in tandem, so we encourage all to explore both sites, enjoy, learn, and comment. Our goal is to complete the transition this year.

Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report⁴ (by Treasurer Jane Bannor)



UUJEC ended 2025 with total assets of \$21,307. In 2025, we received \$6,733 in contributions and spent \$4,960. Our member and congregational donations were 78% of budget, while our expenses were slightly over 25% of what we'd projected. Expenses were kept in control thanks to modest expenses for General Assembly last year and limited administrative costs. Our major expenses for the year were for website and internet security (\$2,306) and for honoraria to our webinar speakers (\$1,000), some of whom donate these funds.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

So far in 2026 UUJEC assets through June have held fairly stable and stand at \$22,941. To-date we've received \$1,966 in individual donations and membership fees and \$370 from individual congregations. Our annual appeal, spanning both years' end 2025 and early 2026, brought in over \$2,400. We continue to manage without paid administrative support, allowing 6-month expenses to-date to total only \$1,047. We continue to support regular on-line webinars and continue to transition to a more user-friendly web site.

Peace-Equity-Climate Task Force Report⁵ (by Chairperson Cindy Piester)



UUJEC's Peace, Equity, & Climate Task Force (PE&C) addresses these interconnected topics from a UU and economic perspective. All of our concerns have been dealt horrendous blows and setbacks by this administration's outrageous antigovernment, racist, and fascist policies. These include ongoing complicity in Israeli genocide, Gestapo-like tactics by ICE, and wholesale destruction of both domestic and global infrastructure. This

includes agencies and organizations such as the EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice, NASA, NOAA, and the United Nations and its entities; and withdrawing from essential international conventions and treaties. All of this is happening against the backdrop of expanding militarization and oil wars at the cost of a global economic meltdown and possible WW III. Democracy itself cannot survive an unsustainable trillion-dollar military budget that cuts funding for health care, education, and other human needs. These existential challenges have impacted U.S. and global populations, as well as our own PE&C task force.

Scaling down these catastrophies into manageable realities, UUJEC's co-chair, Sally Gellert, has played a huge role in keeping us on track and co-chair Terry Lowman sends frequent and highly informative PE&C updates. Rev. Gregory Stevens agreed to join UUJEC's Board and the PE&C Task Force this year. His perspective on Eco-Socialism has brought vibrancy to our collective effort. He has also agreed to co-chair PE&C along with Cindy Piester. Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock continues to call for a strong local component to our environmental and climate mission. Time-tested local action helps to ensure resilience during uncertain times.

This past year, Board Member Cindy Piester participated in Veterans For Peace's "Wake Up to the Climate Crisis" California Tour, which included several showings of Abby Martin's dynamic film, *Earth's Greatest Enemy*, which addresses the U.S. Military's environmental and climate impacts. Cindy was also instrumental in having the film shown at the recent Bonn Climate Conference in Germany. She continues to participate virtually in U.N. conferences, including COP 30 held in Belém, Brazil. That COP gave rise to the first, and hopeful, International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF) in Santa Marta, Colombia in April. However, implementation of the transition away from fossil fuels is now under threat as the Trump-backed U.S. citizen, "El Tigre" de la Espirella is set to take power as Colombia's new President in August. With President Petro's charges of election fraud, reports as this goes to press is that the president-elect has suspended the formal transition process. Announced hosts for the second conference are Tuvalu and Ireland.

Our PE&C Task Force continues on. Last year offered notable webinars, listed on page 7. All of UUJEC's webinars are available at no cost as educational tools for you and your congregations. Stay strong.

Healthcare Task Force Report⁶ (by Chairperson Rev. Bob Murphy)

The Healthcare Task Force continues to support the development of universal health insurance in the United States. In addition, the Task Force is working with congregations and clusters of congregations to encourage mutual-aid organizing. At the 2026 General Assembly, the Task Force presented a video about mutual aid. We also participated in a mutual-aid discussion organized by Class Conversations. The Task Force is developing educational materials for congregations for this year's Labor Day weekend, with emphases on mutual-aid organizing and voter education and protection. Chairperson & UUJEC Advisory Board Member Bob Murphy has information; he can be reached at murphydalzell@aol.com.

A new Congress is needed. Congregations will do some good by working to register voters, supporting voter education, and helping to protect voters. Mutual aid is encouraged.



Reparations Task Force & Team Report⁷ (by Task Force Chairperson Carl McCargo)



An excerpt from Chairperson McCargo's new statement of belief on Reparations:

"We have begun developing a plan with local Senators and Representatives, to consider a new platform for teaching history, a platform that does not 'romanticize' our history nor our past leaders: a history with its controversies, conflicts, and questionable decisions, a history that has removed much of the collusion between political parties that maintained and maintains the need for reparation. Unless we remove the 'hate' of our past, we cannot remove these needs for collusion, compromise and dishonesty. We must 'win hearts' honestly."

We welcome new members to our Reparations Task Force; please e-mail us at uujec@uujec.org.

Labor Day: Ongoing Support of Workers and Unions

The Labor Day weekend in September and the autumn harvest holidays are especially important. Food justice and "ethical eating" are important themes in economic-justice work, and multicultural celebrations of healthy living and environmental protection will be helpful.

Labor organizations are involved with all major UUJEC concerns, including antiracism, Medicare for All/Medicare (dis)Advantage, and opposing extreme income and wealth inequality. As congregations develop autumn activities, we encourage religious support for today's working people and for labor organizing under our increasingly fascist government. Health equity and housing are important themes, particularly as extreme weather events become more frequent. Watch social media and e-mail for suggestions of outreach activities.

UUA GA: Actions of Immediate Witness, On-Demand Workshops, Meet the Moment²



At GA this year, we sponsored 3 on-demand workshops: *American Revolution: Work in Progress* • *Mutual Aid: Love, Equity, and Transformation* • *Beyond Capitalism, Toward Liberation: A Faithful Case for Ecosocialism*.

We chose not to have a booth this year, unsure of how the hybrid system would work, especially as no board member

planned to travel to the Louisville, Kentucky “studio site”. I found the split sessions somewhat unsatisfying. Business sessions seemed rushed, or at least that folks had not quite settled in—very few speakers for any item, not typical of most GAs that I have attended. The Satellite Site—for me, the UU Congregation of Montclair (New Jersey) was comfortable, extremely hospitable, and a good experience, even including a short concert before the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde’s Ware Lecture, but felt disconnected in more than time from the first sessions. The UUA is accepting feedback forms from attendees through July 17th.

How Did We Meet the Moment?

The theme of GA this year was Meet the Moment, and it was held not all-online as promised, but split between satellite sites, a studio site, and online streams. The format felt disjointed.

As in the past, our June Web seminar was a GA prep session, focussing on the AIW presented by Deb Cruz of Washington’s state advocacy network, JUJustice Washington. We also discussed the late-breaking “emergent” AIW in support of Delaney Hall prisoners and those at other ICE concentration camps. The environmental AIW passed with no controversy; the antiICE AIW was a very different story.

Proposed by a Long Island UU, with my encouragement, it included the idea of a visit to Delaney Hall in Newark, N.J., but the NJ State Advocacy Network was concerned about a lack of coördination with activists on the ground. It was an important issue, and removing that one suggestion would have resolved it—but we can no longer make amendments at GA, something that has been a concern of mine for a number of years. Maybe the silver lining is that others now see the importance of on-site changes. In any case, creative parliamentary moves allowed a Responsive Resolution on the subject, so GA did express its abhorrence of actions by ICE and its private collaborators.

Perhaps because of organizers’ awareness of last year’s time mismanagement, almost every business session ended early, though there was little enough time scheduled. It would have been good, as they realized that they were ahead of schedule, to add more informal discussion time—one of my suggestions on the process-observation form. Another, more important, is to ensure that business sessions are not all front-loaded into the beginning of GA, but happen only after new delegates get a chance to learn the technology and everyone has a chance to talk about the topics to be decided in later business sessions. The satellite sessions, while enjoyable (and, again, kudos to the Montclair UUs, for extraordinary hospitality!) did feel disconnected and an audience event, rather than a connected participatory part of the first few days.

*Sally Jane Gellert, Cochairperson, UUJEC
GA Delegate, Central Unitarian, Westwood, N.J.*

Membership⁸

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, conferences, and annual meeting. We work in partnership with a many groups, both within and outside the UU universe, including Unitarians for Social Justice (UUSJ), UU Ministry for Earth (UUMfE), and Interfaith Power & Light. With our simple dues structure, we welcome you to sign up here: <https://uujec.org/membership>.

Dues and Donations

Annual dues are as follows: **Regular Adult Membership** \$40 or sliding scale, **Congregational Membership** \$1/member. **General Donations** can of course be of any amount you wish to give.

All support, whether a financial donation, attending our programs, or sharing our newsletter and social media posts, is always welcome and appreciated.

UUJEC Board of Trustees⁹

The UUJEC Board continues to be involved with both policy and implementation of programs. There is no reasonable way to track all their hours of contributions. The board meets monthly by video conference. The executive committee works by e-mail between board meetings.

We have consolidated our efforts recently, focusing on our Web seminars. We support both Actions of Immediate Witness that passed at GA this year and will curate meaningful resources. We continue to seek UU groups to try our 6-session Reparations curriculum (you can e-mail our Reparations team at reparations@uujec.org to learn more). We will connect with interested UUs—and others—on any or all of these topics, always looking to amplify work that you are already doing done. We are happy to provide online and offline resources.

We are always interested in attracting dedicated economic-justice advocates to join our task forces and even our working board! To get connected, please e-mail us at uujec@uujec.org and check out our forums at <https://uujec.net/discussion>. We have a staggered board for institutional continuity, with members serving 3-year terms.

As a membership organization, it is very important, both legally and morally, to have our members participate in our annual meetings and in our elections each December. Current board members come from various regions of the country, from Oregon to New Jersey; Florida to New Mexico. Our main locations are in Massachusetts and Illinois.

Webinars since our last annual meeting¹

- ★ From GA2025: UUJEC panel, *Mutual Aid, Bread & Roses*
- ★ Aug. 7, Michael Szpak, *The AFL-CIO Labor in the Pulpit Program: Labor's Outreach to the Faith Community*
- ★ Aug. 14, Lloyd Marbet, Cathy Chudy, & David Delk, *Nuclear Power Unaffordable At Any Size" plus "Nuclear weapons in the new cold war."*
- ★ Sept. 11, Dr. Nicholas Rabb, *Demystifying AI-Powered Militarization and its Social and Ecological Consequences*
- ★ Oct. 9, Cindy Piester & Jim Rine, *Veterans For Peace, No MAS! (No More Air Shows)*
- ★ Oct. 23, Chuck Collins, Book Talk: *Burned by Billionaires*
- ★ Nov. 13, Rose Roach, *Medicare for All or Medicare (Dis)Advantage for All*
- ★ Dec. 10, Carmen Capriles & Cindy Piester, *A UU Reports from COP 30*
- ★ Jan. 8, Gregory Stevens, *Unitarian Universalism Demands Eco-Socialism*
- ★ Feb. 12, Rachel Bruhnke, *How I Came to Question the Cold War*
- ★ Mar. 12, Connor Descheemaker, *Moving Everyone: Rural-Urban Organizing for Transit*
- ★ June 11, Deb Cruz, *GA Blue-Ribbon Essentials*

Financial Report for Calendar Year 2025⁴

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>	
Opening Balance		\$19,535		
<u>Income</u>				
Individual Donations	\$6,000	\$5,221	\$5,500	
Congregational Donations	\$1,200	\$400	\$600	
Donations for books/t-shirts etc.	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Other Income, Ann Mtg <u>Contribs</u>	\$50	\$0	\$0	
Interest Income	\$600	\$511	\$500	
Fraud Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Conference Registrations	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Grant Income	\$4,000	\$600	\$600	25:UUCJ Coalition
Grant Transfers from Prev Years	<u>\$1,624</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	
	\$13,474	\$6,733	\$7,200	
<u>Expenses</u>				
Bank/PayPal/Credit cd fees/ FRAUD	\$75	\$26	\$45	Stripe
Internet Security, hosting (GoDad)	\$150	\$1,575	\$250	
Website fees (Brinks, Zoom, <u>Mailc</u>)	\$700	\$731	\$750	
Annual MA State filing fee, duplicating	\$70	\$36	\$40	
Postage	\$50	\$0	\$0	
Fundraising, Letter Printing, Mailing	\$600	\$281	\$400	
Other Expenses	\$75	\$0	\$75	
Brochure Printing, Publicity	\$50	\$0	\$50	
Printing/Copying for GA/other	\$100	\$0	\$100	
Other Office Expenses	\$50	\$0	\$50	
Board & Staff GA, <u>Conf</u> Travel	\$2,000	\$350	\$2,000	
General Assembly Booth, Signage	\$0	\$0	\$800	
Speakers, Reg'n Fees for GA	\$600	\$0	\$600	
Webinar Honoraria	\$1,400	\$1,000	\$1,200	
Conference Expenses	\$800	\$0	\$0	
Annual Mtg - Lunch, Rm Rent, Speaker	\$450	\$200	\$250	
<u>Gen'l</u> Assembly Shipping To and From	\$50	\$0	\$0	
Staff/Webmaster @ 7 Hours/Wk*	\$9,100	\$397	\$0	
Employer's FICA + Employee Contrib.	\$2,675	\$365	\$0	
CPA/Legal consultation	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Retreat Expenses	<u>\$150</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$590</u>	
	\$19,145	\$4,960	\$7,200	
Ending Balance	<u>-\$5,671</u>	<u>\$1,772</u>		
		\$21,307		